



CRASHING in the CAPITAL

The seat of the American government is a melting pot of politics and history, but the sumptuous boutique hotels of Washington D.C. combine this with total luxury and attentive service, discovers Gayatri Bhaumik.

CAPELLA WASHINGTON D.C., GEORGETOWN

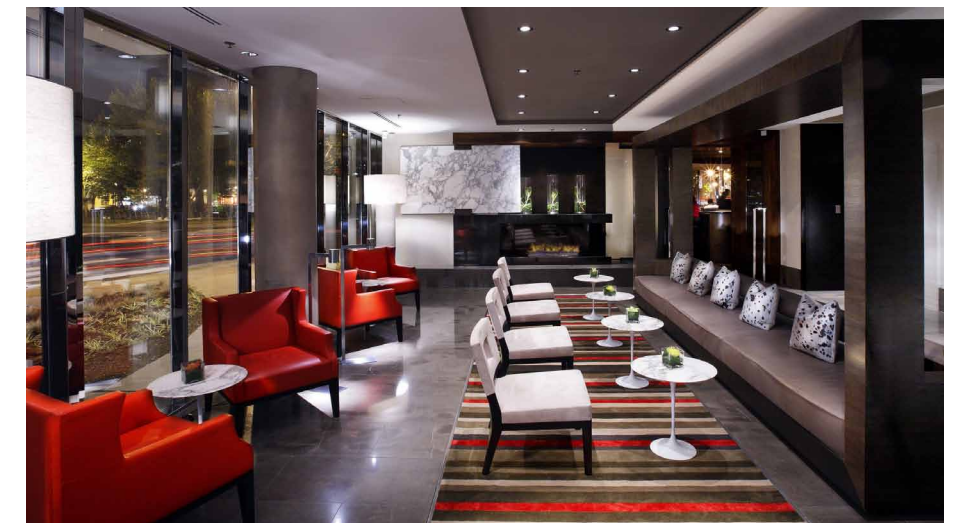
Tucked into the historic neighbourhood of Georgetown, Capella is one of the city's newest boutique hotels. The intimate property boasts just 49 guest rooms, each of which features elegant furnishings, intuitive technology, Aqua di Parma toiletries, Pratesi linens, and complimentary refreshment centres. Our pick of rooms are the six Executive Suites which feature separate bedrooms and living areas, views of the C&O Canal and Georgetown, and expansive bathrooms with limestone bathtubs and separate rainshowers. Guests have exclusive access to the rooftop bar, where they can swim in the indoor-outdoor infinity

pool, unwind with sundowner cocktails while taking in views of the city's landmarks like the Washington Monument and The Kennedy Center, or in cooler weather, relax by the fireplace. A team of personal assistants stand ready to create a unique stay by organising anything a guest could want, whether that's after-hours shopping at the city's exclusive boutiques, or – thanks to a partnership with the Washington Ballet – VIP tickets to a show, or even a walk-on role. Make sure to brunch at the hotel's Grill Room restaurant, which serves sumptuous fare right next to the C&O Canal – try the popular Pastrami Hash – and have a pre-dinner cocktail at the Rye Bar, a slick, sexy space with a focus on craft cocktails and rare whiskies. www.capellahotels.com/washingtondc/georgetown



THE HAY-ADAMS

Just across from the White House, and in view of Lafayette Park and the National Mall, The Hay-Adams combines history and luxury with an incredible political pedigree. Originally built in 1928 in the Italian Renaissance style, the hotel was named for John Hay, secretary to President Lincoln, and Henry Adams, a distinguished descendent of both President Adams. Extensive renovations in 2001 at the hands of designer Thomas Pheasant retained a sense of old-world charm with rich wood furniture, antique-style lighting fixtures, and warm tones. Each of the 145 guest rooms and suites boast turn-of-the-century glamour and lavish décor, with intricately carved ceilings, patterned drapes, marble bathrooms with Etro amenities, custom Italian linens, flat-screen televisions, and iPod docking. The hotel's political roots and intimate bar and restaurant mean it's still a top choice for the city's wheelers and dealers looking to talk shop without being overheard. The Lafayette is the hotel's light-filled, elegant dining room, offering a fine-dining experience unlike any other in the city; Off the Record, the hotel's gentlemen's club-like bar, is the place to go to 'be seen and not heard', where light snacks, a strong wine selection, and delicious cocktails are served under the watchful eyes of caricatures of Washington's political elite. www.hayadams.com



THE DUPONT CIRCLE HOTEL

Set in the heart of the famed downtown district that lends its name to this hotel, this Doyle Collection property is the perfect position from which to enjoy all that the city has to offer. You'll be walking distance from attractions like the White House, the National Mall – which includes the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial – and the Smithsonian Institution museums. Exploring Georgetown or taking in a performance at The Kennedy Center will also be a breeze. The hotel houses 327 lavish rooms and suites, all of which come

equipped with free wifi, marble bathrooms with heated floors, Aromatherapy Associates amenities, and Lissadell bed linens. Treat yourself to the Luxury Suite with Balcony, which comes with a king bed, 47-inch flat-screen television, complimentary wet bar, and panoramic views. Those checking into suites on the hotel's Level 9 floor will also get private elevator access and exclusive use of the Level 9 lounge. Café Dupont, the hotel's minimalist restaurant, serves seasonal French-inspired dishes using the best local produce, while Bar Dupont has a well-curated list of specialty cocktails, wines, and beer. www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-dupont-circle-hotel