



Anthony Melchiorri Offers Advice on Choosing the Right Hotel

LIFESTYLE When you're looking for advice on a hotel, TV personality Anthony Melchiorri should be your go-to guide.

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HOME SWEET HOME: Anthony Melchiorri knows that the key to finding the perfect hotel is choosing the one that reminds you of home.

With years of experience in the hospitality industry, starting off at Times Square's Embassy Suites and moving to a night manager position in New York City's Plaza Hotel, Melchiorri certainly knows the ins and outs of the hospitality industry.

In addition to his past experience, which also included stints at the Lucerne and the famous Algonquin Hotel, Melchiorri is also the host of Travel Channel's "Hotel Impossible." In the series, he travels to hotels that are facing troubles, helps rework their business models and fixes their issues within the span of a week. For Melchiorri, his work on "Hotel Impossible" is incredibly rewarding; he is able to inspire change and help businesses find solutions to their problems. "Their hotel is going to get better, their financial situation is going to get better and their relationships with their team are going to get better."

The right hotel for you

Although a vacation may not be centered on your hotel choice, your experience will certainly be impacted by where you're staying. Melchiorri explains how if certain parts of your hotel experience are less than fantastic — whether you aren't able to check into a clean room on time, hotel workers are inattentive and rude, your hot water doesn't work or parts of your room are damaged or broken — then your entire trip will end up being negatively impacted. "So when I go see all the tourist attractions, I'm in a bad mood," he

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When choosing a hotel room for a vacation, Melchiorri recommends that vacationers consider where they're visiting and the value of that location to help influence their choice. "If you're looking for the cheapest hotel, you're going to get the worst hotel, typically. You want to look for a value in that

price."

This means putting in considerable research to your hotel choices, particularly by utilizing multiple online resources (TripAdvisor, Expedia, etc.) and checking reviews. Melchiorri recommends calling a hotel and speaking with management to negotiate a cheaper price if it's out of your price range but otherwise perfect — it gives the hotel staff a chance to become familiar with you, and it's a great way to verify if positive reviews are accurate. "And again, if they're a little more pricey, they're pricey for a reason," he reminds. "But you're going to spend a lot more time and aggravation and money, potentially, if you select a bad hotel."

Home is where the hotel is

When traveling, you should feel as comfortable in your hotel as you would in your home. "A hotel is there to make everything easy for you to enjoy what you came to [your] destination for," Melchiorri says.

Much of this comes from hotel management valuing their employees; when that happens, "the employees are going to understand the value of their guests," he says. That's what makes a successful hotel environment: when people respect one another and engage with guests on a personal level, the hotel's atmosphere will feel more pleasant and cozy.

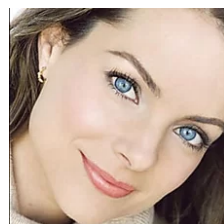
When it comes to his own favorite hotels, Melchiorri says that he thoroughly enjoys Langham in Chicago, where the food and drinks are of "world-class" quality and also close to the city's hotspots. He also — perhaps unsurprisingly — says that he loves the Algonquin, especially after its recent renovations, and that he "still love[s] having a drink in the middle of the lobby in the Plaza Hotel."

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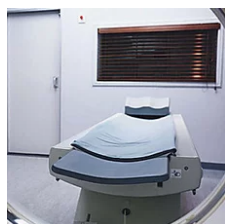
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