In The Art of Travel, Alain de Botton observed: “There is an almost quaint correlation between what is in front of our eyes and the thoughts we are able to have in our heads: large thoughts at times requiring large views, new thoughts new places.” If this is indeed true, one place to inspire such grandness of thought is the newly renovated Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach. Ritz-Carlton, a brand which speaks volumes of grandness in its legacy alone, hosted a weekend to celebrate its redesign of the Club Lounge by the Villency Design Group led by Eric Villency.

To celebrate, the Five-Star, Five Diamond oceanfront resort rolled out a rich schedule of activities including a 5-course dinner by Chef John DeLucie of The Lion and recently opened Crown Restaurant in New York, and a screening of a very early cut of the comedic new Farrelly brothers film (tentatively titled Movie 43). Villency managed to capture Palm Beach’s studied mid-century style while giving it a distinctly modern interpretation.

Villency and co, and by co we mean New York fashion kids: Jessica Joffe, Heidi Bivens, Rachel Chandler, Tom Guinness, Johan Lindeberg, Masha Orlov, Michelle Harper, Melissa Bent and Vogue.it’s own Sabine Heller among others, enjoyed massages at the sprawling East-meets-West Eau Spa (featuring a steam room replete with disco ball), ocean swims and late-night firesides’mores. As the guests rolled up with their Valextra luggage and Proenza bags, a more traditionally Palm Beach crowd looked on, entertained. “Where are you all from?” one gentleman from Cleveland asked in the elevator. “New York.” “Oh! What part of New York?” Enough said.

But by the time the weekend came to a close, the boys found themselves woefully packing up their Vilebrequins, the girls aching for a few more spa treatments, and the Ritz Carlton Palm Beach firmly impressed as a winter destination that offers a getaway with friends and a welcome escape that happens to not involve the pulsing beats of the Miami strip. “It’s not the Delano,” hospitality consultant Kyle Hotchkiss Carone offered, “but there’s something nice about that.”

In a time when luxury can be occasionally maligned, there is something to be said for the ability of the grandiose to inspire. Waris Ahluwalia may have hit the nail on the head: “Fashion folks like a good tan and hours in the spa just as much as the Palm Beach set. At least I do.”