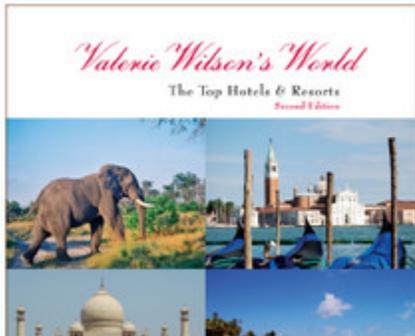




February 16, 2012

Luxury travel expert's gorgeous new book features world's 400 top hotels



In elegant new book, luxury travel authority Valerie Wilson features the world's top 400 hotels and resorts
Credits: Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc.

Continue reading on Examiner.com [Luxury travel expert's gorgeous new book features world's 400 top hotels - Washington DC Art Travel | Examiner.com http://www.examiner.com/art-travel-in-washington-dc/luxury-travel-expert-s-gorgeous-new-book-features-world-s-400-top-hotels#ixzz1meP5fqY3](http://www.examiner.com/art-travel-in-washington-dc/luxury-travel-expert-s-gorgeous-new-book-features-world-s-400-top-hotels#ixzz1meP5fqY3)

Valerie Wilson, a top authority on luxury travel, released her book "Valerie Wilson's World: The Top Hotels & Resorts" at one of her favorite hotels, [The Jefferson](#), in one of her favorite cities, Washington, on February 15.

The enticing book features 400 hotels and resorts worldwide, including four in DC: the Four Seasons, Mandarin Oriental, and St. Regis, as well as The Jefferson.

The only other selection anywhere near Washington is The Inn at Perry Cabin in St. Michaels on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The site of "The Wedding Crashers" reception, the 1816 manor house is "the embodiment of an elegant Chesapeake Bay getaway" and has "delicious cuisine...You can't beat any of their crab delicacies," Wilson says.

And far, far away from our area: when in Yangon, Myanmar (formerly known as Rangoon, Burma), do stay at The Governor's Residence; in Zighy Bay, Dibba, Oman, Wilson chooses Six Senses Zighy Bay; for Machu Picchu, Peru, it's the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge.

Continue reading on Examiner.com [Luxury travel expert's gorgeous new book features world's 400 top hotels - Washington DC Art Travel | Examiner.com http://www.examiner.com/art-travel-in-washington-dc/luxury-travel-expert-s-gorgeous-new-book-features-world-s-400-top-hotels#ixzz1meHrNxbz](http://www.examiner.com/art-travel-in-washington-dc/luxury-travel-expert-s-gorgeous-new-book-features-world-s-400-top-hotels#ixzz1meHrNxbz)

So welcome to the world of Wilson, who has 30 years' experience in the luxury travel business. She built Valerie Wilson Travel into one of the world's largest travel companies, with some \$300 million in sales and 14 offices nationwide, according to Bloomberg and "Travel Agent" Magazine.

"The very best hotels are rather like heaven," she writes in her book, which will make you want to book a stay immediately.

Paging through the book, I returned to heaven in these top hotels and resorts, including:

- **Mount Nelson Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.** After 25 hours of travel, I walked into my Churchill Suite and savored its panoramic view that stretched from Table Mountain to Devil's Peak. I knew I had arrived, as had Winston, who stayed at the "Nellie" after escaping from a prison camp during the Boer War.
- **Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, India.** After weeks of traveling solo around India, I relaxed in splendor at the former home of the Maharaja of Jaipur, and even rode one of its painted elephants around the sculptured gardens.
- **Savute Elephant Camp, Khawi River Lodge, Eagle Island Camp in Botswana,** watching rhinos and elephants ("ellies") from my tent or lap pool. As Wilson notes, "this isn't camping like you remembered."
- **The Savoy,** one of her dozen favorites in London. I finally got the nerve to pop my long-overdue question to my English long-distance love, "Are you married?" He turned the colo(u)r of clotted cream, and answered yes. I wasn't sobbin', but I sure wasn't stompin' at The Savoy. A few years later, I saw him again, just as a long-time friend, when I stayed at **The Lanesborough,** another London favorite of Wilson's. Her experience at The Savoy -- dancing with George Balanchine -- comes as close to heaven as possible.

Whether you want to live vicariously in Wilson's world, to reminisce, or to select a grand place to stay, this book is a must. Three color photos, along with international connoisseur Wilson's comments, vibrantly illustrate each hotel and resort.

Here's one of the best parts: Wilson contributes \$10 for each (\$50) book sold during February, and at specific American Heart Association's [Go Red For Women](#)© events throughout 2012.

Wilson survived a heart attack ten years ago. She helps Go Red's mission of raising awareness of heart disease as the number one killer of women by giving donations and talks, and by wearing red.

Wilson -- listed as a "Top Travel Agent" by "Condé Nast Traveler" and an A-List agent by "Travel+Leisure" -- puts her heart, soul, expertise, and passion into sharing the very best with her readers as well as her clients.

Wilson helps readers and travelers live Maya Angelou's words: "Love life with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it."

Continue reading on Examiner.com [Luxury travel expert's gorgeous new book features world's 400 top hotels - Washington DC Art Travel | Examiner.com http://www.examiner.com/art-travel-in-washington-dc/luxury-travel-expert-s-gorgeous-new-book-features-world-s-400-top-hotels#ixzz1meHm3TyA](http://www.examiner.com/art-travel-in-washington-dc/luxury-travel-expert-s-gorgeous-new-book-features-world-s-400-top-hotels#ixzz1meHm3TyA)