St. James’ Court is an English classic typifying the concealed charm of one of Britain’s finest hotels. The custom of St. James’ Court, A Taj Hotel is the distinctive choice for more than service with a smile. Crisp and elegant, with an easy charm that’s reserved, yet attentive, we strive to make each visit more pleasurable and memorable. Exceeding the expectations of today’s discerning traveller, St. James’ Court is a slice of the past served up on a contemporary platter.
Upholding a Tradition of Excellence

With a distinguished pedigree shaped over more than a century, this discreet Victorian masterpiece with its award-winning Shakespearean Courtyard is perfectly placed between Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament in a historic enclave marking the centre of power.

Welcome to St. James’ Court.
A STORIED HISTORY
The origins of St. James’ Court can be traced to Elizabethan aristocracy and another period of hospitality. Once home to the Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Royal Court, this exclusive hotel still resonates with echoes of history reaching back four centuries to the time of Shakespeare. Lord Dacre, treasurer to Queen Elizabeth the First and his wife, Lady Anne, related to the Queen through Anne Boleyn, bequeathed the land to provide rooms for the habitation of poor children. The cottages that constituted the ‘Emmanuel Almshouses’ in 1601 were replaced by three beautiful Queen Anne buildings laid out round the present quadrangle that became known as the institution of Emmanuel Hospital a century later.

As London grew, so did the appeal of the land. All the major centres of power - from Buckingham Palace and the Royal Court of St. James, to the Houses of Parliament and Downing Street - were within walking distance. This fact was not lost on one Major Charles Pawley, an English gentleman and royal engineer, who acquired the site in 1897 and spared no creative expense in building an institution to secure the patronage of the highest in the land, at the turn of the century, when Britain ruled the waves and a third of the world besides. As Pawley wanted it, it was truly art without ostentation. Embellishing the eight townhouses, the surface of brick and stone was broken into turrets, balconies, arches, columns, cornices, gable ends, consoles and copings, all overlaid with scrollwork and bas-reliefs topped by a monumental frieze – actually carved out of the brickwork – in which Shakespearean characters disport themselves. He meant it to be exclusive – and exclusive it has remained.

GLORIOUS STILL
The original eight townhouses that comprise St. James’ Court, A Taj Hotel and Taj 51 Buckingham Gate stand tall today, overlooking the secluded courtyard with its delightful cherub-adorned Victorian fountain, restored to its original glory, as the centre piece. The surrounding porches glitter with a sea-green faience glaze while the endless frieze carved from the red brick runs right around the quadrangle featuring scenes from Shakespeare’s sylvan plays. Step inside, and the reception’s warm wood and classic marble blend seamlessly with classic and contemporary rooms and suites which beckon even the stiffest upper lips to relax in luxury.

STAY
Our elegant Classic and Executive rooms and suites feature their own individual style and charm. The corridors, rooms and suites in the Queens and Priors townhouses have been re-modelled with a distinct identity in line with expectations of the corporate traveler, with streamlined designs, clean lines and cool colours, chic and contemporary, featuring a spacious work desk and leather office chairs while the Classic rooms and suites have a quintessential English character. All the rooms have en-suite bathrooms, a media hub connected to flat screen LCD TVs, valet service and complimentary newspapers. Guests can also make the most of one of the finest Golden Keys Concierge services, tailored treatments at the Wellness Centre and a host of on-site dining options including Michelin-star fine dining at Quilon. Across the hotel and clients of St. James’ Court Conferencing and Banqueting will have access to complimentary wi-fi.

DINE
Quilon
Our signature Michelin star restaurant brings the extraordinarily diverse cuisine of India’s south-west coast to the heart of Westminster, courtesy Chef Sriram Aylur. A passion for contemporary cuisine from the region, a dedication to the freshest ingredients and a playful blend of traditional home-cooking with innovative techniques and presentation makes for a thrilling and unique dining experience. At Quilon, modern healthy dishes are created with flair, style and a deep respect for authenticity, reflected in nuances like importing more fresh Indian spices than any other restaurant in Britain, ground and mixed carefully to create unique recipes, with specialities like the Seafood Moilee, Lobster with kokum and mango and whole Sea-Bass with goan green and red masala. More traditional fare such as Chicken Roast and Malabar Lamb Biryani sit happily alongside progressive dishes such as Pan Fried Duck Breast and Venison Coconut Fry. The tantalising food is accompanied by a handpicked and world-class wine and...
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Bistro
Bistro impresses with its unique presentations and flavours created through local sourcing of fresh produce and Chef’s careful selection of meats, seafood, poultry and vegetables. Sophisticated and light décor ensures a timeless elegance allowing the varied international cuisine to whisk you away wherever your culinary journey takes you.

BEER
Beer list complementing the contrasting flavours and subtle textures of the menu.

Bank Westminster
From its polished wooden floors to the high conservatory windows looking out on the courtyard, Bank offers charm, colour and character in abundance. All about classic and inspired infusion cooking, and amazing steaks, naturally reared on farms, Bank prides itself on a philosophy of provenance and is dedicated to delivering fantastic food and service.

Bistrot
Located in eternally fashionable Kensington, London’s most iconic Indian restaurant, Bombay Brasserie has paved the way for Indian and Bombay cuisine since its inception in 1982. The treasured favourite of the glitterati, politicos and captains of industry, Bombay Brasserie reflects the cultural diversity of Bombay, with influences from Parsi, Goan, Bengali, Gujarati, as well as the Portuguese and Raj cuisines. The dishes on the menu today have been served on the tables of past Mughal Emperors and the spice traders of Goa. Like the city, Bombay Brasserie has evolved, while remaining true to its raison d’être of bringing authentic Bombay Cuisine to guests from every corner of the globe.

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LOUNGE
The Hamptons Bar
Elegant gilt mirrors and high-backed chairs create a chic enclave where cocktails can be savoured, stories shared and memories created and nurtured. An extensive cocktail list with seasonal and signature specials complements gourmet nibbles and tapas. The bar also serves traditional and seasonal themed afternoon teas and periodically boasts a series of wine tastings and exclusive events.

Zander Bar
This chic ‘Bar of the Year’ boasts the longest cocktail bar in Europe. Zander’s team of dedicated and highly trained mixologists and bartenders are passionate about their profession. From neo-martini to classic cocktails, all the concoctions are mixed with the freshest ingredients and an extra dash of aplomb.

St. James’ Courtyard
Relax in the award-winning open yard, an al fresco wonderland boasting the world’s longest sylvan Shakespearean frieze. Enjoy traditional and innovative afternoon teas, al fresco dining and cocktails with a twist in a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of Central London. This secluded hidden gem is set around the historic Victorian fountain, overlooked by a Private Dining Terrace and ideal for summer events.

MEET
Conferencing and Banqueting
One could not pick a finer setting for a meeting of minds, a confluence of creative thinking, or a celebration of milestones and success than the 17 conference and banqueting suites at St. James’ Court. Transporting you back in time to Edwardian England, the elegant banqueting suites have played host to Her Majesty The Queen, Sir Winston Churchill and Lords and Ladies of
the Court. Opulently furnished with turn-of-the-century wooden
panelling, beautiful chandeliers and custom-made woven carpets,
they provide a regal ambience for any occasion. A private street
entrance and delicious cuisine coupled with exceptional levels of
service and attention to detail by a consummately professional
banqueting team make these suites stand out as one of London’s
premier event locations. St. James’ Court offers a one-stop
meeting solution, guaranteeing you a seamless event and boasts
of London’s only public Telepresence facility-life-like, high
definition immersive video conferencing.

EXPERIENCE
Wellness Centre
Bringing a touch of the Continent to London, the Wellness Centre
offers luxurious products which refresh and revitalise with vitamin
and mineral-rich treatments. The Wellness Centre affords the
luxury of pampering oneself in one of the three exclusive
treatment rooms, with mood lighting and ambient music. Each
session begins with a consultation by a trained therapist to
customise the treatments, from facials to hot stone massages to
individual needs. All the products use only natural ingredients,
blending traditional remedies with scientific research and
formulations. Guests have complimentary use of the gym, saunas
and steam rooms with personal trainers in the fitness centre on hand
to assist from cardiotherapy to circuit training and yoga classes.

Taj Khazana
The first international branch of the luxurious and indulgent
lifestyle boutique brand celebrates and supports the creative talent
of Indian artisans, by showcasing unique artefacts, collectibles,
garments and accessories from traditional master craftsmen and
the latest designers. Unleashing the vivacity and vibrancy of South
Asia, Taj Khazana specialises in high-quality, handmade items
from Rajasthan, Central India and the South. The collection
features superb ethnic objet d’art, as well as traditional shawls,
stoles, throws and jewellery from select Indian designers.

Committed to providing sustainable market access to traditional
craftsmen across India, Taj Khazana works closely with artisans,
including the handloom weavers of Varanasi, helping to protect
their heritage, skills and crafts, with a focus on handmade, quality
products and developing initiatives to help build livelihoods.

Discover London
Make the most of the premier Golden Keys Concierge service in
London. Discover the heritage and history of St. James’ Court and
the Westminster area with the Taj Heritage walk, commencing
from the Courtyard to world heritage sites and local flavours like
Westminster Cathedral, Strutton Ground Market, Westminster
Abbey, the Victoria Tower Gardens and the Queen’s Gallery at
Buckingham Palace. Or go on a guided tour with the Chef at the
famous Borough market – a feast for all your senses. Browse the
fares on offer and while you’re at it, hold Chef true to his motto of
a Chef being only as good as his ingredients by picking yours for
dinner for a bespoke meal when you get back.

For an exquisite experience, choose from the United Kingdom’s
most extensive fleet of exclusive vintage and classic vehicles,
including the Queen Mother’s favourite Jaguar DS420 Daimler
limousine ‘Grand Princess’, the famous Downton Abbey Rolls
Royce ‘Gabriella’ and Lord Mountbatten’s vintage Daimler ‘Silver
Baroness’ available for transfers, leisure excursions and day trips.
St. James’ Court first opened its gates for paying guests in 1902 and with the exclusive Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites and Residences, has been a part of Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces, one of Asia’s largest and finest group of hotels, for over three decades. From world-renowned landmarks to contemporary business hotels, idyllic resorts to authentic Grand Palaces, Taj offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury.