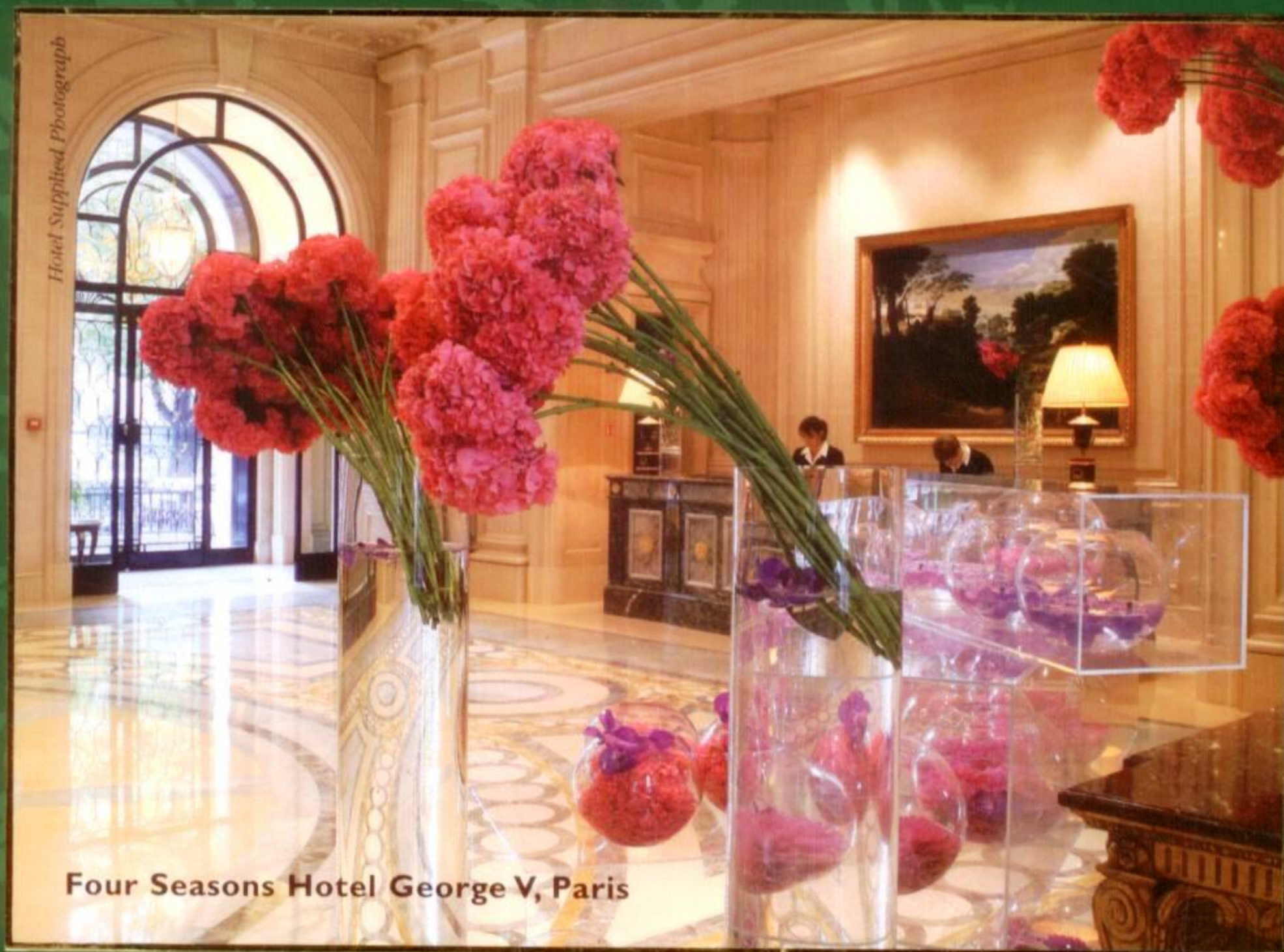


# THE ULTIMATE HOTEL GUIDE<sup>®</sup>

**Lyn Middlehurst**

Editor of *The Gallivanter's Guide*<sup>®</sup>



*Hotel Supplied Photograph*

Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris

**SIXTH EDITION**



#### FACT FILE

#### Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh

**Tel:** +20 69 362 1200

**Fax:** +20 69 362 1162

**Internet:**

[www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

**Affiliation:** Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts

**Swimming Pool:** 4 Outdoor

**Shops:** Yes

**Health Club:** Spa & Wellness Centre

**Recreation Activities:** Dive centre, snorkelling, boating, tennis, 'Kids' programme & pool, golf nearby.

**Rooms:** 136 including 27 suites; 12 with private pools + 1 with private beach

**Room Service:** 24 hrs

**Bars:** Citadel Lounge

**Restaurants:** 4

**Credit Cards:** All major

**Distance from Airport:** 10 minutes from Sharm El Sheikh Int'l airport

## FOUR SEASONS RESORT SHARM EL SHEIKH.

### *Sharm El Sheikh, Red Sea.*

This resort is reached via a long allée of tall palms that points to the twinkling lanterns and pale sandstone coloured architecture that resembles an Arabian village, with towers, arabesques and moucharabieh screens. Paths meander through endless fountained courtyards; cascading streams disappearing beneath hump-backed bridges. This is a truly beautiful resort. The sea is utterly clear and teeming with fish of every colour; a paradise for snorkellers. The divers, meanwhile, take one of the resort's two private motor cruisers to explore the underwater wonders of the Red Sea. You cannot swim directly off the gold sand beach due to the coral bed, but the warm waters at the end of the jetty offer that rare and special magic of unpolluted swimming. The silence is palpable, for there are no motorised sports allowed and no fishing, so the only crafts you see are small private yachts and dive boats.

The lobby is set at the highest point; a cool domed retreat, with marble staircases descending to the Citadel; a traditional open-fronted airy lounge with mesmeric views. Stepping down from here, your neck craning to take in the Moorish towers set with ironwork and arabesque windows, you reach the resort's unique funicular railway; a whimsical tram of obsessive detailing and polished brass that will glide you down to the big freeform pools, the beach, or just to the nearest tram-stop to your room or suite. Best not stay too close to this, though, as it can be noisy.

The accommodation has acres of soft beige marble, scattered with pale handloomed rugs framed in blue; the walls the colour of clotted cream. Whispering airconditioning and ceiling fans keep you cool, even in the hottest months. Arches frame the unspoilt sea views; the uninhabited island of Tiran in the distance, changing colour each hour from ochre to deep terracotta. Unlike other resorts in Sharm, the Four Seasons has a real sense of place, respecting the country and the culture, yet it counterpoints this with an





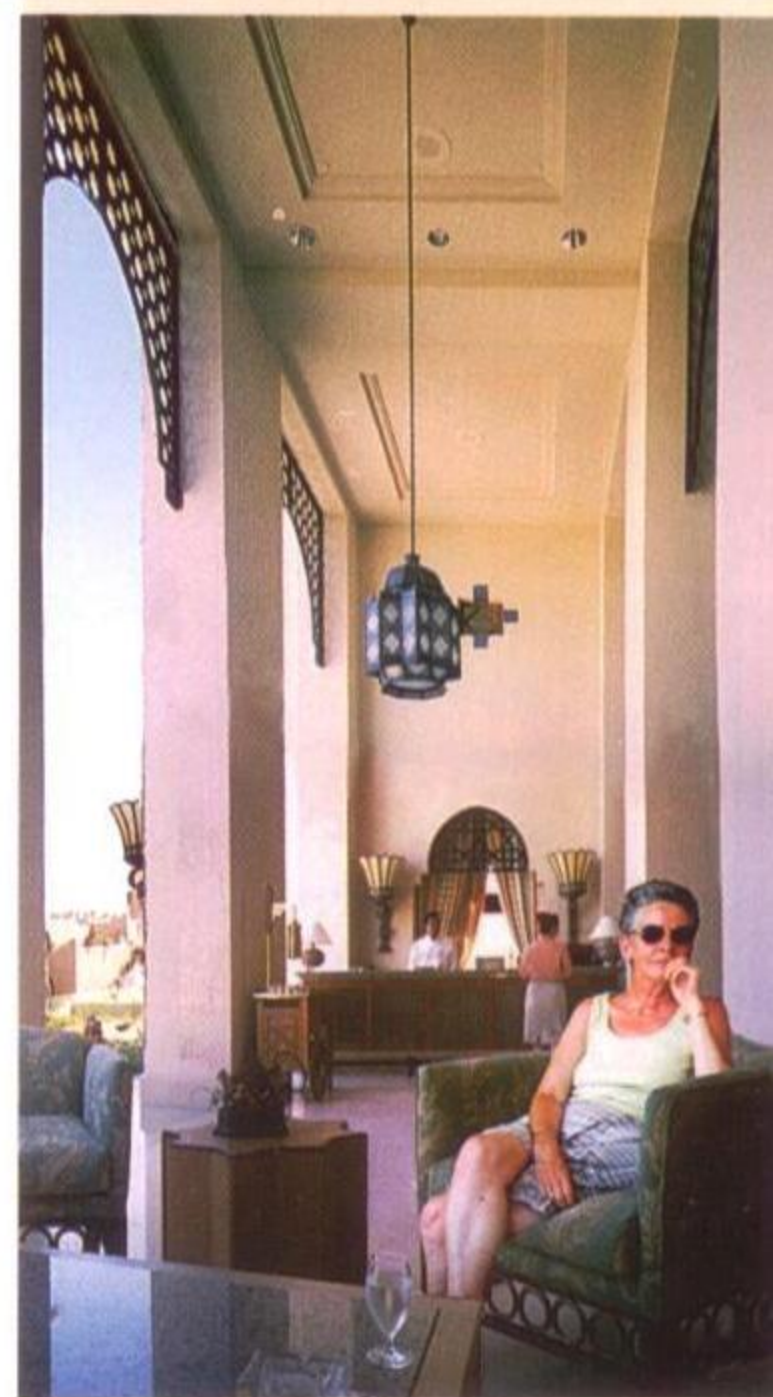


exceptional level of comfort: nest-like Sealy beds and down duvets, deep Kohler tubs and beautifully marbled glass-sided walk-in showers, twin granite-topped vanities that sit on iron-weave skirts, and in the suites, etched glass wall niches and arabesque windows that filter the early morning light through Saracen-style ironwork.

Even the standard rooms, which are more like junior suites; are good; a spacious sitting area framed by a carved wooden moucharabieh arch, walk-in dressing room, entry hall with mosaic-work set into the marble floor, and either an arched terrace with integral cushioned daybed, breakfast table and chairs, or on the upper level, a smaller balcony, evocatively canopied in striped crenellations. Downstairs rooms are shadier and have more spacious terraces, but upstairs, there is greater privacy. This is also true of the suites, of which there are 12 1-bedrooms, 12 1-bedroom Deluxe with plunge pools, 2 Presidentials with pools, and 1 Royal Suite with a private pool and its very own beach.

Throughout the resort, the cuisine is very good. Whether you dine on the best Italian fare or choose a fish or a lobster from the fresh fish buffet, you will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and freshness of everything.

Here, there is just about everything you could wish for in a beach resort, from a very good Kid's Club and dedicated Aladdin Pool, to tennis courts and Pro Shop, a stylish shopping arcade, top notch snorkelling, diving (including lessons), sailing and boat tours, nearby golf, and a smart Spa and fitness facility with its own walled lap pool.



*Four Seasons Resort Sharm El Sheikh, previous page: The freeform pool.*

*This page from top left: A Pool Villa interior.*

*The resort at night.*

*The Citadel; a traditional open-fronted, airy lounge.*

*A Pool Villa.*

