



INTERCONTINENTAL®

MARSEILLE – HOTEL DIEU



Its architectural dimensions and majestic structure make the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu one of the most outstanding and prominent buildings on the Vieux Port, and one of the most envied also!

The hotel-overlooking the Panier district and the yachts in the port- enjoys close proximity to Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde basilica and the Mediterranean ocean. With its storied past, the hotel serves as a bridge, and a most elegant one indeed, between the past and the present, between modern and ancient art. Both participant and witness of the evolution, tribulations and developments of this city down through the centuries, the present hotel, renovated by architect Jean-Philippe Nuel, greatly contributes to the local, national and international fame of Marseille.

Hôtel-Dieu

Located as a rule close to the cathedral and under the authority of the bishop, the first Hôtel-Dieu sites appeared in France in the 7th century. Their origin is uncertain but it would seem that at first they served as much to accommodate pilgrims and evangelize travellers as to care for the old and the sick. Over time, their function became more restrictive, they no longer offered access to pilgrims but exclusively took care of the sick.



THE INHERITANCE OF HISTORY

The history of the Hôtel Dieu dates back to the 12th century. In the Middle Ages, when the 2nd Crusade ended with the defeat of the French armies, many of the war wounded landed in Marseille.

1188 - The creation of the «Hôpital Saint-Esprit» by the The Confraternity of the Holy Spirit. The hospital was in fact a collection of narrow, adjoining houses used to care for abandoned and sick children.

1593 - Charles de Cazaulx, First Consul of Marseille amalgamated the Hôpital Saint-Jacques-de-Galice and the Hôpital du Saint-Esprit into a single establishment named the Hôtel-Dieu.

1753 – The extension of the new Hôtel-Dieu based on a project by Jacques Hardouin-Mansart, nephew of Mansart, a renowned Parisian architect.

The corridors of the passageways of the Hôtel-Dieu, which today are the very essence of the building, were formerly to the front of the edifice: they were always open, as in the 18th century, general medical opinion held that a plentiful supply of fresh air was good for the sick.

1789 – From some 15,000 inhabitants in the 12th and 13th centuries, the population had grown to over 100,000 at the beginning of the French Revolution. Faced with this demographic crisis, the hospital was regularly the subject of expansion projects.

1866 – Following its complete restructuring in 1860, the new Hôtel-Dieu was inaugurated by Napoleon III November 15th, 1866.

1993- The last patients left the hospital, the Hôtel-Dieu became a university hospital for doctors and nurses.

2006-L'Hôpital l'Hôtel-Dieu closed definitively.

2007- Acquisition of the building by the City of Marseille

2010-The foundation stone was laid.

2013- The renovation of the hotel completed, the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu came into being.

2016- The Hôtel Dieu celebrated its 150 years



THE HOTEL AND ITS ARCHITECT

The architecture of the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu reflects its historical imprint. The facade of Cassis stone with its multitude of arched passageways, continues to offer a superbly striking play of light and shadow, as it has for more than a century.

The rooms also bear the imprint of bygone days with impressive ceiling heights that in some suites, are over 5 metres high. The forementioned arched passageways offer a most theatrical setting for those windows that overlook the Vieux Port and Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde.

The nec plus ultra here is the presidential suite with its 80m² private terrace, perfect for some very politically correct time out!

In each of the 194 rooms, once again, the decor is greatly influenced by history: the ceiling cornices and old-fashioned eagle claw bathtubs conjure up the spirit of this place. The mouldings, the tiled or parquet floors and wooden walls go to show that the entire renovation of the rooms and public areas definitely adhere to the soul and the history of the Hôtel Dieu.

JEAN-PHILIPPE NUEL

Jean-Philippe Nuel graduated in architecture from the Beaux-Arts de Paris and rapidly gained recognition when he won an international competition chaired by Kenzo TANGE. He quickly went on to undertake work on a hotel in Paris, assuming the rôle of global project manager: architecture and decor.

Following this first project, boutique hotel sprung up in Paris and throughout France : the Victoire Opéra, the Villa Saint-Germain, the Hôtel Thérèse, the Grand Balcon de Toulouse and, in 2014, the Indigo Paris Opéra and the legendary Molitor swimming pool in Paris.

For these projects, as for the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu, Jean-Philippe Nuel reinvents the place by modernising the venue and conferring on it a whole new identity, whilst ensuring that its social and political dimensions remain intact. «One must be creative while at the same time enhancing the building's assets, ensuring one does not deprive the locals of their heritage,» he explains.

According to him, modernising an old building is not at all incompatible with its enhancement.



« At the InterContinental
Marseille-Hotel Dieu,
I have the freedom to work the
terroir of Marseille and
Provençal identity which
are close to my heart. »

Lionel Levy



A TRIBUTE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

As the salt sea air floats up here, to the terraces and passageways, tributes to the Mediterranean are very much in evidence.

Stone, spiral staircases, Greco-Roman balustrades, a superb view of the sea and the magnificent olive trees... The architecture here definitely is most definitely inspired by the Mediterranean basin, the cradle of many civilizations and an unrivalled 'slow living' style. The mineral tones echo the city's location in its natural setting.

In the lobby, situated beneath the hotel's inner courtyard, natural light flows through through an iconic skylight. The floor is composed of alternating black and white tiles, a replica of the historic floors of the former hospital but also reflecting the basilicas of La Major and Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde.

To complete the Mediterranean image and soften the contrast between the black and white, enamelled fish sculptures, faux coral chandeliers, fossils embedded here and there in the floors and rugs that look like sand appear to invite the sea into the decor.



LIONEL LEVY

LEADER OF MEDITERRANEAN 'NOUVELLE CUISINE'

Lionel Levy is originally from Toulouse but has well and truly adopted Marseille !

A starred chef since 2005, he trained with some of the greatest names in French gastronomy : Éric Fréchon and Alain Ducasse. Inventive, resourceful, always on the move and eager for innovation, he is a wonderful advocate for locavore food: freshly caught fish chosen at the fish auction, produce from ethical vegetable farmers and meat from dependable breeders.

He sets great store by regional and seasonal produce and uses his dishes to create, communicate and connect.

He draws his inspiration from the terroir, then creates his culinary art, in tune with the Mistral wind, the catch of the day and the sunshine. Every single day, Lionel has fun blending robust savours and incredible flavours to awaken the senses, amaze patrons and break with traditional Mediterranean cuisine.





At the InterContinental Marseille - Hôtel Dieu, this atypical, highly respected and appreciated chef is in charge of all the catering: the Capian bar, Les Fenêtres brasserie and the gastronomic Alcyone restaurant, awarded a Michelin star in 2014.

As is the case throughout the hotel, these food outlets located in the historic areas of the building, guarantee a delectable experience in a legendary setting.

The Capian

The Capian gets its name from the protruding piece of wood that forms the bow of the «pointus», those brightly coloured, rounded fishing boats found in all Mediterranean ports.

With its exquisite interior and magnificent terrace, the Capian attracts cocktail lovers and...all of Marseille.

The show is forever new with the Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde basilica right there. Besides the decor, the real asset here is Xavier Gilly, award-winning head barman of national and international fame. Xavier alone holds all the secrets of unique signature cocktails.



Les Fenêtres restaurant

At the end of the 18th century, ship masts were commonly used in the construction of buildings in Marseille called «3 fenêtres», (literally 3 windows) as the 7-metre wide façade of these buildings had 3 high openings. The trio of windows in the brasserie of the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu were the inspiration for the restaurant's name!

The brasserie extends out onto the iconic terrace or 'esplanade' of the hotel and seats 80 people. The menu, offering pride of place to all the fruits of the Mediterranean, features a dish central to Chef Lionel Levy's cuisine, the 'milk-shake de bouill-abaisse', a variation of the unique Marseille speciality guaranteed to please the most hardened amateurs of this local speciality...

Pissaladière with sardines and anchovies served with onion jam flavoured with star anise, Mediterranean sea bass, crisp, tender Hôtel-Dieu profiteroles and lots of other no less delightful dishes!

Alcyone

A unique venue for gourmet cuisine in Marseille, the Alcyone restaurant combines authenticity and elegance.

Chef Lionel Levy won the restaurant its first Michelin star in February 2014.

Each dish has its own story and each dish is remarkable thanks to the quality of the fresh, regional produce and the absolute mastery of the Chef and his staff, all perfectly organised.

Buoyed by its name- in Greek mythology «Alcyone» was the daughter of Aeolus, the god of Wind- the restaurant relates the saga of a voyage of taste and savoury delights, «laden with emotion, full to overflowing with the flavours and spices of the Mediterranean».

The 30 covers here ensure a more exclusive and intimate dining experience.



Hugely coveted, the InterContinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu knows how to play the perfect host!

Dynamic, elegant and equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the establishment boasts over 1,230 m² of reception space . Be it a wedding, a major international symposium, a seminar or a cocktail party, the hotel is prepared for all possibilities.

The reception space includes a conference centre composed of 14 rooms and a large cultural space for private events and exhibitions.

The 400m² Salle des Honneurs on the ground floor can host from 75 to 360 people seated (depending on the set up) and up to 440 people for cocktails.

Being flexible, the Salle des Honneurs can be split in two to become the Salon des Cordelles and the Salon des Accoules. The Salon Major can host as many as 150 people for cocktails. It too is modular and can be divided into three plenary rooms, the Salon Marceau, the Salon Mery and the Salon Mirabeau.

Last but not least, on the 1st floor, a further 5 conference rooms are available to ensure that not an iota of any conference is lost nor a single bubble from any private cocktail...

THE SPA by CLARINS

Operating under the by Clarins brand, the spa offers the perfect moment of wellbeing as part of the entirely wonderful experience enjoyed at the Intercontinental Marseille-Hôtel Dieu. Complete with fitness centre and indoor pool, it is the first spa in Marseille operated by this prestigious cosmetics brand, but also the very first brand to partner with an InterContinental hotel in France.

In a décor that conjures up traditional Provencal fountains and lavoirs (outdoor washing troughs), the spa area is an open invitation to plunge deeper into the Mediterranean environment of the hotel. In all, 1000m² dedicated to wellbeing: five treatment rooms, experience showers, saunas (including an infrared), hammams, indoor and outdoor rest areas, a solarium and a spacious fitness centre...

Among its signature treatments, this well-being bubble offers the «Clarins en Provence» beauty treatment, exclusive to the InterContinental Hôtel-Dieu : a combination of hammam, exfoliating powdered plant scrub and invigorating body sculpting care with lavender pouches.





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