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Major league
DEAL



Hotel Commonwealth celebrates Fenway's 100th in style

Sure it's old, the seats are tiny and there are more poles there than at a strippers' convention, but Fenway Park is a Boston icon.

And if you want to celebrate Fenway's centennial in style, the Hotel Commonwealth (500 Commonwealth Ave.) has a deal — and a suite — for you. This high-end hotel — a stately French Empire design meant to evoke the classic old

Commonwealth Avenue atmosphere — feels just far enough away to lean out for a long ball if Papi gets hold of one. Which is why general manager Adam Sperling, a longtime baseball fan, was moved to put together two baseball-themed packages designed to cater to the well-heeled Sox fanatic intent on seeing Fenway Park's 100th birthday from the comforts of a luxury hotel room. The soup-to-nuts (or, if you prefer

peanuts-to-Cracker Jack) packages double as both swanky accommodations and baseball museum.

"We felt that since we're on the doorstep of Fenway Park, there was something we could do to connect ourselves to baseball but keep it in the way of a luxury hotel experience," Sperling said. "We didn't want to just put a helmet lamp in a room. It had to work whether the guest cared about baseball or not. It had to be good enough to be a suite on its own."

The result: The Hotel Commonwealth's Baseball Suite. "We thought we could use design and art to infuse baseball into the room," Sperling said. "We worked with an interior design person to capture what that is. We were specific not to create a Red Sox suite, but more of

an homage to baseball. There are things connected to Fenway Park since it's right out our back door, but it's really an homage to baseball, the national pastime. It's meant to look like something out of the 1930s with steamer trunks and leather — when baseball was part of the fabric of the country."

Guests/baseball fanatics can choose from one of two packages: a top-notch Fenway Park 100 Package, and the outrageously indulgent 100th Anniversary Package.

The Fenway Park 100 package is available throughout the 2012 season, and includes enough extras to stuff a bullpen. The package gets you overnight accommodations for two in a Fenway Room (a superior deluxe room at 470 square feet with direct views of



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY ANGELA ROWLINGS

LUXURY BOX: The two-room Baseball Suite at the Hotel Commonwealth, left, is filled with baseball-inspired art and a library of 40 baseball-themed DVDs. The hotel's 100th Anniversary Package adds in a Fenway Park tour and amenities including a commemorative book.



FAIR TERRITORY:
See the ballpark
from a Fenway
Room at the Hotel
Commonwealth.

Fenway Park), two tickets to the Official Fenway Park Tour (a 50 minute walking tour of the ballpark led by an official tour guide), a welcome basket of Baby Ruth candy bars, old-fashioned glass Coke bottles, boxes of Cracker Jack and stacks of baseball cards.

A night in the Hotel Commonwealth with the Fenway Park 100 extras costs \$339 to \$379 a night with no minimum stay. It will be available from April through October — the entirety of the Red Sox season.

If the Fenway Park 100 Package is the Jarrod Saltamacchia of the hotel — admirable but still a bargain given what you get — then the 100th Anniversary Package is the Josh Beckett: a pricey ace.

Walk into the two-room suite and discover an expansive space stuffed with baseball memorabilia, baseball-inspired art, steamer trunks, oriental rugs and brass lamps. Baseball cards are displayed, including a 1933 Babe Ruth, a 1934 Lou Gehrig, a Jackie

Robinson, a Johnny Pesky (he was the first guest of the suite when it opened) and of course, a Ted Williams. Local guests may even get a kick out of finding a Harry Agganis card. The mahogany furniture parks you in front of a 55-inch plasma screen TV, on which one of 40 baseball-themed DVDs in the film library will while away the hours until game time.

"If it's about baseball, it's in the room," Sperling said, citing just some of the titles: "The Natural," "Eight Men Out," "Major League,"

"The Bad News Bears" and, of course, both parts of Ken Burns' documentary "Baseball."

Game time, you say? It's all part of the 100th Anniversary Package: overnight accommodations for two in the two-room Baseball Suite; two tickets to the Official Fenway Park Tour; and the welcome basket of Baby Ruth candy bars, glass Coke bottles, Cracker Jack and baseball cards. The deluxe choice, however, also adds a copy of "Fenway Park 100th Anniversary Official Definitive Coffee Table Book," a 256-page look into the park's history. The book features a forward by well-known Red Sox fan Stephen King, with remembrances by Conan O'Brien, Carl Yastrzemski, Ben Affleck, Paul McCartney, Carlton Fisk, James Taylor and Peter Gammons. The book alone will tag fans for \$75. (No word if the package will feature chicken and beer.)

The 100th Anniversary Package ranges from \$599 to \$769, and is also available throughout the Red Sox season.

(To book, go to www.hotelcommonwealth.com, or call 866-784-4000.)

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