



## Rock & Roll Hotels

**Sex. Drugs. Fluffy Pillows.**

**A new book featuring the outrageous life and times of the world's most iconic rock hotels**

Published on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011, *Rock & Roll Hotels* ([www.rocknrollhotels.co.uk](http://www.rocknrollhotels.co.uk)) is a new book that unashamedly peers through the keyholes of the world's most renowned hotels and reveals their often outrageous relationship with rock's loveable rogues.

Written by musician and promoter, Greg Simmons, *Rock & Roll Hotels* is an eye opening, factual and funny read that lifts the lid on what rock stars get up to after the after-party. Find out who was the first rock rebel to throw a TV out of the window, where Keith Moon handcuffed hotel guests together and which lobby Led Zeppelin rode their Harley Davidsons through. The guide takes a tour of the world's most famous rock hotels using rock 'n' roll history and heritage as a backdrop, visiting cities including London, Berlin, Amsterdam, Rio de Janeiro, New York and Los Angeles.

Author Greg Simmons says, "Rock stars are renowned for bad behaviour. During my 10 years as a music promoter I've become intrigued by these tales and fables of the shocking, bizarre and downright debauched, most of which seem to happen on tour. I made it my mission to research and document these crazy antics, and where they happened; *Rock & Roll Hotels* is the result, giving readers the inside track to what goes on behind closed doors, and showing music fans how and where to party like a rock star in the world's most notorious and luxurious muso hotels."

From the Chateau Marmont, Los Angeles, The Portobello, London and The Hotel Chelsea, New York, where Bob Dylan mingled with Andy Warhol, Simmons offers readers a glimpse into the lives of the world's most famous stars and where they partied. But it puts readers in the middle of the action too, with travel guide-style tips on where to be seen on the scene.

**Rock & Roll Hotels** provides everything you need to party in the world's most iconic rock 'n' roll venues. The hotels (listed geographically) fall into categories such as:

- **Five-star splendour;** Luxury hotels such as the Hard Rock in Vegas with unique additions like its own bowling alley and Chateau Marmont, Los Angeles, modelled on a French castle in the Loire Valley, which boasts poolside bungalows and penthouses. Chateau Marmont is the location where the original Blues Brother John Belushi overdosed and Led Zeppelin drove their Harley Davidsons through the lobby. More recently in 1996, John Frusciante, guitarist for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, took up residence. For the A-lister looking for respite, the Sunset Marquis in West Hollywood can offer guests a 'paparazzi diversion' service.
- **Faded glamour;** Hotels where a rock star breathed their last breath or a hotel of faded glamour. The Hotel Chelsea is one such hotel where a host of luminaries have swaggered through the doors, from Madonna to Arthur Miller, who stayed for six years. It's also the hotel where Sid Vicious is said to have stabbed his girlfriend Nancy Spungen to death in 1978. Similarly, The Highlands Gardens – formerly the Landmark Hotel – in Hollywood, has held on to the decor of years gone by, linking it irrevocably to the decade when Janis Joplin checked in only to check out with an overdose of heroin.
- **Touring musician hotels;** Hotels with guitar and amplification servicing for musicians, like the Sanctum Soho, London's first rock 'n' roll boutique hotel, where you can hire your own guitar from reception or the BackStage Hotel, Amsterdam, where staff will source tickets to gigs and offer their famous 'BackStage Service' for all your music needs: extended breakfast hours, room to store equipment and staff have even been known to take on the role of roadies.

### About the Author

Greg Simmons is a music promoter, bassist and an avid reader and researcher of rock 'n' roll history. The idea for **Rock & Roll Hotels** came about when he was enjoying his own taste of the rock lifestyle at the Sunset Strip Music festival in LA. Simmons, who's first trip to Monsters of Rock was at the tender age of 10, has spent years visiting and researching hotels for this book.

### Extract 1 (Le Parker Meridien, New York)

"Picture the scene: Nikki Sixx, wayward bassist for the depraved Mötley Crue, returns to his empty hotel room at Le Parker Meridien, after a poor show. He sits staring at a bindle of smack. He knows he shouldn't. He knows it's killing him. He's only too aware of its potency. But he reasons that smack also makes sex last longer. He shoots up. His ravaged torso is found slumped on the floor by his mercurial girlfriend, Vanity, who lets out a shrill cry for help. Fred Saunders, the former Hell's Angel who is now Head of Security for the band, is alerted and Nikki is revived."

### Extract 2 (George V, Paris)

(*rock journo Mick Wall*)... "was once sent to interview the mighty Black Sabbath, in Paris. Tucked away at the George V (the V is pronounced 'sank') – a hotel veneered in the type of opulence usually reserved for the Palace of Versailles – the eager hack had become acquainted with each of the heavy metal titans over the course of a weekend. All except one, that is. The band's drummer, Bill Ward, had proved elusive. The

common cold was the reason given for Bill's ominous absence, but the reality was that he was inebriated after fondling the bottle a bit too keenly. As Mick prepared for his departure, Sabbath interview notes packed, *sans* Bill Ward quotes, the credulous reporter was summoned. At 2a.m., Mick entered Bill's suite to find a sweaty, semi-naked drummer lost in a stupor. With his dressing gown falling open as he drunkenly staggered about the room, Bill treated Mick to a glimpse of his genitals and a playback of the song 'Neon Knights', before barking at the poor writer a barrage of expletives that would make even Ozzy sound like a God-fearing saint."

- Ends-

For more information go to: [www.rocknrollhotels.co.uk](http://www.rocknrollhotels.co.uk)

***For further media information, publishing details, review copies, interviews, extracts, competition copies as well as high quality images please contact Fiona Reece or Claire Southern at Fiona Reece Public Relations***

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

- The book features 45 of the world's most iconic rock 'n' roll hotels in a premium, hardback, gift size book.
- *Rock 'n' Roll Hotels* combines rock history with thoroughly researched practical information: contact info, facilities and a 'see and be seen' section for readers who want to road-test these distinguished places.
- *Rock 'n' Roll Hotels* is Greg Simmons' first book, published by award-winning new indie publishing company Punk Publishing (publishers of *Cool Camping*, *Wild Swimming*, *Escape Routes*, *Taste Britain*, *Tiny Campsites*).

#### **Book specifications:**

- **Published by** Punk Publishing
- **Author** Greg Simmons
- **Size** 184mm x 110mm, 224pp hardback, text only
- **Price** £10.99, Publication 4 October 2011