

# VANITY FAIR

No. 585



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Spotlight

# THE THRILL ROOM

The ground floor of the Seagram Building, on Park Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Streets in Manhattan, was originally slated to be a Cadillac showroom. But Mies van der Rohe, the architect, persuaded his clients the Bronfmans to put in a discreet restaurant instead. Mies then turned to his protégé, Philip Johnson, to handle the design. The Four Seasons, created by the fine-dining impresario Joe Baum with a team of all-star consultants, immediately became

the place to take a three-martini lunch in a gray Hart Schaffner Marx suit and—very important—to be seen doing so. This coming July is the 50th anniversary of the institution, one of the few grand restaurants from that era to have survived. The Grill Room (as opposed to its larger, airier opposite, the Pool Room) is still Manhattan's Star Chamber for the power lunch. It's a rare restaurant that comes to define a slice of the culture, but the Four Seasons has been both a symbol of New York

corporate muscle and an architectural landmark since Eisenhower was president. "It has played host to some of the world's most colorful people, from Marilyn Monroe to George Clooney," says Julian Nicolini, who, with his partner, Alex von Bidder, has owned the joint since 1995. To commemorate the restaurant's golden anniversary, some of the people who have long listed it on expense reports gathered for a class photo in the Grill Room.

—MATT TYRNAUER

Click [here](#) to see a video of The Four Seasons' 50th Anniversary Photo Shoot



## WELL-SEASONED

FRONT ROW, SEATED: Georgette Mosbacher, Ed Koch, Stephen A. Schwarzman, Sandy Weill, Julian Nicolini, Henry Kissinger, Pete Peterson, Donald Marron, Liz Smith, Alex von Bidder, Leonard Lauder, Jonathan Tisch, Leo Hindery Jr., Martha Stewart, Donald Drapkin.

SECOND ROW: David Dinkins, Gael Greene, Thom Browne, Edgar Bronfman Sr., Edgar Bronfman Jr., Richard Meier, Peggy Siegal, Michael Ovitz, Arne Glimcher, Joel Ehrenkranz, Zac Posen.

FIRST ROW, UPPER LEVEL: Christine Quinn, Raymond W. Kelly, Lally Weymouth, Tom Brokaw, Ralph Schlosstein, Nina Zagat, David Boies, James B. Lee Jr., Bruce Wasserstein, Joni Evans, Bill Rhodes, Sandy Lindenbaum, John Veronis, Lauren Veronis, Jonathan L. Mechanic, Wilma Jordan, Gershon Kekst, Richard Johnson, Dolly Lenz, Bill Rudin.

TOP ROW: William O'Shaughnessy, Jes Staley, Bill White, Aby Rosen, Charles Masson, Michael Wolf, Ed Lewis, Tim Zagat.

HAIR, MAKEUP, AND GROOMING BY VAUGHN; FOR DETAILS, SEE CREDITS PAGE

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BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEO FROM THIS HISTORIC PHOTO SHOOT.