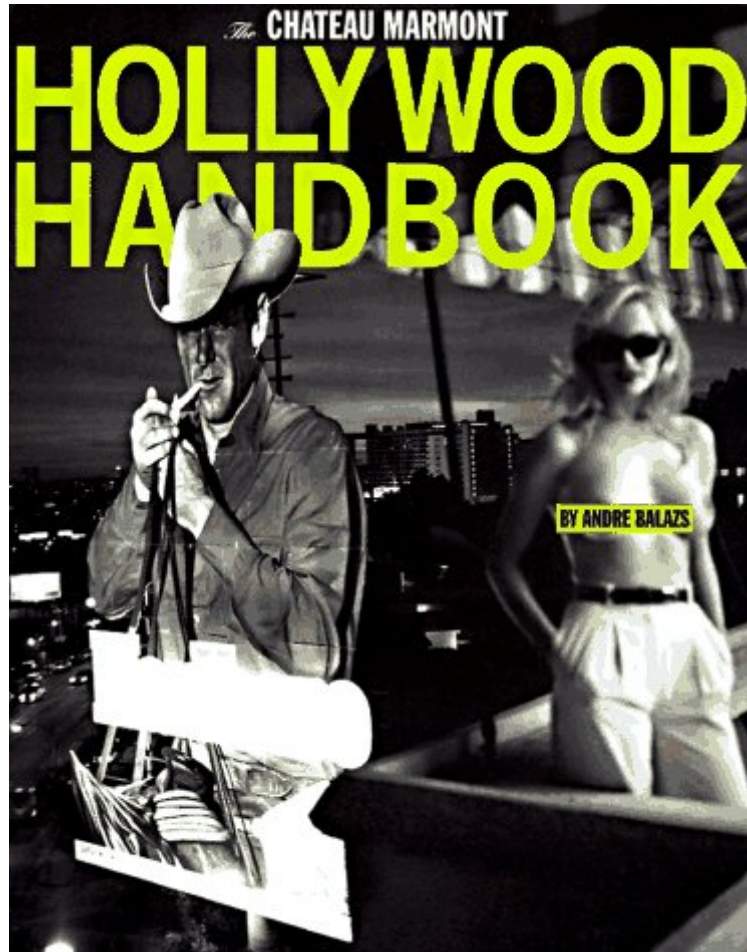


Hollywood Handbook

Andre Balazs

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Andre Balazs : Hollywood Handbook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hollywood Handbook:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Impressionistic take on the Chateau Marmont By Louis Foster The Chateau Marmonts Hollywood Handbook is the second book published under the auspices of an owner of the storied Los Angeles hotel built as an apartment building at the end of the roaring twenties which has been the accommodation of choice for countless famous residents from the worlds of cinema, music, and letters since, but where Life at the Marmont, the earlier effort, was a more straightforward history based mostly on interviews with guests and many long time staff of the hotel, this book is more of a multimedia collage aimed at conveying the atmosphere, mood, and attitude--in short, the culture--of the Chateau Marmont through numerous essays, pictures, and quotes. There is a multitude of pictures of celebrities, most of which were taken at the hotel, and the authors of many of the chapters have some personal connection with the hotel as well. One standout piece is by Jill Selsman and describes what it was like for her to grow up in the hotel and be a kid there in a short, impressionistic memoir. Jay McInerney also has a

vivid piece about staying there on his first trip to Hollywood just as his career as a novelist was beginning to take off, describing what is surely a representative experience of many as it was here that numerous Hollywood personalities got their start in Los Angeles, including the likes of Orson Welles and Billy Wilder. The rest of the book runs the gamut from a short capsule history of Hollywood to an academic take on the town from urban theorist Mike Davis to architectural criticism of the hotel building, with lots of bite-sized content which is well-chosen and presented in a nicely designed format. Unlike *Life at the Marmont* this book is less focused on the Chateau Marmont itself and includes content on the wider world of Hollywood and the Sunset Strip, the entertainment district full of clubs and restaurants. There's also literary selections like the short story *Golden Land* by William Faulkner, an astonishing and brilliant Hollywood story which dovetails thematically with the rest of the book. The Chateau Marmont has a rich history of associations with many artists of diverse backgrounds and this seems to rub off on its owners as well. Andre Balazs has edited an excellent compendium of art, fashion, and memoir which is a worthy tribute to, and expression of, the mythology and lore of the Chateau Marmont. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Crap By Gerald McRaney Possibly the most inaccurate and boring book I have read about Hollywood. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bjorn Bostrom Great storytelling !

Today's premier writers and artists view the culture that is Hollywood in this collection of stories, portfolios, graphs, timelines and charts. Andre Balazs, the owner of the Chateau Marmont, has assembled a unique "tour" of Hollywood with contributions from Jay McInerney, Dominick Dunne, William Faulkner, Gore Vidal and others. With portfolios from Helmut Newton, Dennis Hopper, and many more, this is the most inspired perspective on Hollywood to emerge in many years. 200 illustrations.

From Publishers Weekly The subhead for this sleazy and rather dull pseudo-expose of Hollywood scandal should probably be *Style Slaughters Substance*. The ugly, tabloid-sendup layout not only makes the book difficult to read but degrades the little bit of quality it contains. Editor Balazs, who owns the Chateau Marmont Hotel (famous as the place where several celebrities checked in in order to check out), had the taste to choose a very funny selection from Lillian Ross's *Picture* and the chilling William Faulkner short story "Golden Land" but wastes too much space on the tedious excesses of the druggy 1960s. The surprisingly conservative recounting of the "Top Ten Hollywood Scandals" breaks no new ground. If Balazs's intention was to pique interest in the Chateau Marmont, that venerable survivor comes out sounding like a place with tatty carpets and pleated lampshades, where the sad and desperate go to end their lives. Photos. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.