

What is a scrapbook and why a modern well-traveled gentleman should have one



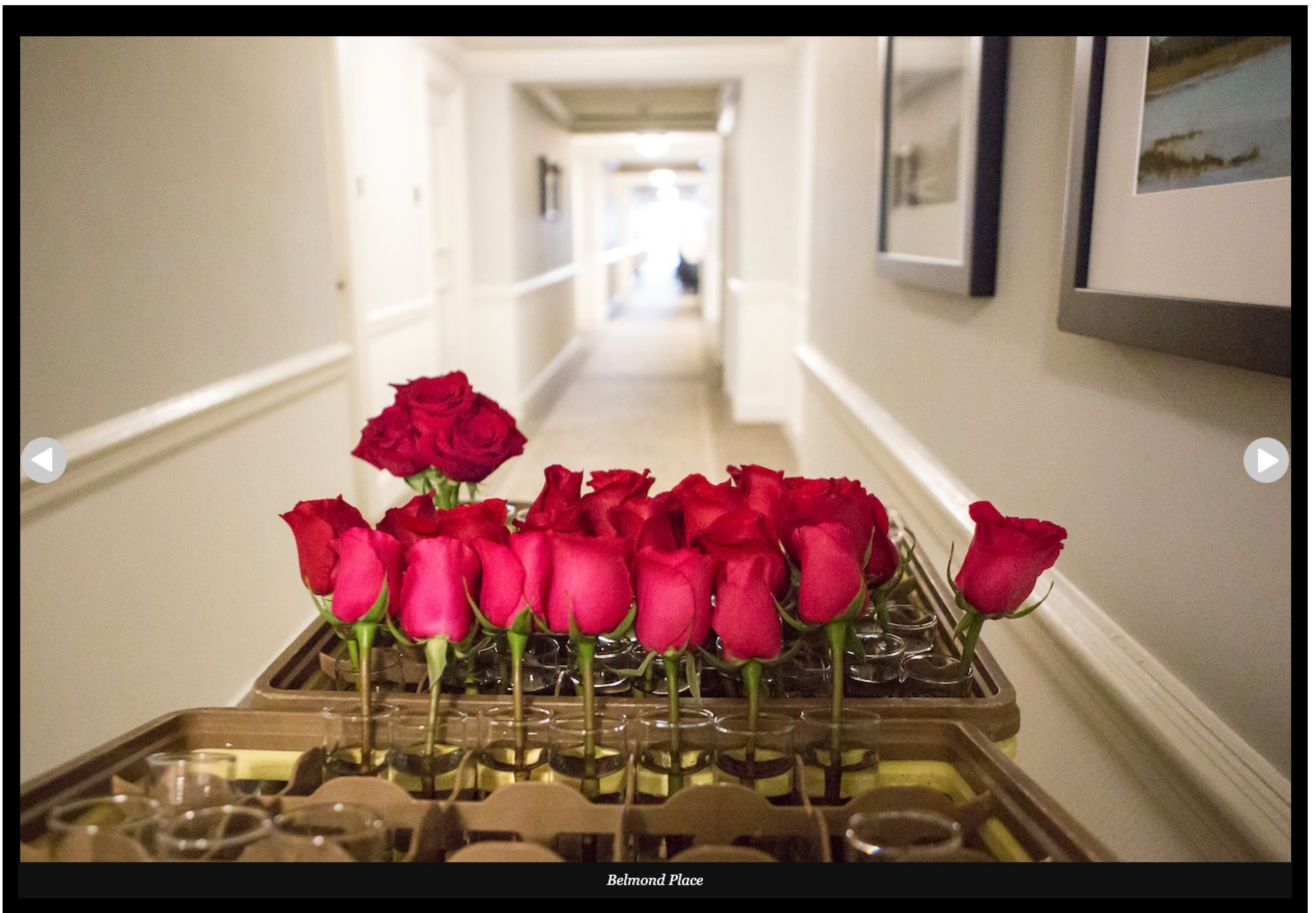
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Scrapbook

Simply call it Scrapbook. Or if you prefer Ephemera, but in any case have one. It is the album in which to collect the clippings of your travels. Year after year. Adventure after adventure. Aristocratic and popular at the same time, it keeps the memory of your favorite luxury hotel next to that tavern in the desert that saved you from the thrill, not only climatic, of sleeping under the icy stars of the Sahara. The scrapbook cannot be missing among the cards of elegant and demanding nomads, as was not missing (there is a volume reproduction, almost impossible to find) on the secretary of Princess Grace Kelly. In the patchwork pages, the fabulous Singapore Long Bar with Leh's Oxygen bar in the Himalayas will keep you company, for example, but also the boarding passes of when, backpacker,

Born in late medieval England (as a book where guests of a house noted thoughts and drawings in memory of the visit) scrapbooking became established in the second half of the 19th century, when newspaper articles and photography offered new tools to "collectors" of memories. **Thomas Jefferson**, third President of the United States, was perhaps the first notorious scrapbooker. In the Palladian residence of Monticello he composed more than one album, alternating classic citations with articles published on his administration, with the addition of an oak leaf. Another serial scrapbooker was Mark Twain, who even invented and patented an album whose sheets, if moistened, were able to solve the problem of having to get glue to glue the cutouts. Staying in America, if there is one place that should never be missing from a top notch scrapbook, it's Charleston, South Carolina. One of the most sophisticated and romantic destinations in the United States, where tropical atmospheres enclose an intact colonial architecture. The sumptuous atrium of **Belmond Charleston Place** is not only that of an iconic luxury hotel, but also the meeting place of the best local company. Many New Yorkers have bought houses here, so what is meant by "local" is quickly said.



Belmond Place

Belmond is a galaxy of taste within the Charleston universe, where roses never wither (it is not a metaphor but the peculiar touch of the house) because they adorn atria and rooms, every day very fresh. Its Palmetto Cafe, the exclusive lounge on the floor of the suites, the Grill - restaurant of Chef Michelle Weaver, 4 stars *Forbes*, as 4 are the Kentucky Scallops of an unforgettable dish - and the tailored boutiques of the big fashion brands, are all pieces fine materials suitable for ennobling your ephemera. Charleston is a city where history has decided to nest: here the first cannon shot of the War of Secession was fired, here the amazing colonial architecture with its furnishings and gardens (think of Nathaniel Russell House) have survived epochal earthquakes; here America today confronts and reacts to the supremacist disfigurement, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy also passed through here.

Walking on the seafront you will notice a white villa. Someone well-informed could mention the love story that JFK had with Inga Arvad in 1942, before being sent by his superiors - to make him forget it - in the Pacific, where he behaved like a hero. Arvad had known Adolf Hitler well and the FBI feared she was a Nazi spy, a Scandinavian-colored Mata Hari. The story is intriguing and therefore deserves to be listened to calmly. Why not look for a restaurant to continue the conversation? If at lunchtime you opted for the fried green tomatoes from the Cru Cafe, treat yourself to dinner at **Circa 1886**, a chef with crystalline talent like the award-winning Marc Collins and his cuisine for palates, and eyes, neoclassical. If, on the other hand, you want a farm-to-table place, as it is nowadays fashionable, Kevin Johnson's The Grocery is your address. Or an Italian pearl like Le Farfalle, where Michael Toscano is not afraid to cook flawless bucatini cheese and pepper, even if he was not in Trastevere. Without forgetting that Charleston has spoken Italian for a long time. The Festival dei Due Mondi, born from the genius of Gian Carlo Menotti, here in fact takes the name of Spoleto Festival USA. Everything is harmony in Charleston, or if you prefer everything is harmonized with the rhythm of the art de vivre. The advice of Halsey, tourism manager whose style is reminiscent of Grace Kelly, is impeccable, but they are careful not to tell you the most important thing.

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