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TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park pays homage to history for reopening

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Mandarin Oriental, Hyde Park is reopen after an extensive renovation. Image credit: Mandarin Oriental

By STAFF REPORTS

As it reopens following an extensive renovation, Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park in London is allowing guests to follow in the footsteps of one of the property's most notable patrons.

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The hotel's Stay Like Sir Winston Churchill package includes the chance to live the lifestyle of the former prime minister, including cocktails, cigars and dining experiences. While the property is unveiling its new look, this package helps Mandarin Oriental get back to its roots.

Storied service

Sir Winston was a frequent guest at the hotel. The politician spent a lot of time at the property during the war, and also stayed there while his home was being redecorated.

A number of the anecdotes from his times at the hotel have been turned into experiences for modern guests.

For instance, it is said that the prime minister once gave staff members two cigars in exchange for them bringing his breakfast early. Translating this to current guests, those who book the package will be given two chocolate cigars.

While at the bar of the hotel, consumers can purchase real cigars if they wish.

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park is paying homage to Winston Churchill. Image courtesy of Mandarin Oriental

Mandarin Oriental's package also includes full English breakfast and Sir Winston's favorite Pol Roger Champagne.

Guests who book the offer will also receive a framed picture of Sir Winston checking into the hotel.

Those who want to learn more about the figure who led the nation through World War II can book a tour of the Churchill War Rooms or Chartwell, his home.

Beyond the celebration of Sir Winston, Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park is pointing to its history with an exhibit dubbed "If Walls Could Talk." Situated next to Bar Boulud, the showcase delves into the property's more than a century of business.

The building was originally opened in 1899 as apartments for affluent gentlemen. It was then turned into a hotel in 1902.

Becoming a hit with discreet guests, the hotel included a private entrance for royalty.

Mandarin Oriental has owned the building since 1996.

The hotel is continuing the historic theme in its bars, with cocktails that reference famous quotes from Sir Winston or members of the staff who made an impression over the years.

A 1920s-themed afternoon tea has also been designed to commemorate the decade that the tearoom first opened.

As its kicked off a complete renovation of its historic building, Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London took the attention off its facelift with an artistic diversion.

The multimillion dollar construction plan was the most significant renovation the hotel has ever gone through, but the property remained open throughout the process. To ensure that guests were greeted by a pleasant sight, the hotel masked its faade in a large-scale collage by pop artist Sir Peter Blake (see story).

While the public spaces in the hotel reopened with a new look in December, all of the guest rooms were unveiled on April 15.

"Mandarin Oriental is enormously proud of the heritage of this historic hotel," said Amanda Hyndman, general manager and area vice president of operations at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, in a statement. "The scope and intricate detail of this momentous renovation is designed to ensure this iconic London establishment is recognized as one of the finest hotels in the world.

"We look forward to welcoming our guests with kind and intuitive service that is truly British but reflective of our Oriental heritage," she said.

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