# PINNACLE of LUXURY LIVING ATTHE EQUESTRIAN HOTEL

BY JEREMY BLEH PHOTOS BY ETHAN TWEEDIE

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At the heart of World Equestrian Center – Ocala, we invite you to the latest paragon in luxury accommodations. Christened, The Equestrian Hotel, this prestigious venue assures guests an unforgettable stay in the "Horse Capital of the World." Get an inside look at what the epicenter of luxury, class and grandeur has to offer visitors from across the globe.











### A Long-Awaited Homecoming

Ocala-based company, Roberts Design, envisioned the spectacular architecture and composition for The Equestrian Hotel. Now a completed facility, lead designer Ric Owens explains the cultural foundations behind this stunning retreat.

"There's an overall French-inspired look to the hotel. The grand lobby has 20-foot ceilings, crystal

chandeliers and a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace," says Ric, "Walking into the hotel is an amazing feeling, with its rich mahoganies and Italian porcelain throughout the entire first floor: You feel like you're in the grand plaza of a château."

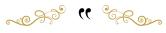
Worldly inspirations are found beyond the lobby, adorning each of the hotel's five stories. "We've formed a collaboration with artists all over the state of Florida and throughout the country to bring additional culture and the arts to the hotel,"

says Ric, "Each floor has a large, elevator lobby featuring an art gallery showcasing prominent artists, anywhere between six months to a year. As part of the art exhibition, each piece is for sale to visitors." In addition to the art galleries, each lobby is outfitted with a sofa, desk and TV for guest use.

Individual guest rooms share the same, refined details present throughout The Equestrian Hotel. Grand foyers line the entrance to each accommodation, providing a buffer from

external noise. The interior itself is a blend of haberdashery-style plaid, textured vinyl wall coverings and velvet draperies. Perhaps the most notable feature is the mix of room setups for individuals and families, a testament to the hotel's high standards for comfort.

The furniture throughout the hotel includes custom designs from The Estate Collection by Ric Owens and the Roberts Design team. Fine European linens grace each king-sized bed for



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restful sleep after a day amongst the showgrounds. Bathrooms contain frameless showers and elegant lighted mirrors, complete with a marble interior. Separate living and dining room space provides an authentic, in-room dining experience and a large, Sub-Zero refrigerator allows easy food storage.

Guests who reserve the Presidential and Vice-presidential Suites will experience accommodations befitting a true, luxury residence. The Presidential Suite contains a separate powder

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beverage collection.







THE EQUESTRIAN HOTEL'S STIRRUPS RESTAURANT IS THE PREMIER, FINE-DINING ESTABLISHMENT."

> The restaurant's entrance sports two stained-glass horses looking inward with a marquee overtop, bearing tribute to The Yellow Pony name. Much like Stirrups, this pub also offers outdoor patio dining amongst its exterior gardens. With The Yellow Pony on-site, guests are guaranteed a quality meal and a good time.

Just off the hotel lobby, The Yellow Pony beckons

guests with the allure of an authentic pub and garden eatery. Between live music and a

host of shareable appetizers and entrees, this

establishment heralds much of the venue's upbeat

energy. Additionally, numerous bourbons, cocktails and whiskeys complement the already impressive

Both Stirrups and The Yellow Pony share an extensive 250-300 label wine selection. With a focus on American wines, guests may indulge on California, Oregon and Washington State's finest. Hotel sommeliers are also seeking out wineries and producers with equestrian connections, adding more variety and interest to the selection.



GUESTS MAY EVEN ENJOY MEALS OUTDOORS ON THE VIP TERRACE OVERLOOKING THE GRAND OUTDOOR ARENA AND WITNESS THRILLING EQUESTRIAN SPORT."

Emma's Patisserie continues The Equestrian Hotel's European inspiration, overseen by Executive Pastry Chef Yohann Le Bescond.

"I feel like I'm entering into a French pastry shop when I step into Emma's. Ric Owens really caught the traditional French pastry-shop atmosphere, and that really touches me as a French person. It's those details that remind me of my time in Paris," says Yohann.

room and large kitchen area, standing apart from all other suites at The Equestrian Hotel. Both feature a private balcony overlooking the Grand Outdoor Arena and are also equipped with the amenities found in all other rooms. After booking these accommodations, guests are assured the ultimate, equestrian hotel experience.

#### Connoisseur's Cuisine

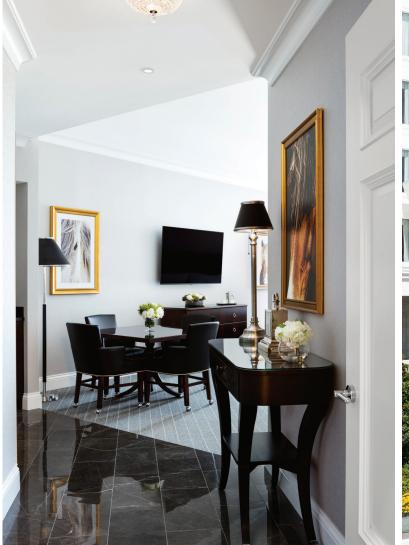


Two original restaurants and a French-inspired bakery provide The Equestrian Hotel's exquisite fare. Located on the ground floor, The Equestrian Hotel's Stirrups restaurant is the premier, finedining establishment. Prime steak and local Florida seafood are among the many specialties, along with an eclectic assortment of soups, salads and sandwiches. Stirrups offers a breakfast, lunch and dinner menu, complete with a separate vegetarian menu for interested parties.

The dining space itself consists of elegant, slip-covered white chairs with a separate mahogany wine bar and chef's table for private dining. Guests may even enjoy meals outdoors on the VIP terrace witness thrilling equestrian sport. With its tantalizing entrees and varied eating arrangements, Stirrups is the hallmark of

























Croissants, kouign amann, bonbons and authentic French macarons are just some of the delicacies made in-house daily. Traditional American pastries, such as cinnamon rolls and sticky buns also make an appearance, as well as several donuts and coffee options. And that's not all, Emma's Patisserie boasts a fresh grab-and-go selection of salads, sandwiches and wraps for those looking for a quick bite to eat. The result is a cosmopolitan collection of treats that perfectly round out The Equestrian Hotel's sophisticated fare.

"An exciting thing in creating the dessert display is the endless possibilities in shapes, colors and flavors," says Yohann, "I'm very happy I can bring a little bit of my country, where I was born and raised, to Emma's Patisserie. Being able to share my experience with the guests at World Equestrian Center is an honor to me."

#### Premier Shopping and Leisure

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several additional amenities accentuate the hotel experience. Inspired by the "City of Light," The Paris Room is a multi-use space for organizing private meetings and celebrations. A classical



THE HOTEL GROUND FLOOR ALSO FEATURES NEARLY 13,000 SQUARE FEET OF LUXURY RETAIL BOUTIQUES."















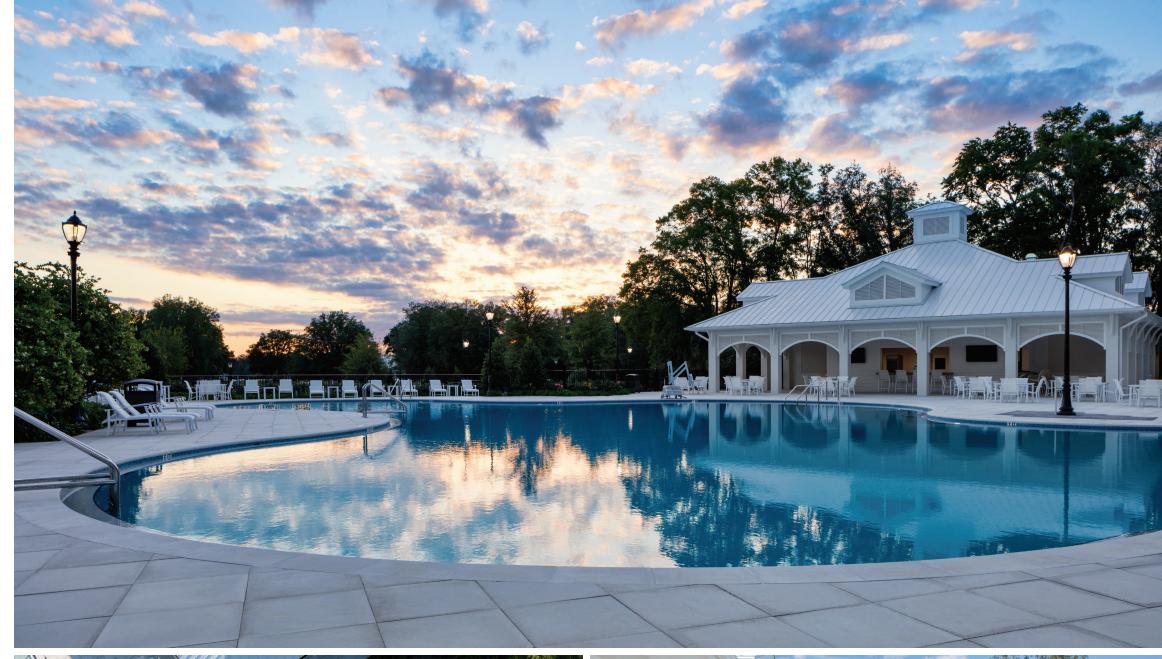
















Photo: Maven Photo + Fi

herringbone interior with gold-leaf

detailing demonstrate the elegance of this

space, complete with a marble fireplace.

Organize a gathering with any of The



Equestrian Hotel's custom, chef-driven menus for a one-of-a-kind event.

The hotel ground floor also features nearly 13,000 square feet of luxury retail boutiques. World Equestrian Center

Ocala Founding Partner, Lugano Diamonds, occupies the largest salon in this space. Browse their repertoire of exquisite, one-of-a-kind jewelry, each piece

Catering to the youth, Mr. Pickles & Sailor Bear Toy Shoppe represents another luxury retail establishment. Named after two adorable dogs, customers can find the shelves stocked with equally adorable teddy bears and Breyer Horses. Check inside to see the vast collection of private-labeled

its own work of art. The Lugano Diamonds' commitment to elegance and class is a

welcome addition to the facility.

As part of the hotel's outdoor recreation, guests are welcome to visit the Horse to Water Pool & Bar. Perfect for the whole

family, children can enjoy the animal-inspired splash pad while adults cool off with a cocktail or refresh in the zero-entry pool. The Horse to Water Pool & Bar presents a great opportunity to lounge beneath the warm Florida sun.

The Equestrian Hotel's Calluna Spa completes the leisurely ensemble of on-site relaxation. Five massage rooms, including one couple's massage room, and a hair salon have been furnished courtesy of Trudy Bodaford from Roberts Design and a Miami-based retail design company. Manicures, pedicures, massages and hair styling treatments are among the many amenities found on the spa menu. Be sure to visit the Calluna Spa after a workout at the 24-hour fitness center, also located on the second floor.

Join family, friends, spectators and equestrians in World Equestrian Center – Ocala for a once-in-a-lifetime, luxurious experience. At this venue, we pride ourselves in maintaining high standards of hospitality for every guest. Bringing this vision to life has been an enriching venture and we're eager to welcome you to The Equestrian Hotel.



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