

WORLD OF LUXURY

AT VANCOUVER'S FINEST BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA
THE WEDGEWOOD

Text by **Kate Missine**



Tucked away unpretentiously along a quiet sidewalk, steps away from downtown Vancouver's bustling Robson Street, the Wedgewood Hotel and Spa may first appear as just another of the city's plentiful accommodations. But a second glance reveals the splendour beyond the understated facade. A beloved local institution, the Wedgewood glows with a subtle yet undeniably exquisite elegance beneath its nostalgic blue



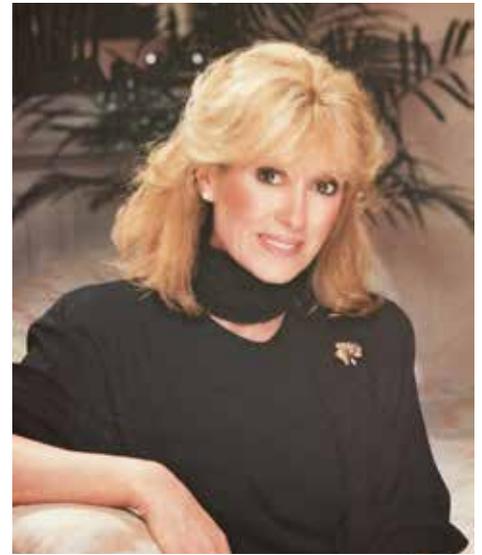
awning. Greeted by a coat-tailed doorman, guests step into a lap of true old-world luxury where no detail is too trivial.

The boutique hotel's distinctively European feel and traditional hospitality, emanating from the fine furnishings, unique accents, and original art collections, are not incidental. The Wedgewood's Greek-born owner and founder

Eleni Skalbania brought her impeccable taste and creativity to Vancouver's hotel industry starting in the 1970s when she became manager of Devonshire Hotel, followed by the much larger Hotel Georgia. Both hotels flourished under her capable guidance, and Eleni moved on to pursue her lifelong dream. In 1984, she purchased the Mayfair Apartment



*Elpi Marinakis Jackson - Co-Owner
& Managing Director of Wedgewood*



Eleni Skalbania, Founder of Wedgewood

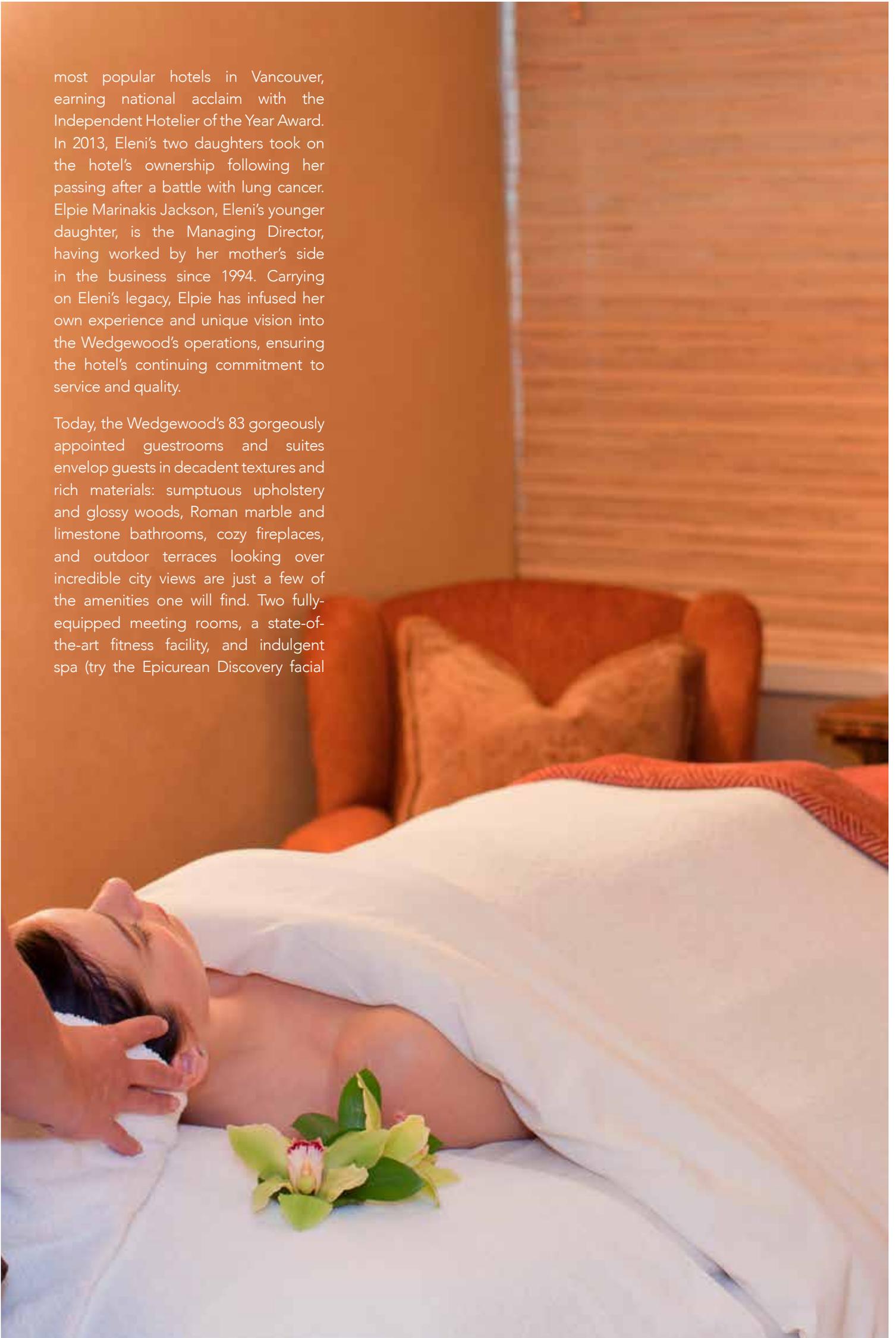
Hotel, re-designing it entirely based on her own aesthetic intuition and sense of colour and texture. Every detail was meticulously crafted, including custom-built furnishings and a collection of fine art and antique pieces from Eleni's own home to complement the desired ambience. Six months later, the Wedgewood Hotel and Spa opened its doors – to a wildly and instantly successful reception.

Having hosted dignitaries and celebrity figures, the Wedgewood remains recognized as one of the



most popular hotels in Vancouver, earning national acclaim with the Independent Hotelier of the Year Award. In 2013, Eleni's two daughters took on the hotel's ownership following her passing after a battle with lung cancer. Elpie Marinakis Jackson, Eleni's younger daughter, is the Managing Director, having worked by her mother's side in the business since 1994. Carrying on Eleni's legacy, Elpie has infused her own experience and unique vision into the Wedgewood's operations, ensuring the hotel's continuing commitment to service and quality.

Today, the Wedgewood's 83 gorgeously appointed guestrooms and suites envelop guests in decadent textures and rich materials: sumptuous upholstery and glossy woods, Roman marble and limestone bathrooms, cozy fireplaces, and outdoor terraces looking over incredible city views are just a few of the amenities one will find. Two fully-equipped meeting rooms, a state-of-the-art fitness facility, and indulgent spa (try the Epicurean Discovery facial





following an invigorating eucalyptus steam) complete the ultimate stay experience.

Of special mention is Bacchus, Wedgewood's award-winning restaurant that is routinely named among Vancouver's top romantic spots. In the intimate dining room, among plush velvet and Murano crystal, diners enjoy nightly live piano and modern French cuisine with a Canadian twist such as Quebec Foie Gras and poached Nova Scotia lobster.

In 2008, the Wedgewood Hotel and Spa was selected to join the exclusive Relais & Chateaux association of fine boutique hotels and restaurants worldwide. The association's core values of the '5 Cs' – Courtesy, Charm, Character, Calm and Cuisine – perfectly mirror Wedgewood's own high-reaching standards. What does that mean for you and me? Old-fashioned decadence with all the charm of a European home – complete with homemade cookies in the welcome package.

