

news release

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL, BANGKOK CELEBRATES 140 YEARS OF HISTORY WITH A SPECTACULAR GALA EVENT

Hong Kong, 28 January 2016 – The legendary [Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok](#) kicked off its 140th anniversary celebration in style on 27 January 2016 with a gala event presided over by Her Royal Highness Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana of Thailand. The heads of the famed hotel's majority owning companies – Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group's Chief Executive, Mr. Edouard Ettedgui, and Senior Executive Vice President of Italian-Thai Development Company Limited, Mrs. Nijaporn Charanachitta – welcomed 500 esteemed guests, including the Kingdom's Minister of Tourism, Her Excellency Mrs. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, captains of industry, celebrities and many of the hotel's loyal international patrons. Guests were treated to a lavish gala dinner on the Riverside Terrace, a moving tribute to the famed hotel's history and spectacular fireworks over the Chao Phraya River.

The gala marks the start of a series of bespoke literary, music, fashion, art and culinary events throughout 2016 to celebrate a far-reaching restoration of the historic 140-year-old Authors' Wing and Garden Wing of Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok. The comprehensive renovation has been designed to significantly enhance the facilities and services of this award-winning hotel, and to restore the celebrated heart of the property to its original splendour.

February will see the unveiling of the Royal Suite, Bangkok's grandest presidential suite with six bedrooms encompassing 600 square metres and twelve brand new suites with balconies in the Garden Wing. The highly acclaimed [Le Normandie](#) French fine dining restaurant has also been rejuvenated and the renowned [Authors' Lounge](#) – a favourite destination for afternoon tea, society weddings and elegant events – has been restored to its classic late nineteenth-century design and further extended to flow seamlessly through to the hotel's riverside terrace and gardens.

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During the gala, Mrs. Amanda Hyndman, General Manager of Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, paid tribute to the hotel's history saying, "The delicate balance of staying true to our heritage and preserving the mystique of a bygone era while remaining sensitive to our customers' evolving needs, has been the key to the hotel's success for many decades. Tonight we celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future."

The evening's warmest applause however, was reserved for Ms. Ankana Kalantananda, the hotel's longest serving employee who joined the property in 1947. She recalled, "In those days a room cost approximately 100 Baht per night, and The Oriental, as it was then known, was considered a luxury hotel because it had electric fans in the rooms."

For reservations at the legend by the river visit www.mandarinoriental.com

About Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok

Built in 1876 and ideally located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok has been an inspiration to a host of world-renowned writers from Joseph Conrad, Somerset Maugham to Wilbur Smith and John Le Carre. Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok boasts an international reputation for splendid service, style and grace and facilities including eight restaurants. The hotel's private teakwood shuttle boats provide daily access to the world famous Thai Cooking School, the hotel's Thai restaurant, the award-winning Oriental Spa and Health Centre located across the River; as well as the nearest skytrain station (SaphanTaksin) and River City Shopping Centre.

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About Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group is the award-winning owner and operator of some of the most luxurious hotels, resorts and residences. Having grown from a well-respected Asian hotel company into a global brand, the Group now operates, or has under development, 47 hotels representing 11,000 rooms in 25 countries, with 21 hotels in Asia, 10 in The Americas and 16 in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. In addition, the Group operates or has under development, 17 *Residences at Mandarin Oriental* connected to its properties.

Photography of Mandarin Oriental is available to download in the [Photo Library](#) of our [Media](#) section, at www.mandarinoriental.com.

Visit [Destination MO](http://www.mandarinoriental.com/destination-mo/) (<http://www.mandarinoriental.com/destination-mo/>), the online version of [Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group](#)'s bespoke publication, *MO*. News about our award-winning hotels, the best dining experiences, spa treatments, travel retreats and interviews with the Group's celebrity fans is now just a click away. Further information is also available on our [Social Media](#) channels.

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