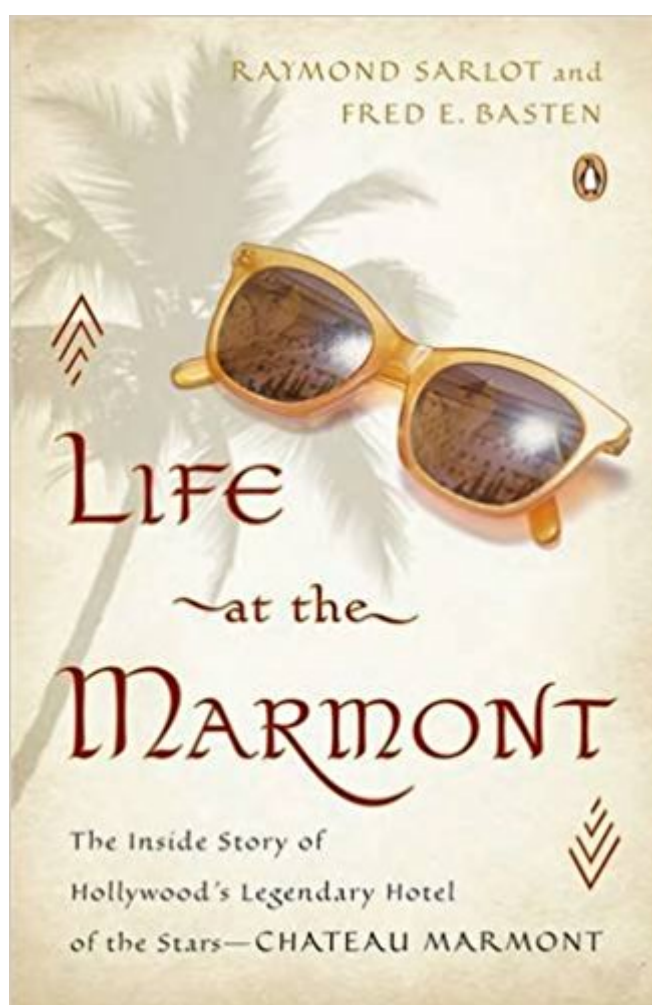


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Life At The Marmont: The Inside Story Of Hollywood's Legendary Hotel Of The Stars--Chateau Marmont



Synopsis

Raymond Sarlot bought the Chateau Marmont in 1975, but what was originally a business purchase became a love affair as he delved into the hotel's incredible history. From its perch overlooking the Sunset Strip, the glamorous Marmont reigned for decades as the spot for artists, writers, musicians, and actors of every stripe and remains a home-away-from-home for A-listers like Scarlett Johansson and Johnny Depp. Here, Sarlot and co-author Fred E. Basten share a wealth of scandalous and intriguing tales about them all, from the stars of Hollywood's Golden Era like Jean Harlow and Grace Kelly to idols of the sixties and seventies like Jim Morrison and John Belushi (who tragically died there in 1982). Whether your obsession is Hollywood history or celebrity gossip, *Life at the Marmont* has plenty of gripping, juicy stories to fascinate.

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Customer Reviews

Built in the late 1920s in the undeveloped region between Los Angeles and Hollywood, the Chateau Marmont, an apartment house, ran into the Depression and was converted into a hotel. The region became the Sunset Strip, and the Marmont was joined by other famed apartment-hotels and restaurants. From the start the Marmont attracted filmdom's most famous stars and many noted writers as well. Its early guest list included Garbo, Harlow, Lombard, Bette Davis, Flynn, Stan Laurel, John Wayne and, later on, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Streisand and Sharon Tate. In the '60s and '70s the Marmont drew leading rock and folk stars, from Jagger to Baez, and TV performers like John Belushi, who died there. A favorite of Britishers as well, every U.K. actor worthy of the name has stayed there. An intriguing if self-promoting sidelight on cinematic history.

Sarlot is co-owner of the Marmont; Basten is the author of *Glorious Technicolor*. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Raymond Sarlot was the owner of the Chateau Marmont from 1975 to 1991. He lives in Los Angeles. Fred E. Basten is the author of more than thirty books, including *Max Factor's* *Hollywood* and *Steve McQueen: The Final Chapter*. He lives in Santa Monica, California.

This is a fascinating history of one of the most famous apartment turned hotel in Tinseltown that was the home of many celebrities. Currently named as Chateau Marmont is located at the Sunset strip, and it reigned as the hotspot for men and women of show business since Feb 1929. The rents which peaked at \$750 a month at that time was regarded as outrageous by some, but most were too happy to take up residence. It started very nervously as the nearby Beverly Hills Hotel had closed its door because of losses, and so was the Garden of Allah situated in the same neighborhood, which was near bankruptcy after two years in business. The setup was perfect because it was very private. Just drive into the garage, get in the elevator, go upstairs and nobody would see you. Ladies came in and out at all hours to see the famous male residents, and no questions were asked. Marmont also became a place to stay after spending nights on town at celebrity hangouts on Sunset Strip. Major attractions included nightclubs such as; Trocadero, Mocambo, Ciro's and Preston Sturges's *Players*. The great stars have come and gone, replaced by newer names and faces. Many of the giant studios have dwindled and disappeared. Movie moguls; Mayer, Cohn, Zanuck, Warner and others no longer rule. The Garden of Allah and the glittering nightclubs and the famed Sunset Strip's Schwab's Pharmacy are a memory but Marmont remains. The years of glamorous highs and lows, storybook romances, fast times and wild parties, overnight success and failures and even tragedies; through them all, Marmont remained as Hollywood's Grand Hotel. It is a proud legacy of times past. The memories of Garbo, Gable, Harlow, Monroe and many others are linked by this magnificent place some called their home. Actress, Sandra Bullock once commented that "it has an incredibly seductive atmosphere, no wonder people come here to have affairs, and it has that air of mystery."¹ 1. The Garden of Allah 2. West Hollywood (Images of America (Arcadia Publishing)) 3. Historic Hotels of Los Angeles and Hollywood (Images of America: California) 4. King of the Sunset Strip: Hangin' with Mickey Cohen and the Hollywood Mob 5. Sex, Drugs, and \$25 Salads: One Week at the Chateau Marmont

LIFE AT THE MARMOT:THE INSIDE STORY--IS SUCH A GREAT BOOK--PERHAPS THE QUINTESSENTIAL HOLLYWOOD INSIDER STORY WITHOUT THE BALONY OF ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT--I LOVED THE BOOK SO MUCH THAT I HAVE GIVEN SEVEN AWAY AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OVE R THE YEARS TO FRIENDS THAT LIKE THAT MILIEU--ITIS FAST PACED AND FUN READING AS WELL..ENJOY..

Pretty interesting book about a hotel that's a standard reference in novels, magazines and newspapers over a long period of time. Learned a lot about wealthy celebrities in LA, old and new.

To begin with, the Chateau Marmont didn't open in 1929 as a hotel. The intention was to lease the apartments in it to well monied clientele. It was a grand place and architecturally beautiful with fine details that were more reminiscent of Europe. It was castle-like and really quite opulent in its overall appearance. However, there were a couple of problems. The owners were running low on cash and when it came to furnishing the Marmont it was substantially less than grand. Also, the Stock Market crashed and went as flat as a pancake. Additionally, it was positioned on the least desirable section on Sunset Blvd. in a no man's land in an unincorporated area between Beverly Hills to the west and LA to the east. It languished only partially rented until it was sold to someone who had the cash resources and a large amount of luxe furnishings that could be changed out to whatever the individual occupants fancied. And it went from apartment house to luxury hotel offering privacy and space. The recollections and research of the authors paint a wonderful picture of the Chateau Marmont in words that tell the story of the hotel as it went through a series of owners that each left their stamp on the hotel for better or worse. However, it also tells the stories of the people who worked there and functioned as a family that they became and the visitors which included a lot of celebrities. From Jean Harlow and her studio arranged marriage to the hijinks of Desi Arnaz minus Lucy, this is a fun and gossipy book that often reaffirmed that the rich and celebrated were often just like us and just as often absolutely nothing like us. You'll observe Greta Garbo slinking around corners and dodging the press and hear about Marilyn Monroe depending on Paula Strassberg while dodging the fury of her former acting coach Natasha Lytess, And there are wonderful and surprising tidbits about the largess of celebrities like the surprisingly generous Marlon Brando who must have really appreciated the great service and the hotel's amiable and accommodating staff. This is a very readable book that moves very quickly. It is also extremely engaging. Truth be told, I was sorry when I finished it because I wanted more. In this book the hotel is the true star.

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