

SEPTEMBER 2018

# ETERNALLY RITZ

Original photography by Robyn Lea

Text by Laure Verchère, foreword by Mohamed Al Fayed



If ever a place were an incarnation of an ideal, it would be the legendary Ritz Paris on the Place Vendôme. Behind the luxury, service, and decor lies the vision of one man: César Ritz, who revolutionized the hotel business to become both an art and an industry. Personally overseeing every detail, sparing no expense on comfort and cuisine, Ritz created in 1898 a mythical hotel, a place where one came to see and be seen, where one felt both at home and transported to another world.

In the heart of the City of Light, the Ritz Paris shines, and international luminaries from the worlds of high society, fashion, art, literature, cinema, finance, and diplomacy have illuminated its rooms, from Boni and Anna de Castellane to Barbara Hutton, Princess Grace, and the Duchess of Windsor,

from Maria Callas, Coco Chanel, and Ernest Hemingway to Cornelius Vanderbilt, Winston Churchill, Marc Chagall, Marlene Dietrich, and Sir Elton John.

Recently this jewel in the heart of Paris underwent a complete restoration, and now the Ritz Paris has again opened its graceful doors to the world, a glamorous star taking the stage of the Place Vendôme with renewed spirit. This radiant volume overflows with elegant imagery illustrating the Ritz's esteemed guests and showcasing the impeccable work of designer Thierry W. Despont and architect Didier Beautemps to restore and rejuvenate the hotel while respecting its intrinsic history.

Author Laure Verchère holds a degree in art history. A former journalist for *Elle Décoration*, she is currently a luxury lifestyle brand artistic consultant. Verchère's other titles for Assouline include *Juan Pablo Molyneux: At Home* (2016), *Renzo Mongiardino: Renaissance Master of Style* (2013), and *Antiquaires: Paris Flea Markets* (2010).

Australian-born Robyn Lea moved to Milan, Italy, in her late teenage years to work as a photographer's assistant. Over the last two decades, Lea has become an internationally renowned photographer, TV commercial director, and writer, working around the globe for clients such as Peroni, Kodak, *Time*, *Vogue*, and *Harper's Bazaar*. Lea also has an extensive exhibition history, with ten solo shows and many group shows worldwide. Her previous books with Assouline are *Dinner with Jackson Pollock*; *Venetian Chic*; and *Dinner with Georgia O'Keeffe*.

Published by Assouline

10 x 13 in – 25 x 33 cm | 224 pages | 220 illustrations | hardcover  
ISBN: 9781614285984 | \$85 – €85 – £60

Also available in French



## PRESS CONTACTS

Mélanie Hubert, *Director of Communications and Public Relations*

Matthieu Goffard, *Press and Communications Manager*

Tel.: +33 1 43 16 45 42 Email: [press@ritzparis.com](mailto:press@ritzparis.com)