

EUROPEAN HOTEL AWARDS

BOARD'S CHOICE 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hôtel Plaza Athénée named Palace Hotel of the Year 2026

Bordighera, Italy - 28 September 2026

Hôtel Plaza Athénée, the landmark Parisian palace on avenue Montaigne and a member of Dorchester Collection, has been named Palace Hotel of the Year 2026 at the European Hotel Awards.

The hotel was represented in Bordighera by François Delahaye, General Manager of Hôtel Plaza Athénée and Chief Operating Officer of Dorchester Collection, who travelled specifically to receive the distinction. Delahaye has led Hôtel Plaza Athénée as General Manager since 1999 and has held the additional role of Chief Operating Officer of Dorchester Collection since 2006.

A Parisian palace shaped by identity and continuity

Opened in 1913 at 25 avenue Montaigne, Hôtel Plaza Athénée has become inseparable from the identity of Parisian luxury. Its history is closely connected with haute couture, the cultural life of the avenue and a distinctive vision of hospitality that combines heritage with continual renewal.

Today, the hotel brings together 154 rooms and 54 suites, gastronomy, the Dior Spa Plaza Athénée and a strong sense of place defined by its red awnings, views towards the Eiffel Tower and relationship with one of the world's most recognised fashion addresses. The property also holds France's official Palace distinction, reserved for exceptional five-star hotels.

François Delahaye and the long-term stewardship of a great house

The presence of François Delahaye to receive the award carries particular significance. His combined responsibilities at Hôtel Plaza Athénée and Dorchester Collection give him a perspective that is both deeply rooted in the life of the hotel and connected to the operational direction of an international luxury collection.

Over more than two decades at the head of Hôtel Plaza Athénée, he has accompanied major transformations while preserving the personality of the house. This continuity of leadership is central to the hotel's ability to evolve without losing the codes, service culture and emotional character that make it recognisable to generations of guests.

The logic behind Palace Hotel of the Year 2026

The European Hotel Awards are not based on public voting, popularity rankings or automated scoring. Their approach is qualitative, holistic and editorial, considering identity, leadership, consistency, service culture, guest experience, heritage and the distinctive contribution of each property to European hospitality.

For Hôtel Plaza Athénée, Palace Hotel of the Year 2026 recognises the coherence of a house whose international reputation is supported by more than status or history alone. It reflects the continuity of its leadership, the strength of its Parisian identity, the quality of its hospitality culture and its capacity to remain relevant while preserving the character that has defined the hotel for more than a century.

HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE Palace Hotel of the Year 2026 Represented by François Delahaye - General Manager, Hôtel Plaza Athénée Chief Operating Officer - Dorchester Collection Paris, France

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28 September 2026

Grand Hotel del Mare Resort & Spa - Bordighera, Italian Riviera, Italy

Private international event - by invitation

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