

Openings: Franklin Hotel

By Ken Scrudato

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There's a brilliant Seinfeld joke about uptown/downtown couples suffering in long distance relationships. But only a terrible bore would demarcate their lives on one side or the other of 23rd Street. And with romantic hotel options not exactly legion in this dosh-worshipping town, the rebirth this April of the Upper East Side's fetchingly elegant **Franklin Hotel** should get even ruthless corporate raiders and detached fashionistas to make for the 10128.

Newly done up with flatscreen TVs, i-Pod docks, photos by fashion icon Deborah Turbeville, and keen contemporary aesthetic touches, the Franklin still feels more fin-de-siecle Paris than 21st Century NYC—all dark woods and glittering chandeliers. Bulgari bath products, in-room martini shakers, and a nightly wine and artisanal cheese reception remind you that this is a place for indulging more than posing. Charmed, we're sure.

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