



PRECIOUS POLARITY

THE JEWEL BOX'S Yin & Yang Collection are statement pieces venerating the harmony of opposites

INSPIRED BY THE CHINESE THEORY OF elemental opposites in nature, The Jewel Box's Yin & Yang Collection combines surprising textures and colours into eye-catching earrings, rings and necklaces with universal appeal.

The Jewel Box is well known for its huge range. Spectacular modern designs sit alongside classic models and examples of elegant, traditional and vintage-inspired pieces. The boutique also offers its clients private consultations for solitaire diamond and precious stone selection, jewellery design, customisation and restoration.

The Yin & Yang Collection blends high fashion Western design with an Asian theme. Both the East & West earrings and pendant feature chrysanthemum motifs swirling over a bold, sandblasted, yellow-gold surface. Well-paired opposites, pavé-set diamonds dazzle against the exquisite petals. The pendant's extraordinary chain includes miniature oval loops of the opposing designs.

Combining diamond and turquoise, the Queen of Persia earrings are even more star-

ting: a contrast in design against the dark, random graining in turquoise and neatly arranged golden leaf motifs hugging the pavé diamonds.

Inspired by the peaceful co-existence of different time zones, the Night & Day earrings become symbols of the twinkling constellations in the wee hours seamlessly giving way to solar light when a new day dawns. Micro pavé diamonds set in white gold represent the stars in an evening sky, while their complement, unadorned yellow gold represents sunshine on a summer's day. The contrasting graceful fold in the lower section of each earring represents night turning into day, and day into night.

The Jewel Box works with a network of master craftsmen and gem specialists worldwide. Always distinctly different, each design varies with its theme and the beautiful results speak for themselves.

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ALL PHOTOS
The Yin & Yang
Collection

TRAVEL
Checking In

CLARIDGE'S



and the very wealthy, Claridge's was a haven for many royal families who found themselves exiled from their own countries as the Second World War raged across Europe. Notable among those blueblood nomads was King Peter of Yugoslavia, whose son, Crown Prince Alexander, was born in Suite 212 in 1945 (Churchill declared the suite Yugoslav territory and a pile of Yugoslav soil was placed under the bed). It's these kinds of stories that give the 203-room Claridge's its grand reputation. Today, the hotel is looking impressive thanks to the 1996 major designer restoration, which saw the property returned to its former art deco splendour – with a touch of the modern thanks to a Dale Chihuly chandelier.

If you arrive by taxi, then expect your luggage to be whisked from the boot before you can even exchange a nod with the liveried doorman – such is the efficiency with which the staff assist guests on busy Brook Street. Yet, inside the hotel, things move at a more relaxing pace: for instance, don't expect your afternoon tea in the foyer to come in a hurry. This, though, is part of the Old World charm, as is the banquette seat in the main elevator, a source of fascination for the

American tourists that visit during the summer. It is essential to sample the modern European cuisine at the lavishly designed Gordon Ramsay at Claridge's and then head next door to Claridge's Bar, one of London's hippest watering holes, where you may spot Kate Moss et al. While there are all mod cons (wi-fi, interactive television), the rooms primarily evoke a bygone era and, as such, are enjoyable counterpoints to the contemporary style of the Metropolitan and One Aldwych. But for an alluring blend of Old World grandeur and modern elegance, try one of the 11 one-bedroom suites designed by David Linley. ■

CLARIDGE'S
CLOCKWISE

FROM TOP LEFT
One of the 11
Linley suites;
Gordon Ramsay
at Claridge's; the
refurbished foyer

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