

# SKY

Delta 

## Philadelphia Story



THE RITTENHOUSE HOTEL,  
PHILADELPHIA

I've borrowed an umbrella from the concierge and exited my Philadelphia hotel feeling a bit like a boulevardier in Paris. I stroll past the courtyard fountain and across leafy green **Rittenhouse Square** in search of a late lunch. An empty cafe table on the sidewalk at Rouge beckons. A salade niçoise seems fitting.

I look back across the square at my home for a day, the 98-room, independent Rittenhouse Hotel, and recall my stay. . . . Enough 10-stroke laps in the spacious pool to whet the appetite for dinner. A soothing sauna in the health club. A seat by the windows **overlooking the treetops** at Lacroix, the hotel's award-winning temple of fine dining. The 310-count sheets on the bed. My requested newspapers, perfectly brewed coffee and great homemade granola from room service to start the day.

Yes, The Rittenhouse caters to visiting royalty, dignitaries and celebrities. Prince Andrew and presidents Ford and George Bush the elder have stayed here. So, too, have Magic Johnson, Michelle Pfeiffer, Tom Hanks, Oprah Winfrey and Luciano Pavarotti. But I'm thinking how very local, **how neighborly**, this Leading Hotels boutique establishment feels.

The year-round address for some 260 condo residents, The Rittenhouse Hotel is on the square and of the square. The CD in my bedside alarm clock features classical piano tracks courtesy of the Curtis Institute, a music school just across the park. A hallway on the hotel's third floor serves as a satellite gallery for another neighbor, the Philadelphia Art Alliance. Subtly, all this **enriches my stay**, which proves too short to partake of the eight-choice massage menu in the hotel's Adolf Biecker Spa. Or afternoon tea in the lobby's Cassatt Lounge and Tea Room. Next visit, perhaps. —*John Grossmann*

## Starry Nights

The Rittenhouse Hotel's 98 guest rooms include 10 one-bedroom suites and eight luxury suites, among them rooms 1310 and 1312, home to **Bruce Willis** during the filming of *12 Monkeys*, *The Sixth Sense* and *Unbreakable*. Room rates start at \$220 and rise to \$1,800 a night for the presidential suite.

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## TheBest **BED**

