

Press Coverage: The Leading Hotels of the World – Hotel  
Le St James, Montreal

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# FOOD *and* TRAVEL

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**Old-school grandeur**

ST PANCRAS RENAISSANCE, LONDON

Who is not entranced by the grand old age of travel? The St Pancras Renaissance Hotel has risen phoenix-like from the neglected ruins of the former Midland Grand Hotel, in its heyday a vast and lavishly spectacular Victorian neo-gothic construction, designed as an integral part of the St Pancras railway station complex, and opened to the public in 1873. The beautifully restored, Grade-I listed Renaissance harks back to those origins, maintaining original features such as the sweeping grand staircase, gold-leaf ceilings, plaster cornices, hand-stencilled wall designs, marble columns: opened in May 2011, it has already been hailed as London's most romantic hotel. There are 38 sumptuous bedrooms and suites located in the original building, plus a further 211 in the new Barlow House extension. The Gilbert Scott, overseen by Marcus Wareing, is for grand dining. The Booking Office is more informal – bustling, noisy, suggestive. Located directly next to St Pancras Station, the terminus for Eurostar, this is a place for arrivals and departures. Come here to enjoy a last meal of something traditionally, deliciously English – braised beef cheeks, perhaps – before heading off to adventures



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE ST PANCRAS RENAISSANCE'S GOTHIC EXTERIOR, THE BOOKING OFFICE BAR AND A ROOM; DINING ALCOVE AT HOTEL LE ST-JAMES, AND ITS PROSPERITY RAJAPAL

Places

On the *Food and Travel* hit list this month are inn, a fish-lovers' bolthole, luxury on Australia's

**Boutique luxury** HOTEL LE ST-JAMES, MONTREAL



When one wishes to be discreet in Montreal – and stylish, of course – there is a hotel that stands above the rest. Occupying a 19th-century former bank in Old Montreal, you'll need a sizeable bankroll to take out a suite at Le St-James, though they are all very much worth the hefty price tag. The Heritage Collection boasts unique, period Canadian furniture (the owner is an antiques fanatic); the penthouse delivers 360-degree views of the

city skyline and a kitchen furnished with half the Miele catalogue. XO Le Restaurant serves modern French-led fare; sip on a *caresse d'érable*, a maple syrup, vodka and Calvados cocktail, in the adjoining bar. Standard rooms don't quite live up to the grandeur of their larger counterparts, but even so, staying in one lends you the same address as visiting stars and dignitaries. *AEM*. Doubles from £180. [hotellstjames.com](http://hotellstjames.com)