The Hippest New (Historic) Place To Stay In New York City: The High Line Hotel

No wonder the creative community has been flocking here for the seven months it’s been open.

But where it aces its more standard cool-hunting competitors (pun intended) is in its historical bona fides.

The hotel’s 60 rooms and suites (from $259) occupy the redbrick General Theological Seminary complex—built in the 18th century as the estate of *A Visit from St. Nicholas* poet Clement Clarke Moore—a registered landmark. The gardens and buildings behind the hotel still function as an Episcopalian seminary, with the students taking some of their meals in hotel facilities.

But there’s nothing monastic about it. The rooms are large by Manhattan standards, and the bathrooms are especially generous, with subway-tiled showers and gorgeous black-and-white floors that would inspire envy in anyone who’s lived in a real New York apartment (at least this one.) The sweet-smelling amenities are from C.O. Bigelow, the pharmacy started in the Village around the same time Moore owned the estate.

The look was orchestrated by the design firm Roman and Williams, who created what they call a “collegiate gothic” look out of Victorian and Edwardian antiques, Tiffany-style lamps, period art (lots of oil portraits) and gorgeous Oriental rugs picked up at barns, flea markets, shops and warehouses along the East Coast and beyond. (In the works: a rug directory to tell guests which royal residence or house of government their rug once festooned.)

While the marketing director confessed that the old-fashioned phones flummox many guests under 35, they’ve been rewired to work well, and the hotel offers free international calls. The other hipster hallmarks have substance too. That Intelligentsia coffee—brewed to exact specifications using a timer—is delicious. So are the craft cocktails. And the apple references are justified: When Moore owned the estate, he grew apples on it, and that, the hotel says, is the source of New York’s “Big Apple” nickname.

It’s a shame the cathedral-like event space that’s hosted those glamorous parties isn’t open to every guest. It’s gorgeous, with original chevron floors that were revealed and restored by repeated strippings, dark wood Gothic paneling and a soaring, gabled gilt-encrusted ceiling.

But when the weather warms up, guests can console themselves in the Parisian-inspired back garden, where the hotel may soon be launching a champagne bar, and in the informal lobby
coffee bar area. Come nightfall, the perfectly pulled espressos are joined by wine and cocktails, and locals stop in for a tipple, making good on what almost every hotel claims to offer now: a residential, neighborhood vibe.

A spacious and light-filled High Line Suite
The sitting area in a suite
The hotel's rustic-industrial lobby and coffee bar
A stylish yet functional work space in a suite
Many of the rooms have (non-working) fireplaces
An Intelligentsia barista making a drink in the lobby bar
The art of Intelligentsia coffee
A 1920s rotary phone in a guest room
An embosser on a guest room desk, because...why not?
The fantasy version of the classic New York bathroom

Veronica Beard Fall 2016: Classic Designs Meet Gypsy Caravan

Bettina Zilkha
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Veronica Beard designers Veronica Miele Beard and Veronica Swanson Beard held their Fall 2016 Monday in the Refectory at the High Line hotel. The soaring space, with its warm wood paneling, was the perfect showcase for the collection with its gypsy-inspired looks.

“Fall 2016, Gypsy Caravan, is inspired by the effortless beauty and romanticism of women who have embodied that vibe,” said the designers.

In the past, Veronica Beard has shown classic styles with its own twist. Fall 2016’s designs incorporated a little more whimsy, in keeping with the 70’s inspired styles several designers were showing this season.

“Our inspiration for Fall is very consistent with our signature look and allows our two favorite styles – bohemian and classic – to live in perfect harmony,” said the designers. “It is always important that the inspiration lends itself to our signature style – offering elevated pieces that become beloved staples and are hardwired for real life. In addition to emphasizing the new prints and fabrics shown in our most popular styles like the Dickey Jacket, as well as our dresses and pants that make everyone look amazing, we’ve really focused on expanding our knitwear offering this season. We refined some of the classic knitwear into styles that elevate our customer’s modern work-wear and also translate into her
chic off-duty looks. We also have the perfect cozy sweaters you’ll want to throw over your gypsy gown and curl up by the fire.”

Mother Nature concurred: Amanda Hearst, Sarah Gore Reeves, Erin Andrews, Rachelle Hruska McPherson, Claiborne Swanson Frank, Adam Glassman and Christian Leone, who braved the snow and wind on Monday to support their friends, could have used those cozy sweaters on the spot.