



SUNHEE'S BEAUTY BLOG

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The Surrey Hotel and Spa

by [SunHee Grinnell](#) February 17, 2010, 9:09 pm



From left: A lounge area at the Surrey Hotel; the entrance, tucked away on East 76th street.

Situated on the tony Upper East Side is the newly rejuvenated [Surrey Hotel](#). After its \$60 million, 13-month renovation, it is sure to be a desired destination for travelers seeking a deluxe boutique hotel on a grand scale. This beautiful Beaux Arts-style building was updated by renowned architectural and interior designer [Lauren Rottet](#), who *Interior Design* magazine ranked among the top firms. The aesthetic she chose for the interior blends classical elegance with contemporary chic. The lobby and at the bar lounge are decorated with cushioned wall coverings inspired by Coco Chanel, photographs in Donald Sultan's *Smoke Series of 4*, and furniture by London-based designers [Jimmie Martin](#) that's playfully embellished with numerology and graffiti designs. Rottet's love for contemporary art is visible throughout the hotel. A wool-felt relief piece by Helen Amy Murray is particularly striking in the lobby, as is an oversize photographic print of a Xenon projection called *You Are My Own* 1996 by [Jenny Holzer](#) behind the reception desk.

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The lobby area at the Surrey Hotel. Behind the lobby, note the "Infatuation" armoire.

And having **Café Boulud** at your service for your in-room dining pleasures is also very deluxe indeed. You can also easily dine in at Café Boulud, which is conveniently located next door. But if you care to bring in your own chef, check into the grand Presidential Suite, which includes a full kitchen (most suites also have full kitchens available), a dining table for 10, his and hers bathrooms, and even a personal sauna. It comes with a baby grand piano (take note, Elton John!), as well as an oil painting by **Cecily Brown** and more playful furniture by Jimmie Martin.

Throughout every salon and suite, you will find Pratesi robes, Sferra bedding, LCDs, and even Denon iPod docking stations to view your photographs and videos from the day. And deluxe suites offer double sinks and a huge soaking tub, how divine! Oh, and let's not forget about the outdoor views and dining from Café Boulud at the Rooftop Garden, which is reserved for hotel guests only.

If that isn't enough, there's the lovely and intimate **Surrey Spa**, which is tucked away on the second floor and offers a perfect retreat from hectic city life. I highly recommend the Kodo body treatment using **Li'Tya** spa line. The word "Li'Tya" means "of the earth." Its healing rituals tap into the ancient traditions of Australian Aboriginal culture. My Kodo treatment began with a ceremonial burning of native flowers, berries, kelp, barks, desert salts, and indigenous plants, which is intended to glide the guests into a dream-like realm. The Kodo body massages serves to rid the body of negative energy, and to make you whole again by treatment's end. You get to choose from three different scented blend of essential oils, all made by Li'tya. I chose ReHarmonize, which was truly heavenly. However, the spa director Cheryl Jacobs tell me that I may choose a different oil next time as it all depends on the mood and one's need during that particular moment.

The Kodo treatment was so soothing that I honestly didn't want it to end, and found myself nodding off a few times. It felt like the fastest 60 minutes ever spent in a treatment room. Along with Li'Tya body treatment line, the spa offers exclusive **Darphin** facial treatments, which are known for their plant-based extracts and essential oils.



The entrance to the Surrey Spa.

With five treatment rooms, (there are no changing rooms, your room is your room to shower and change in) and with a manicure plus pedicure station, you and your friend are covered. (Note: the spa is also open to the public). Conceptualized by Cheryl Jacobs, the spa is plush, chic, and very comfortable.

So, whether you are looking for a weekend getaway, or to recommend a hotel to an out of town, or in a mood for a heavenly spa experience, I'd recommend The Surrey, where the extremely friendly staff that will make you feel right at home and treat you like a superstar. Spencer Wadama, the general manager of the Surrey (who happens to be very handsome), guarantees it.

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The Presidential Suite at The Surrey Hotel. Room rates range from \$800-\$7500 a night, depending on whether or not you choose a salon or suite. Rates for the Presidential Suite, pictured above, start at \$7500.