

Hollywood glamour in the heart of Galway City

Sheila Mullins reviews

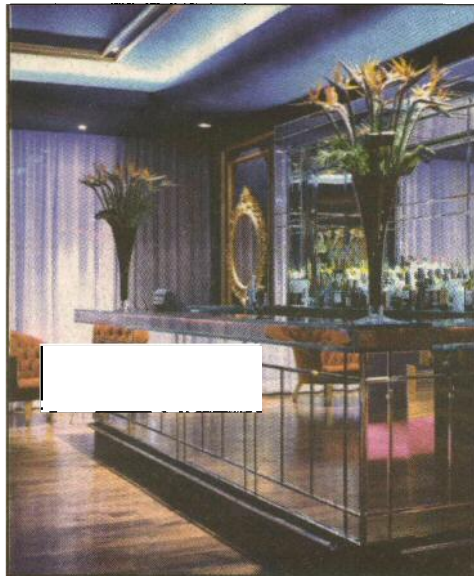
The **g Hotel**, Galway

Recently, a friend and I were in need of some R&R and, following the advice of a Galwegian contact, headed to the five-star **g hotel** in Galway city. We set off at lunchtime, hoping to have a relaxing drive and to arrive in plenty of time for our spa treatments. However, this being an Irish January, the weather was against us and we arrived a little late and very frazzled. Luckily, our **g hotel** experience began immediately — we pulled up at the front door and a valet took our keys and the worry of parking in the rain away.

Entering the foyer, the reason for the **g hotel's** recent inclusion in the top three **hotels** in the world for Ambience and Design becomes apparent — the reception area is stunning, with black glass walls framing a tank of Connemara-bred seahorses. Philip Treacy, the renowned milliner, is the design director and his special touch is evident everywhere you look, particularly the three individually-styled and themed lounges linked by a long corridor, which gives the impression of walking through a glamorous doll's house, with golden doorways framing the entrance to each room.

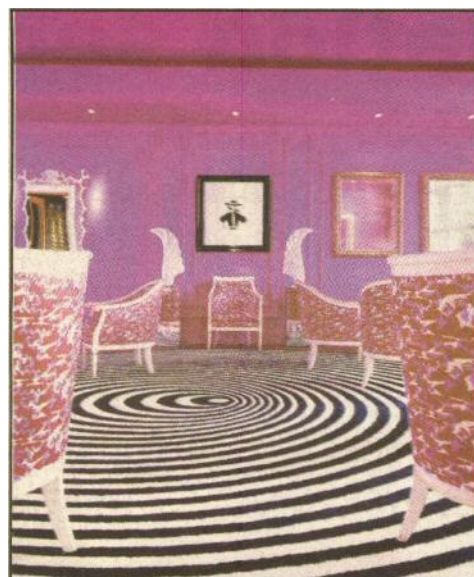
We would have loved to dawdle through the ground floor, taking in all the details but were whisked off for our treatments in the ESPA. In keeping with the overall design philosophy, nothing has been spared in the design and quality of the finishes. Soft lighting, music and candles set the tone of a retreat from the hustle and bustle. After choosing our treatments (facials and massages) we changed into fluffy white robes and headed to the glass relaxation room overlooking the 'secret' bamboo roof garden. An extensive treatment list is available for both **hotel** residents and day visitors, using ESPA's luxurious products. But it was the vitality pool that had the real 'wow' factor for me. Surrounded by a crystal steam room, rain shower, rock sauna and ice fountain, the bath-temperature water is fabulous for easing stiff muscles after a long drive whilst gazing at the origami swans hanging from the ceiling.

We later got the chance to enjoy the lounges we'd had to whiz through earlier and following some debate over which room was the best, we chose the Pink Salon for some tea and scones, followed by a glass of wine. Many of the tables around us were occupied with day visitors enjoying the 'afternoon tea', which gives a selection of sweet treats, scones and sandwiches. It's obviously a popular end to a shopping day in the city,



The Cocktail Bar

After a quick change for dinner, we headed to the **hotel** restaurant, which is run by the award-winning chef, Stefan Matz. Stefan prides himself on sourcing locally supplied fresh produce and is a big fan of the Galway Food Market for artisan and organic ingredi-



The Pink Lounge

ents. The starters and main courses were delicious and were followed by a sinful dessert of blackcurrant and pistachio meringue mousse. I thought I couldn't fit as much as a glass of water in after dinner but we had passed the cocktail bar on the way in and knew we could-

n't leave without trying it out. It serves original **g** cocktails as well as the old favourites and the red Swarovski crystals adorning the bar add to the overall atmosphere, which evokes old-fashioned Hollywood glamour.

Finally it was time to head to bed for the night. The landscapes and seashores of County Galway have inspired the design of the 101 guestrooms. The rooms are contemporary and luxurious with lots of little touches like the queen cakes which we tucked into despite still being stuffed from dinner. Settling down for the night in the feather beds (which seemed to have mattresses at least three feet deep) I had definitely achieved my goal of winding down and was rearing to go on a sightseeing tour of the Galway countryside the following day - Irish January weather permitting of course!

Special Offer

Two nights accommodation with full breakfast each morning. Experience dinner in Matz at the **g** on one evening of choice selecting a three-course dinner from our a la carte menu. Also included is full use of the Thermal Suite on one day of choice in ESPA at the **g**.
Superior Room from €185.00 per person sharing
Deluxe Room from €225.00 per person sharing



The Relaxation Room at ESPA

Luxury Suite from €265.00 per person sharing

Junior Suite from €345.00 per person sharing

The above rates are subject to availability.

To reserve this offer please contact the

g hotel reservations team on reservetheg@theg.ie or call +353 (0) 91 865 200.