

The Opening of the Polonia Palace

The Polonia Palace Hotel, opened its doors for business in Warsaw, on the 14th of July 1913. Its founder Konstanty G. Przeździecki, chose the name to remind all Poles that, despite not being recognized as an independent state, Poland should always exist in the hearts and minds of all its citizens. Without doubt, its presence in the heart of Vistula country, lifted the hearts of all Poles and the hotel's long history is deeply interwoven with that of Warsaw's. It has endured partition, world wars and Soviet rule since its establishment and this year marks the 110th anniversary of its opening. Today a modern, vibrant city can be seen from the windows of its luxurious interior.



HOTEL POLONIA-PALACE
wprost dworca Głównego.

Tramwaje elektryczne we wszystkich kierunkach.
160 pokoi, ogrzewanie centralne, światło elektryczne, windy, pokoje kąpielowe.
Woda bieżąca zimna i gorąca, zegary elektryczne, sygnalizacja świetlna zamiast dzwonków, telefony w każdym pokoju.
Czytelnia zaopatrzona w dzienniki i ilustracje krajowe i zagran.
PIERWSZORZĘDNE: KAWIARNIA I RESTAURACJA.

VARSOVIE
POLONIA-PALACE HOTEL
HOTEL DE PREMIER ORDRE.
situé en face de la Gare Centrale.
Trams dans toutes directions.
160 appartements. Chauffage central. Eclairage électrique. Salles de bains. Ascenseurs.
Eau courante chaude et froide, horloges électriques, téléphones, signaux électriques au lieu de sonneries dans chaque chambre.
Salon de lecture richement aménagé.
RESTAURANT ET CAFÉ DE PREMIER ORDRE.

POLONIA PALACE HOTEL
ALEJE JERUZOLIMSKIE NR 53
WPROST DWORCA WIEDEŃSKIEGO.
Adres telegraficzny i telefoniczny: „POLONIA—WARSZAWA”.

Hotel luksusowy
ze wszelkimi nowoczesnymi urządzeniami.

Restauracja
we wspaniałej, stylowej sali z mniejszymi oddzielnymi salonami. Kuchnia francuska. Wina wyborowe z własnych składów.

Piwnice win
hotełów Europejskiego i Polonia.

Kawiarnia
wiedeńska ze stylowym salonom dla pan. 6 białarów.

Fryzjerskie salony
dla panów i pan. Perfumery z najmodniejszymi specyfikami.

PRALNIA POSPIESZNA BEZ UŻYCIA CHŁORKU.

☞ JUŻ OTWARTY. ☞

Nr. 193. Dnia 15 lipca Wtorek. Dnia 15 lipca 1913 r.

KURIER WARSZAWSKI.
RÓŻ DZIEWIĘDZIESIĄT TRZECI.

Polonia Palace Hotel
Aleje Jerolimskie Nr 53,
wprost Dworca Wiedeńskiego. Adres telegraficzny i telefoniczny: „POLONIA—WARSZAWA”.

ZARZĄD WYSTAWY
WYSTAWA MUNDY

odprawiana będzie w dniach 15-17 lipca. Bieżący numer zawiera program wystawy.
— Jutro otworzą się w Warszawie w hali wystawowej.
W hali tej w dniu 15 lipca (poniedziałek), a w dniu 16 lipca (wtorek) przed otwarciem hali.

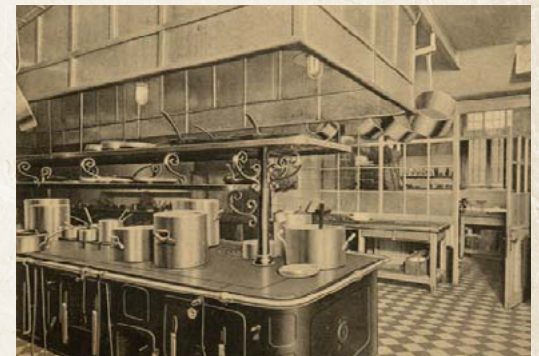
POLONIA-PALACE-HOTEL
WARSZAWA
ALEJE JERUZOLIMSKIE NR 53
wprost DWORCA WIEDEŃSKIEGO.
Telefon i Telegramy: Polonia-Warszawa.

Hotel pierwszorzędny; wszelkie nowoczesne wygody; pokoje od 1 do 30.
Restauracja z kuchnią francuską i polską.
Ogródki hotelu przy restauracji—łazienki w Warszawie.
Kawiarnia z salonomi Damskim i Saloniem Białym etc.
Fryzjer i Perfumerya bogato zaopatrzona w towary.
Skład Win. Hurtowa i detaliczna sprzedaż win wyborowych pod gwarancją oryginalności, rocznych. **Planie Win hotełów Europejskiego i Polonia-Palace.**
Pospieszna Pralnia Mechaniczna. Pranie bielizny wszelkiego rodzaju bez użycia chłorku. Na zglanie w przeciągu 6-8 godzin.
Garaz i warsztaty naprawy dla samochodów gości hotelowych.

The Essence of Luxury

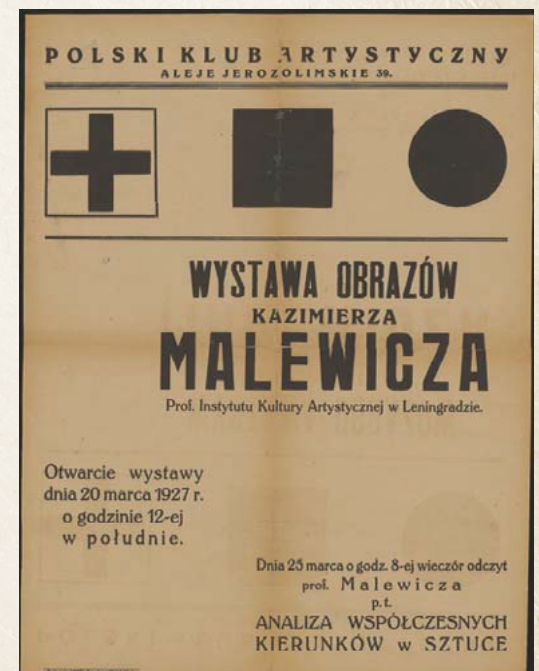
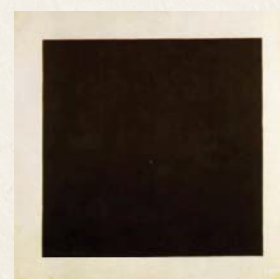
From the very beginning, the hotel provided the height of luxury, offering many modern conveniences not available elsewhere at that time. Guests could avail of typewriters, telephones and fireproof safety deposit boxes, with the hotel also organizing transport solutions by operating a convenient shuttle service to nearby stations. The hotel was purposely located beside the main Warsaw-Vienna line thus becoming the first resting point for visiting dignitaries. One such VIP arrived in 1929 when the King of Afghanistan, Amanullah Chan, was awarded the Order of the White Eagle by the Second Republic of Poland. His visit confirmed that the facilities were literally fit for a king.

Every room had hot and cold running water and a central heating system operated throughout the building also servicing the existing garage of that time. In 1924 the garage was converted into a modern dance hall with the award winning dancer Ralph Roy from Vienna becoming its artistic director. The hotel already boasted one of the finest ballrooms in Poland which included amazing marble fireplaces and catered for the most eminent of guests. The Ladies café, extensive regional wine cellar, fashionable perfumery, hair salons and the chlorine free laundry service – meant it was at the forefront of luxurious accommodation.



A Meetingplace for Artists

Within the walls of one of three largest hotels in Warsaw, the Polonia Palace housed the Palais-Dancing restaurant which was inspired by Parisian architecture and was soon considered one of the most interesting and trendy places in the city. It was frequented by top actors, singers, artists, writers and politicians of the day. In 1924, the Playwright's Ball, attended by Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska, Jan Lechoń, Stefan Żeromski, Kornel Makuszyński and Tadeusz Boy-Żeleński, took place to much fanfare in the Polonia Palace. Elite banquets in the hotel included performances by the renowned tenor and actor Jan Kiepura. Up until World War II, the hotel hosted the Polish Artistic Club which organized many prestigious events, the most famous of which was an exhibition of works by the avantgarde painter of Polish descent Kazimierz Malewicz (1927), which was his only exhibition in Poland. In 1929, the hotel showcased the first Miss Polonia competition which was won by Władysław Kostakówna.



Occupation and Miraculous Survival

The fact that the Polonia Palace Hotel survived the World War II was almost miraculous in itself. Under occupation, German officers resided in the hotel and afterwards it served as a hospital and supply center for insurgents – who used the well-stocked food stores to feed their brave troops during the Warsaw Uprising. The hotel was not torched by fascists nor plundered by the Red Army, mainly due to the bravery of its loyal personnel who returned at Pruszków, to completely lock down the hotel. Because of these courageous efforts, the Polonia Palace was the only hotel in Warsaw to survive the war, therefore becoming the natural choice of accommodation for diplomats and embassies setting up in Warsaw after hostilities had ended. General Dwight Eisenhower, welcomed by the enthusiastic residents of Warsaw, was one such dignitary who stayed at the hotel in 1945.



The People's Poland

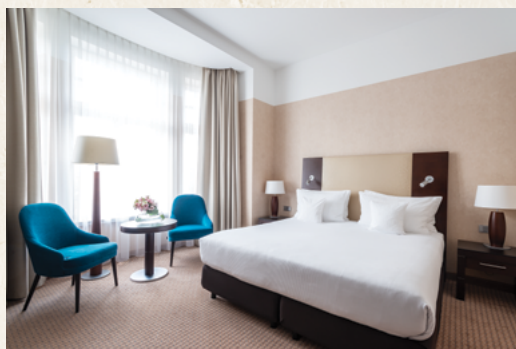
From 1953, the hotel organized banquets for Eastern bloc diplomats both in the Polonia Palace and in other locations in Warsaw – such as the reception for the first leader of the People's Republic of China – Zhou Enlai – organized in the Grand Theatre. True works of culinary art appeared on tables – live paintings made from pâté and cold meat forming a six horse-drawn carriage or burning ice-cream boats complete with internal battery and lighting, dazzled all who witnessed their splendor. The hotel experienced a small transformation in 1955 when it hosted the 5th International Chopin Music Competition. The entire sixth floor was emptied of furniture and equipped with several grand pianos for the occasion. The pianos were used by the 23 year-old winner of the competition – the very handsome Adam Harasiewicz who was supposedly adored by all women in Warsaw. There were many suggestions for a complete renovation of the hotel after the war: to remove the original stucco work, replace marble with terrazzo or other 'modern solutions' to update and enhance the entire Ludwikowska Hall. Fortunately, these plans fell through because, despite the fact that the plans were made when Gomułka was in control, for financial reasons the hotel was renovated under Gierek's guidance when architectural design was not so dependent on party approval. Thus the original appearance of the Polonia Palace has been preserved to this day.

WPT 'Syrena' – Hotele Warszawskie 'Syrena'

Due to the increasing influx of tourists seldom seen before in Warsaw, the mayor of Warsaw set up the Warszawskie Przedsiębiorstwo Turystyczne 'Syrena' in 1974. One of its branches was the Polonia-Metropol complex. The hotel had to adapt to the rapid, sweeping changes of the 1970's and renovated rooms hosted congresses of technicians, steelworkers, trade unions and book fairs. The guestlist was full of elite entries including famous Polish footballers – Zbigniew Boniek, Grzegorz Lato and Jan Tomaszewski – as well as the most popular Polish bands such as 'Skaldowie', 'Czerwone Gitary', 'Słowiki' from Poznań, and its annual performer – The 'Śląsk' Song and Dance Ensemble. The hotel also held the reception for the commencement of operations by the first Polish community company in Warsaw.

Today, the Polonia Palace, Metropol and MDM are operated by the Hotele Warszawskie 'Syrena' group. The company came into being in 1991 as a result of the transformation of the WPT 'Syrena' in accordance with the act of privatization of state enterprises. The name of the company is steeped in tradition and strives to maintain the highest managerial standards. For this reason, the hotel which experienced hard times in Poland in the second half of the 20th century, underwent major and partial renovations in 2004 and 2010 respectively. To save the historical integrity of the hotel, most of its elements were painstakingly restored while innovative solutions were also implemented so the hotel could offer its guests a new spacious lobby in place of the old underused courtyard.





Restoring Former Glory

The Polonia Palace has returned to its traditional roots of cultural life. In 2007, the hotel organized an exhibition of Kazimierz Malewicz's original drawings on the 90th anniversary of painter's stay at the hotel – his first and only exhibition in Poland. It was followed by a reception for artists and diplomats. The hotel has had strong bonds with diplomatic missions since its opening so it comes as no surprise that it now hosts numerous receptions organized by embassies and public organizations. The hotel has cooperated for many years with the Roma Musical Theatre with which it has had the great pleasure of organizing several premiere events. These included banquets

for nearly 800 guests after the premiere of the musical 'Pilots' and the inaugural performance of 'The Phantom of the Opera'. For the latter, the hotel completely transformed its first floor. Each conference and banquet room were spectacularly designed to recreate theatre settings with stages to introduce guests to the musical. The banquets tailored various menus to tie in with the shows. Other very interesting events held in the Ludwikowska Ballroom in 2014 were two concerts by the talented Japanese pianist Lisa Nakazono. Guests were enchanted by performances of Chopin's best works by the kimono-wearing pianist.



The Polonia Palace Today

Today the hotel offers 206 elegant rooms and 10 conference and banquet rooms in which guests can hold numerous social events, business meetings and press conferences. In its elegant Polonia Restaurant and spacious Lobby Bar, guests can enjoy a view of the city center and delicious offerings of Polish and international cuisine. The hotel attracts thousands of tourists from Poland and abroad throughout the calendar. Renowned politicians and artists are frequent guests. The hotel's interiors are used for shooting numerous music videos, commercials and films. The Polonia Palace is a successful combination

of heritage and modernity. By incorporating a tradition steeped in history, with contemporary challenges, the hotel has written another chapter in its extraordinary story. On the 4th of October 2018, the Ludwikowska Lounge – a new event space – was opened on the ground floor. Modern interiors have become a background for numerous cultural events and business meetings. In 2022 the hotel received a prestigious European Hotel Award in the category «Heritage Luxury Hotel 2022» to honor all the qualities it follows and traditions it proudly continues in the field of hospitality.

