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## RAFFLES BOSTON BACK BAY HOTEL & RESIDENCES

If you need any more proof that Boston is going through a new Gilded Age, consider the arrival of Raffles. The ultra-luxury brand has only about a dozen properties around the world, mostly in Asia. So it's exciting that Boston will be the first North American city to get an outpost when Raffles opens in Back Bay in early 2022.

The 33-story tower will dedicate its upper levels to 146 super-high-end residences (the lower levels will be occupied by hotel units). They spare no expense when it comes to style and glamour, and neither do the common areas, which boast spectacular botanical displays. Of course, you may want to wander up to the two-story sky lounge with a rooftop garden terrace too. The views of the city are sure to stun.

Besides the signature Raffles Butler service, which ensures residents get high-level personal attention, there are plenty of fancied spaces to explore: for instance, the Raffles Spa with a 20-meter indoor pool, resident lounge, fitness club and about half a dozen on-site restaurants and bars. Where to eat, with all those options? For an intimate evening, you may want to visit the property's tasting kitchen, where the hotel's executive chef will host themed feasts and other food-focused events for residents only. Planning a date night? There's also a mysterious so-called speakeasy in the building, but that's all we'll say. You'll have to track down the location yourself. (Hey, that's half the fun!) For more contemplative ventures, Raffles will also have a writers lounge, a quiet space off the sky lobby that is lined with books, art and artifacts. It's a place to read, write, relax, and you know, solve the world's problems over a digestif. When idle time is its own form of activity, you know you're officially living in the lap of luxury.

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