

Sir Richard Wallace Room at British Ambassador’s Residence



Dame Menna Rawlings served as British ambassador to France from 2021-2025. During her tenure she became a great admirer of the Wallace fountains and Richard Wallace.

Prior to her departure from Paris, she dedicated a guestroom at the ambassador’s residence in honor of Sir Richard Wallace. The beautiful and elegant guestroom with its spaciousness and comfortable décor would please the most discriminating guest.



The residence, the former Hôtel de Charost, is a historic and storied landmark that celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2025. In 1803, it was bought by Pauline Borghese, the sister of Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1814, the British government instructed the Duke of Wellington to find a permanent site for the British embassy. The government purchased the *hôtel* and its contents from Borghese. Since 1814, it has been the official residence of the British ambassador to France.



More than just a home for the ambassador, the residence is a magnificent venue for significant events, including the gala dinner organized in 2022 by the embassy staff to honor philanthropy in the spirit of Richard Wallace and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Wallace fountains.

The naming of a room after Wallace is another effort to revive the story of a remarkable individual whose acts of kindness and generosity continue to resonate in both nations, as well as strengthen the historical and cultural connections between France and the United Kingdom.

