

# Beverly Wilshire Hotel

## A New Look for an LA Icon

BY KAREN VILLALPANDO

**L**ike many Beverly Hills ladies, the Grand Dame of Wilshire Boulevard is getting a facelift, only this extreme makeover is costing a bit more, \$35 million.

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel, at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Rodeo Drive, has set a new standard for luxury hotels with this makeover, including room renovations, a new 8,000 square foot spa, and a Wolfgang Puck steakhouse – CUT. The lobby bar and restaurant has been redesigned and renamed The Blvd, offering world-class dining, including a new outdoor patio overlooking Rodeo Drive. The Blvd gives “people watching” a whole new meaning. The extensive renovations mark the completion of a full transition to a Four Seasons hotel.

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel is perhaps one of the most storied hotels in the city, originally opening in 1928 as the Beverly Hills Apartment Hotel. Over the years, the hotel has had several owners, each of whom added their own style and sophistication to the hotel. In the 1980s, Regent International Hotels purchased the Beverly Wilshire and gave it a \$100 million renovation, restoring it to its grandeur. During that time “Pretty Woman”, starring Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, was filmed there. Although the Four Seasons purchased the property in 1992, the Regent name was kept until recently. The hotel is now known as Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel.

The Beverly Wilshire continues its tradition of dedication to service. The personnel from parking attendants and the front desk to the cocktail servers are efficient and courteous.

Executive Chef Conny Andersson has brought his global experiences in Bali and India to the hotel. He has created a modern new restaurant at The Blvd, where dishes like the crisp skin wild king salmon with a lemon chermula sauce and sweet soy marinated hangar steak with Asian vegetable slaw delight the senses.

Be sure to taste the ahi tuna two ways, combining the spicy tartare with charred loin, very delicious. One of my favorite new indulgences is Italian burrata cheese, a creamy mozzarella with mascarpone served with aged balsamic vinegar. Andersson’s version comes with heirloom tomatoes and Parma ham. That dish and a glass of wine is simply heaven.

Unique salads and great pasta combinations are lighter fare on the menu, while a list of fresh catch fish, like Australian barramundi and Chilean sea bass, offer healthy choices. Meanwhile, flavorful steaks, a veal chop Milanese, and Colorado lamb chops give diners the opportunity to sink their teeth into fabulous cuts of prime meat.

The focal point of the restaurant is the onyx bar and the 11 foot high acrylic wine storage, housing 1,000 bottles of wine. If you’re looking for a great meeting spot after work, The Blvd. is perfect for drinks with friends or a delightful dinner complete with dancing to live music.

We didn’t dine at CUT, Wolfgang Puck’s new steak house at the hotel; however, we enjoyed a cocktail in the sidebar lounge. Both the restaurant and bar have already become THE place to go in LA.

For the ultimate in relaxation, the Spa at the Beverly Wilshire offers nine treatment rooms in a tranquil environment. Dark mahogany wood and low lighting provide a serene atmosphere, while an enormous amethyst crystal greets you upon arrival. The massage therapist will tailor a

massage to fit your needs, combining aromatherapy and various massage techniques. I enjoyed a relaxing massage by

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Derek, who combined both relaxation and rejuvenation oils in my treatment. The Spa opened about seven months ago and has quickly become popular among local as well as hotel guests. Call a few days in advance to book an appointment. I highly recommend a visit to reinvigorate your mind, body and spirit.

I sometimes marvel at the luxury right in our own backyard in Los Angeles. People travel thousands of miles to enjoy what we have at our fingertips. The Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel, is the quintessential luxury hotel in the city, and she is, once again, dressed up for the occasion.

The Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel, 9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California 90212. For reservations, call (310) 275-5200.



photo by Robert Miller

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel is re-branding itself as “Beverly Wilshire, a Four Seasons Hotel” with a \$35 million renovation, including redesigned guest rooms, new restaurants and a serene spa.



photo by Rob b Gordon

A stunning amethyst crystal greets visitors of the 8,000 square foot spa at the Beverly Wilshire which opened last fall.

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