



By Sophie Ibbotson

It's worth checking out Hotel Baltshug Kempinski, a historic hotel in Moscow with rooms overlooking St Basil's Cathedral and Red Square.

The Kempinski's Moscow property dates back to 1898, and it is one of the so-called Palace Hotels of the World. After the Russian Revolution in 1917 it became a hostel for the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, but the building was thankfully completely renovated in the 1990s. Hotel Baltshug Kempinski is now one of the most impressive properties in the Kempinski Group.

Although the facade of the building is original, the interior is very much a mix of classic and contemporary

design. Two of the suites were designed by British royals Princess Michael of Kent and David Viscount Linley, nephew of the Queen. The curtains and other soft furnishings are made from sumptuous fabrics, frequently in shades of gold, so this really does feel like a palace. The chief concierge is known as the Lady in Red, and she's on duty in the foyer at all hours to welcome guests and direct them wherever they want to go. It's this personal touch that makes Hotel Baltshug such a special place to stay.

Who For

Hotel Baltshug Kempinski is the last word in luxury, a place for those who want to indulge themselves completely and be treated like a king or queen. Beware: you'll probably never want to leave!

Accommodation

There are 225 opulent rooms with



ceilings up to 14 ft high. Rooms are large and luxurious; and the suites have undoubtedly the best views in Moscow. In the marble bathrooms you'll find exclusive Kempinski cosmetics to take away, and the mini bars are well-stocked with imported spirits.

Food and drink

The lavish Baltshug Grill serves buffets like banquets, invariably washed down with Champagne. You dine overlooking St Basil's, and this alone is reason to come. For a drink and a light bite you can relax by the fireplace in the Lobby Lounge, or in the summer months sip on a cocktail on Cafe Kranzler's outdoor terrace.

Facilities

Hotel guests and club members have access to the Baltshug Health Club with its indoor pool, gym, two saunas and a solarium. If you get thirsty whilst you're working out (or chilling), you can enjoy a freshly squeezed fruit juice or cocktail.

What's nearby

St Basil's Cathedral, Red Square and the Kremlin are all right on Hotel Baltshug's doorstep. It's also only a short walk along the river bank to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and the Red October complex of galleries, restaurants and bars.

Wi-Fi available

Free Wi-Fi in all guest rooms and public spaces.

Room rates

Advance online bookings from only 10500 RUB.

Value for Money

Incontestably good value for money: the views alone are worth the room rate.

Getting there

Hotel Baltshug Kempinski is 21 miles from Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport and a 10-minute walk from Novokuznetskaya metro.

