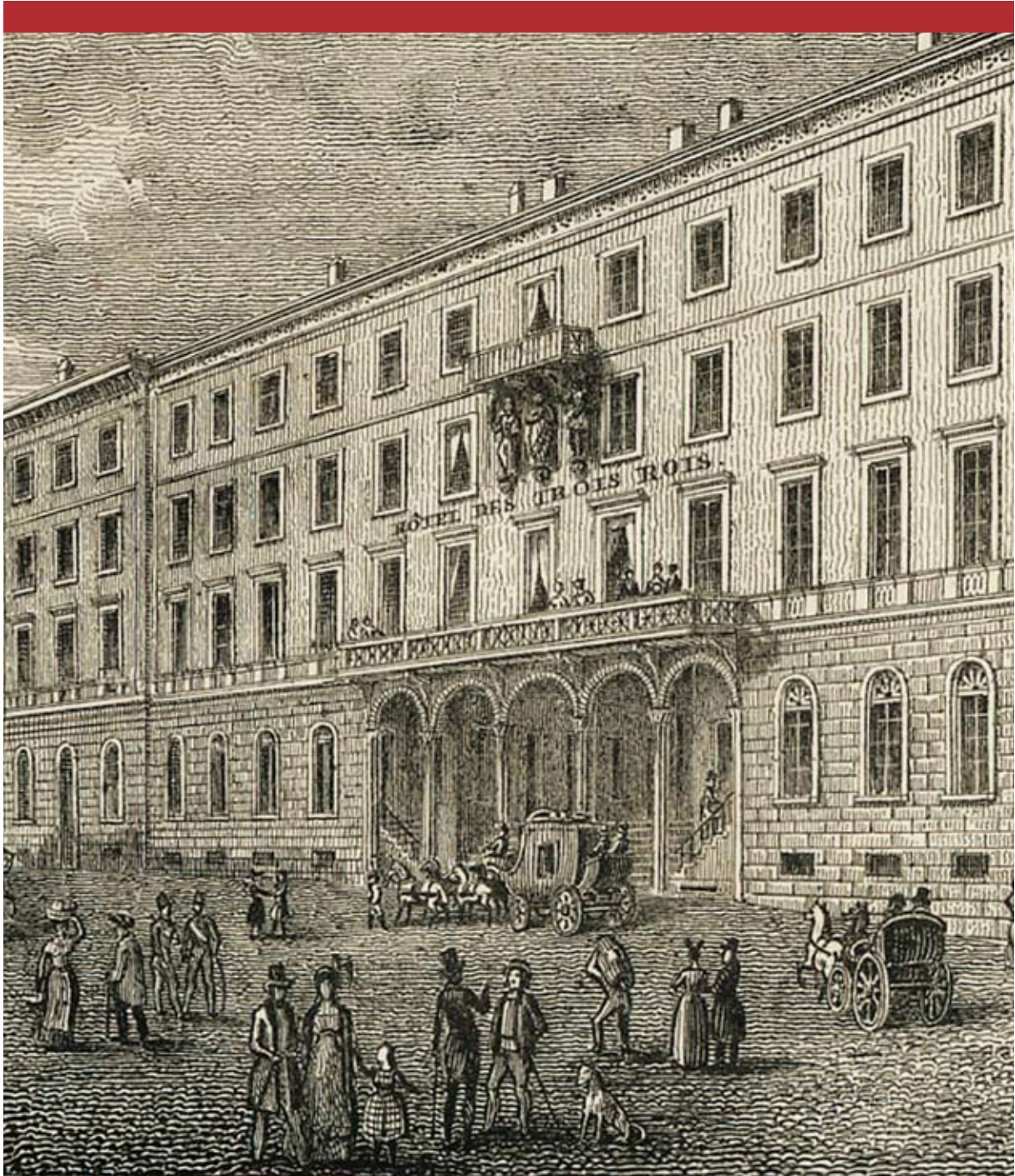




LES TROIS ROIS



A GREAT HOTEL – A GREAT HISTORY. There are countless tales about Les Trois Rois hotel. Napoleon, Queen Elisabeth II, Pablo Picasso, Thomas Mann and many others have enjoyed the exclusive hospitality of the Basel grand hotel. And as long as the three kings have a place high up on the façade, many more famous names will have an entry the guestbook of Les Trois Rois.

First mention

The first official record of the “Three Kings” or “At the Three Kings” at Blumenrain 8 in Basel dates back to 1681. The hostelry is located close to the main water and overland trade and travel routes directly at Schiffflände.



View of the Salzhaus and Salzturm from Schiffflände. Behind it the Inn of the Three Kings (before 1830).

Royal name

Three kings is a popular name for inns and taverns located near trade routes. It is a reference to the three wise men from the Orient: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, also known as the Three Kings.



View of the old inn with the three figures representing the kings, after 1833.

A rich history

The hotel is a hostelry for the nobility. The landed gentry and aristocracy all meet at the Three Kings. The Basel aristocracy holds its family events at the hotel and the most important state receptions are also held there. Crowned heads, diplomats, traders and leading personalities from the worlds of science and culture all lodge at the Three Kings. Over the centuries, the owners of the hostelry add various buildings, for the most part former homes of noblemen. In 1841 and 1842, the wealthy master tai-

lor Johann Jakob Senn acquires the estate. Senn has the buildings torn down and has a hotel built according to the plans of Basel architect Amadeus Merian. Its façade and perimeter still define the building today.

A new era

Des Trois Rois opens on 16 February 1844 and a number of different owners run this world famous hotel. In 1936, a new era begins: the owners appoint directors and are no longer personally responsible for the running of the hotel. The hotel undergoes many partial renovations. In 1976, Count Guy de Boisrouvraye’s company takes over Des Trois Rois and in 2000 his daughter sells it to the Richemond Group.



View of the hotel in 1844.

Comprehensive renovation

In 2004, entrepreneur Dr. h.c. Thomas Straumann acquires the historical hotel. He has it renovated back to the period around 1844 according to national heritage criteria. At the same time the hotel is also fitted with a luxury infrastructure to respond to the needs of the most exacting guest – as befits one of Switzerland’s leading hotels. On 20 March 2006, Les Trois Rois, the hotel with the richest tradition in Basel, opens its doors to the public once again.

Historic milestones

- 1681** First officially documented record of the Three Kings.
- 1754** Innkeeper Johann Christoph Im Hof has three figures carved out of wood to represent the three kings and mounts them on the façade of the building.
- 1797** General Napoleon Bonaparte lodges at the Three Kings while travelling. He is honoured with a glittering state reception.
- 1798** During French rule, kings are out of favour and the hotel is temporarily known as "Hotel aux trois magots" ("At the three bundles").
- 1841** Master tailor Johann Jakob Senn acquires the Three Kings hostelry.
- 1842** Senn has the buildings torn down and commissions Basel Architect Amadeus Merian to build the new hotel.
- 1844** On 16 February the new hotel Des Trois Rois opens its doors. A plain classic style distinguishes this well proportioned building.
- 1897** The Austrian author Theodor Herzl stays at the hotel from 26 to 29 August. During the 1st Zionist congress in Basel, he lays the foundations for the creation of the state of Israel.
- 1915** The southern section of the hotel (Blumenrain 2) is sold to the Kantonalbank and renovated accordingly.
- 1938** The Kantonalbank moves out and the tourist office takes over the main building at Schiff-lände.
- 1941/42 –1972** Director Alfred Kienberger has a significant impact on the Drei Könige am Rhein/Hôtel des Trois Rois and rebuilds its reputation at an international level after the war.
- 2004** Entrepreneur Dr. h.c. Thomas Straumann acquires the Three Kings and the former southern section at Blumenrain 2. He spares no expense in restoring the buildings under the direction of Basle architect **Christian Lang** and according to national heritage criteria with sections reconstructed based on to the original plans. At Blumenrain 2, the addition of a number of rooms leads to the creation of a large ballroom, banqueting and conference rooms.
- 2006** Reopening of Les Trois Rois on 20 March.

View of the hotel in 1844.



Famous guests at the Grandhotel Les Trois Rois

Les Trois Rois enjoys an excellent reputation. The list of famous personalities who have lodged at Les Trois Rois would fill volumes. A short selection follows:

Members of the aristocracy

Elisabeth, Queen mother of Belgium
Prince Rainier of Monaco
King Farouk of Egypt
King Feisal II of Iraq
Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands
Queen Elisabeth II of Great Britain
The Empress of Japan

Composers / Musicians

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Franz Liszt
Richard Wagner
Robert and Clara Schumann
Gustav Mahler
Herbert von Karajan
Duke Ellington
Ella Fitzgerald
Bob Dylan
The Rolling Stones
Bryan Adams

Literary figures

Voltaire
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Charles Dickens
Theodor Herzl
Rainer Maria Rilke
Thomas Mann
Jean-Paul Sartre

Politicians

Willy Brandt
Lothar Späth
Helmut Schmidt
Valéry Giscard d'Estaing
Jang Tse Ming
Franz Vranitzky
Dalai Lama

Artists

Pablo Picasso
Marc Chagall
Rauschenberg
Jean Tinguely
Niki de Saint-Phalle
Daniel Spoerri

Military leaders

General Napoleon Bonaparte
General Henri Dufour
General Ulrich Wille
General Henri Guisan
Field Marshal Mannerheim
Field Marshal Montgomery of Alamein