

ACROSS THE POND

by Miss Windsor



Hello, darlings!

Well, I say! didn't we have a BLAST last month celebrating our first anniversary together – A 'gay ol' time' had by all! So, darlings, as I merrily sift through the haze of events, I recall we exchanged pleasantries, then, soon after the revelry commenced! In fact, I enjoyed myself so much I wished to continue the merriment, and so decided to impress my 'glitzy,' yet elegant self upon the splendour and opulence of THE RITZ LONDON. Yes darlings, I mean the world-famous, 5-star hotel created by the illustrious Swiss hotelier – Cesar Ritz – that adorns one of the most prestigious streets in London – Piccadilly!

In keeping with our champagne lavished occasion, Miss Windsor opted for a spot of The Ritz Christmas themed 'afternoon tea' – accompanied by one or two (maybe more) flutes of bubbly! You see darlings, I sampled, well quaffed! a very fine and exclusive champagne known as the Reserve Ritz Champagne Barons De Rothschild, which has been served at both The Ritz London and The Ritz Paris since 2016.

Darlings, before I furnish you with a number of 'titbits' regarding my festive afternoon tea experience at The Ritz London, which includes an unfortunate misadventure of being incarcerated inside a beautifully decorated toilet cubical! I wish to fortify your mind with fascinating and historical facts about The Ritz London.

The Ritz London swung open its doors on the 24th May 1906. This stupendous Grade II listed building was built in the Franco-American style, and oozes the traditional architecture of Paris – Oh, la, la! Also, it's luxurious and 'ritzy' interior was designed in the Louis XVI style, and no doubt satisfied the extravagant taste of London's high society and beyond, thus being hailed as one of the world's most magnificent and best-known hotels.

Darlings, since its grand opening in 1906, and especially during the 'roaring 20's' and beyond, The Ritz London became a 'honey-

pot' for the 'haut monde' (posh for fashionable society!) the gentry, the royal family, politicians, members of the 'gaiety,' and Hollywood movie stars alike!

Therefore, this world-renowned hotel was a favourite haunt for patrons such as The Prince of Wales (future King Edward VII) who quoted, "Where Ritz goes, I go!" Also, Hollywood star Charlie Chaplin, Winston Churchill, English playwright Sir Noel Coward, who wrote Children of The Ritz - at The Ritz London! Jackie Onassis, Sir Roger Moore, HM Queen Elizabeth II - Oh, and her royal counterpart – Miss Windsor!

Moving on gracefully, now I endeavour to tantalise your taste buds with some mouth-watering details of my Christmas themed afternoon tea experience at The Ritz London. First off, dressed up 'to the nines' in all my finery, I was eager to make my royal entrance. However, I soon found myself in a spot of bother trying to tackle my way in via the glass panelled rotating doors! But, as soon as I managed to 'flap' on through, I was greeted by a ginormous Christmas tree spectacularly decorated with fairy lights, giant gold stars and red velvet bows. In fact, I recall the tree stood proudly in the centre of the lobby as it twinkled like a thick shower of glittering 'sequins'!

Now darlings, due to my party arriving a touch early, we headed straight for The Rivoli Bar for a pre-afternoon tea drinkie! As we were shown to our table we were immediately catapulted to a bygone era of pure luxury - the 1920's. Interestingly, the cocktail lounge which resembles the bar on the Orient Express was designed in 2001 by Tess Kennedy. Indeed, Miss Windsor relished the moment, and felt as if One had walked straight into a scene from an Agatha Christie novel – Well, I never!

Whilst waiting for the cocktail menu to arrive, I noted that the rich and classy ambience was clearly achieved by the shimmering palette of bronze and gold tones, accompanied by the deep seduction of chocolate infused brown – Oh, I say! Then almost instantly, my beady eyes caught sight of the sheeny, gold gilded, scalloped shell-like ceilings that perfectly showcased the Murano glass soft-lit chandeliers.

Darlings, then as I slowly absorbed the interior I noticed there was no wallpaper in sight, instead superbly crafted, polished camphor wood veneer panels enwreathed the cocktail lounge with such quality and warmth. On second look, this prime material appeared to lovingly 'embrace' the exquisite, yet delicate Lalique glass inserts, which I observed dotted across the wood veneer walls and columns. Oh, and One mustn't forget to mention the plush, leopard print upholstered chairs – Indeed, a home from home! Having said all that, Miss Windsor thoroughly enjoyed her cocktail - the decadent 1906! which served as the perfect foundation for the champagne lavished afternoon tea!

Moving onto the Palm Court; here I dined with my chaperone for the famous 'Tea at the Ritz.' An extremely grand room luxuriously decorated in the Louis XVI style. Mirrored panels, gold gilding and a dash



Miss Windsor enjoying a glass of champagne at The Ritz London. Photo by sharronwallace.com

of blush pink bedeck the walls and ceiling. Marble columns welcome you to be seated, and at this time of year they're dazzling with red and gold decorations, plus the added curiosity of garlands made from Royal Worcester bone china cups and saucers!

Now feeling rather peckish and a smidge thirsty, I ordered the afternoon tea goodies including a pot of The Ritz Christmas Spice Tea – Oh, plus a couple of glasses of champers! The champagne arrived promptly, soon followed by the tea, along with the expected paraphernalia which One presumes was made of REAL silver! Darlings, what a frightfully traumatic experience it would've turned out to be if Miss Windsor once again had to face her 'aversion' to stainless steel!

I was thrilled when our afternoon tea pageantry arrived. Tiers of sandwiches and cakes presented on a silver stand graced the Royal Worcester plates. The scones, strawberry jam and clotted cream appeared soon after. One must admit my favourite finger sandwich was the 'Ham with Grain Mustard Mayonnaise on Sliced Brioche' – Heaven on earth! Then between alternate sips of tea and champagne, whilst listening to the harmonious choir serenade us with Christmas

classics, I managed to devour two freshly baked, 'dove-feather' soft scones - One of which was a rather fruity sort! Both slathered with a thick, velvety layer of Rodda's Cornish clotted cream, followed by a generous dollop of Tiptree strawberry jam – How spiffing!

Darlings, my sincere apologies but I've run out of time, and must retire to my boudoir with a steaming hot cup of Twining's Christmas Blend Tea! But before I go, I expect your gagging for me to 'reveal all' about my misadventure starring a 5-star, beautifully decorated toilet cubical! If so, then please do visit www.misswindsor.uk and read more about my delightful afternoon tea experience at The Ritz London.

Oh, and one last request! Please tune into my YouTube channel – Miss Windsor's Delectables – and watch me "Bringing food history alive, and theatre to your table!" A new and exciting episode of Miss Windsor's Delectables – OUT NOW! Learn how to re-create from scratch Mrs. Beeton's Traditional British Christmas Pudding – made with an extra special Miss Windsor twist!

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

Miss Windsor X

Dr. Mark Cichowski & Dr. Nannette Crowell, colleagues

CASCADIA EYE COMES TO WHIDBEY ISLAND



CASCADIA EYE AND WHIDBEY EYE CENTER.

30+ YEARS OF AWARD-WINNING EYE CARE EXPERIENCE, EACH.

THE DREAM TEAM IS HERE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR EYES.

Dr. Mark Cichowski and the staff of Whidbey Eye Center are now part of Cascadia Eye. So you'll receive eyecare from the family you know, PLUS!

Learn more at

cascadiaeye.com

Locally-designed eyewear starting at \$35 •
Comprehensive all-ages eye care •
Custom contact lens fittings •
State-of-the-art technology •
....and much more!

(360) 678-2020

109 NE Birch St, Coupeville, WA 98239

JOIN IN A LANGLEY SEASIDE TRADITION SEA FLOAT SCRAMBLE

11AM • SATURDAY • JANUARY 6, 2018



Seawall Park, Langley
Free fun for the entire family.
Hunt for over 1,000 sea floats hidden in plain view.

Created by
Callahan's Firehouse Studio.
Sponsored by Langley Main Street,
City of Langley & Whidbey Weekly.

For more info
www.visitlangley.com



Thank you for reading! Please recycle the Whidbey Weekly when you are finished with it.

