

The elegant decor is unmistakably Chanel. In front of the ornate fireplace sits a suede sofa; a design based on Chanel's sofa from her Rue Cambon apartment. The table lamps are Giacometti and Jean-



"I want the Ritz to remain the best hotel in the world!" he told Thierry Despont, the architect-

facade. As a result, no modification could be made that failed to respect its architecture and

designer hired for this monumental job. The hotel is a listed historic monument with a landmark

majesty. Amongst the new additions to the prestige suites, bulletproof windows were installed

could be combined into one vast apartment. Essentials like new plumbing, heating and cooling

on the first floor, whereas the Imperial, Chopin, and Windsor suites were restructured so that they

systems, high-speed Wi-Fi and telephones from which guests can control lights and temperature,

history and arguably in Paris chose the Ritz as her residence for over 30 years.

Perhaps the most fashionable woman in

Her suite overlooking Place Vendôme was naturally redone to suit her style. It was outfitted with personal effects and art that have been lovingly restored and displayed throughout this suite. During renovations, a priceless masterpiece by French artist Charles Le Brun called The Sacrifice of Polyxena was discovered in her suite. The painting

was ultimately sold at Christie's for

\$1.88 million and now hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Keeping her signature colour scheme of white, black and beige alive the designers have manitained a contemporary look yet included exclusive items designed specifically for the Suite Coco Chanel. This has been done as per her taste and style - Lacquered Coromandel screens, Goossens gilt-framed mirrors, table lamps and sconces that are Giacometti and Jean-Michel Frank inspired as well as never-seen-before

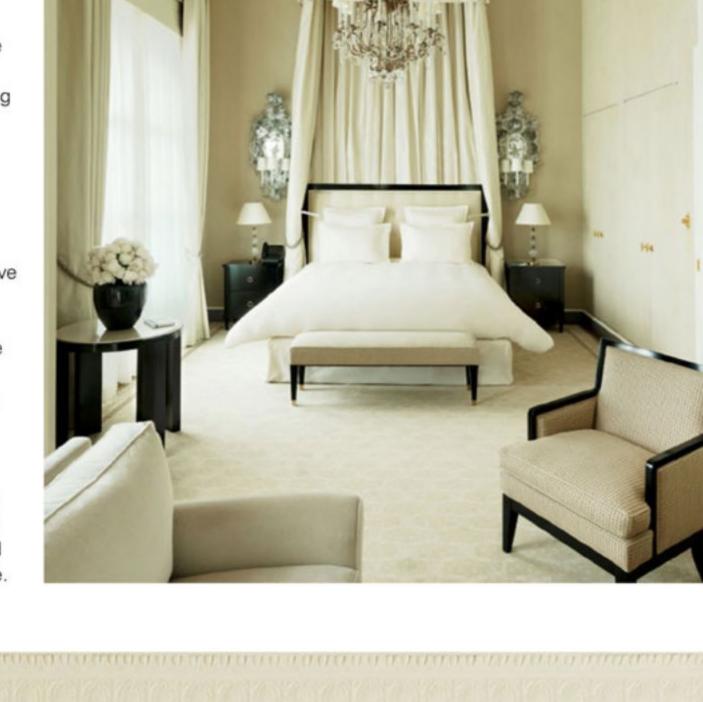
archived pictures of Gabrielle Chanel at the Ritz Paris. A private wine cellar and three marble bathrooms are ensconced in this luxurious home away from home. **NOW SPOTLIGHT** 

> A vast living room that overlooks the Place Vendôme, the Suite Impériale is a true

ABOVE Here you can see the Goossens table, photos of Chanel, and the ubiquitous,

of the suite reflects her love for gilded mirrors

lacquered Coromandel screens gleaming with a rich patina. Never-seen-before archived pictures of Gabrielle Chanel at the Ritz Paris hang on the walls BELOW The main bedroom



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signature gold swan fixtures. The space is

dotted with artefacts like an amazing clock called 'Cartel à tête d'Apollon' and a pair of Louis XVI ormolu five-branch wall lights. No expense was spared with the period furniture and gilded marquetry in this mini palace, making any guest feel like royalty. History buffs residing here might be interested in this nugget: In 1721, King Louis XV, all of 11 years, watched the parade of the Ottoman ambassador from the balcony of this suite as it offered unrivalled views of Place Vendôme, an event so magnificent, it saw camels walking down

the streets of Paris! • Fareeda Kanga

Photographs courtesy Ritz Paris