

# HOMEFRONT™

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## The art of living



**On tour:**  
Savouring Napa  
Exploring the north  
Spanish spa-ing  
A London hideaway



# A beautiful life

\$5.95



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Is there  
somewhere else  
you'd rather be...  
with that certain someone?





Corfu Suite...voted the most romantic suite in the world by Mr & Mrs Smith.



Look no further than a Mr & Mrs Smith hotel. Cheeky, seductive, design-led and gimmick free, these insider hotspots tick that “certain something” box. Quirky in the city, genteel in the country or flat-out anonymous off the coast of nowhere—they’ve got your suite.

Like kids in a candy store, we were in London for one of our favourite events, World Travel Mart, and determined to inspect a resting place that the sometimes naughty, definitely daring and always fun Mr & Mrs Smith have given the nod. Their hand-picked favourite for us: Blakes, a celeb bolthole in tony South Kensington.

Recognized by its dark façade, Blakes occupies a picture-perfect group of Victorian houses on a quiet but central side street. Hugely popular with London’s fashionable “it crowd,” who regularly pop in for what the bartender calls a “sharpener,” Blakes offers guests nothing short of a seductive design journey. From the pyramids of Egypt to India, China, Indonesia and beyond, the eclectic yet dramatically elegant décor of this tiny hotel was created by Anouska Hempel in 1978, when she launched what is now considered the first ever boutique hotel.

No need to leave, unless retail therapy at Selfridges is calling. The critically acclaimed secret restaurant and adjacent Chinese Room & Bar, with its hide-me-here-forever atmosphere, sink-in soft furnishings and fragile slipper orchids, offer magnificently mouth-watering exotic fare for breakfast, lunch, dinner and

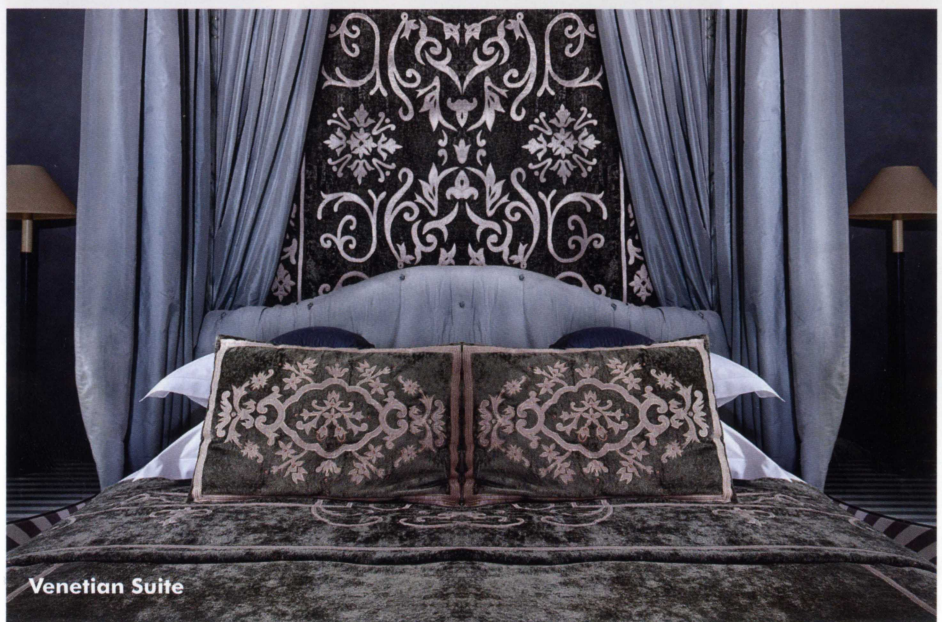


007 Bedroom

room service. And, of course, British afternoon tea, which is also served in the divinely restful Japanese Garden.

Rooms and suites here lack nothing and set the mood with deep, rich tones and subtle contrasts that come to an often-startling crescendo. Amidst an abundance of touchstone accessories, unique armoires and treasured artifacts from far-flung regions, one can't help but feel an intriguingly mysterious sense of romantic pause. And, in true British style, Mr & Mrs Smith's promise of a "fire in the bedroom" comes true. No one will ever find us here! **H**

[www.smithhotels.com](http://www.smithhotels.com)  
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Venetian Suite