

information

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HISTORY OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL, GENEVA

An imposing sight where it rises over the swift-flowing Rhône, Mandarin Oriental, Geneva stands at the heart of the city and its cultural, shopping and banking districts. The historic Old Town and its many theatres are all a short stroll away.

Mandarin Oriental, Geneva opened its doors in 1950 as “Hotel du Rhône” and was the very first hotel to be built in Europe after World War II. From the very beginning, it was considered the most luxurious hotel in the city and was unique in offering the ultimate luxury at the time; en-suite bathrooms in every room. The hotel's opening coincided with the arrival of the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva and it soon became clear that the hotel would set the trend for luxury and service in the city.

Since its opening, the hotel has welcomed prominent guests from royalty to musicians to international politicians and to this day, Mandarin Oriental, Geneva continues to exude all the refinement and elegance of a world-class luxury hotel, as well as being the embodiment of legendary Swiss hospitality.

In 1989, the Rafael Hotels Ltd. bought the hotel from its original owners, the Lendi Group and undertook major renovations to ensure the hotel continued to set itself apart from its competitors both in service and style.

The renovations introduced modern facilities, but did so with great sensitivity to remain true to the building’s original framework of sleek, early modernist Art Deco style and the distinctive feel of the 1950s was left undisturbed. The work was completed in 1999 under the supervision of the Swiss Architect Jean-Louis Christen and interior designers Chhada, Siembieda & Partners

In 2000, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group purchased the hotel and in July 2008 Mandarin Oriental, Geneva completed another major refurbishment. New York based internationally acclaimed designer Adam D. Tihany was responsible for the new design of the hotel’s public areas which gave the hotel and sleek, modern look and saw the launch of the hotel’s new restaurants and bar; Rasoi by Vineet, Café Calla and MO Bar.

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This was followed by a full renovation of the hotel's 181 guestrooms and 35 suites which was completed in 2013 with interiors by Buz Design, Hong Kong and Sybille De Margerie of SM Design, Paris.

During the renovation, Mandarin Oriental, Geneva's suites were considerably extended and combine modern art flourishes with a warm colour scheme and tradition with modernity. The hotel is again positioned as the best luxury hotel in Geneva, offering 21st century luxury with Oriental heritage; elegant and timeless interiors, innovative, fine dining, state-of-the-art technology and Mandarin Oriental's legendary service.

In 2019, Mandarin Oriental, Geneva teamed up with celebrity chef Gastón Acurio to open Yakumanka, an authentic cebicheria (ceviche restaurant) serving Acurio's acclaimed Peruvian cuisine. Yakumanka's warm, inviting decor with marine accents by Brandfood Studio led by Peruvian designer Morandi Arcela, creates a welcoming ambiance for diners. At the restaurant's open cebiche bar, diners can watch chefs prepare their cebiche and tiradito, while the cocktail bar offers an exciting selection of cocktails based on pisco, the famous Peruvian brandy. Those wishing to enjoy a relaxing view over the Rhône can do so from the covered terrace, subtly styled to transport diners to the heart of a typical Peruvian cebichería.

The very same year, the hotel launched its newest signature suite for guests seeking the ultimate in sumptuous comfort and spectacular views. Providing 325 square metres of contemporary elegance, the Royal Penthouse is one of the largest suites in Geneva. It features a splendid 175 square-metre terrace with panoramic vistas, a master bedroom with hammam shower, two further en-suite bedrooms and a spacious living room carefully zoned into separate dining and lounge areas and with a cosy setting next to a fireplace.

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