



THE ROCCO FORTE COLLECTION

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PRESS INFORMATION

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THE ROCCO FORTE COLLECTION NAMES PRAGUE HOTEL “THE AUGUSTINE”

Today (6 November), The Rocco Forte Collection announced that its Prague property is to be named The Augustine.

The 101-room hotel, due to open in early summer 2008, is being created from a complex of five historic buildings, the largest and most important being the 13th century Augustinian St Thomas’s Monastery, after which the hotel is named.

Rocco Forte’s The Augustine will be the twelfth hotel to join The Collection. Located at the very heart of the city in the Lesser Town, the hotel boasts spectacular views of Prague Castle and the Wallenstein Gardens. The monastery will provide The Augustine with a picturesque setting of established courtyards and elegant garden squares, while retaining certain areas for the practising Augustinian monks who remain in situ. Key historic features such as cloistered terraces, wooden ceilings, wine vaults and stone arches have been incorporated into the hotel’s design. New additions include a tranquil courtyard entrance and a glassed-in courtyard, which will become The Augustine’s main restaurant, complete with two protected trees.

In addition to the guest rooms, The Augustine will feature a 90-seat restaurant; a bar (occupying the monastery’s barrel-vaulted double-height hall with views on to one of the formal garden squares and outside seating on the cloister terrace in summer); a second bar and restaurant with 70 covers; a 150sqm main function room (with its own pre-function lobby) in a protected double-height vaulted hall and a second 85sqm function room; a purpose-designed meeting facility with business centre, two meeting rooms and two boardrooms, all with direct access to private garden areas; and a sizeable health and fitness centre with 80sqm gym, four treatment rooms, sauna, steam room and relaxation area.

The 101 bedrooms of the five-storey hotel will consist of 81 double or twin rooms and 20 suites, all of which will enjoy stunning views over the courtyards, the monastery chapel and the city's main cathedral on the nearby hill. All of the rooms will be generously proportioned (measuring an average of 40 sq m), with the majority having 5-piece bathrooms including a walk-in shower. The suites will include an impressive 150sqm Presidential Suite and one Tower Suite consisting of three floors, one for the lobby and living space, another for the bathroom and the top floor for the bedroom, with panoramic views across the rooftops of Prague.

The interiors of The Augustine are being created by London-based interior designers RDD, overseen by The Rocco Forte Collection's Director of Design Olga Polizzi, and, as with all the properties in the group, will reflect the hotel's wonderful location as well as the building's strong history.

The positioning of the property in the Lesser Town (or Mala Strana) quarter of the city could not be better. It is ideal for both business and leisure travellers, being within walking distance of Prague's commercial district, the Czech Parliament and Senate, embassies, shopping areas, entertainment facilities and key historical sites, such as the Charles Bridge and Wallenstein Gardens, where classical open-air concerts are held between April and October.

Prague's Ruzyně International Airport is approximately 10km away, representing a taxi journey of between 20 and 40 minutes, dependent on traffic conditions. Access to the underground and other public transport systems are all nearby.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Rocco Forte Collection was established in 1996 to create a group of luxury hotels in Europe. The hotels have individual styles, with each hotel reflecting its nationality and location. The properties are linked together under The Rocco Forte Collection, which guarantees attention to detail, quality and service delivery.

The company is celebrating its ten year anniversary this year. The Rocco Forte Collection took control of The Balmoral in Edinburgh on 1 March 1997.

The Rocco Forte Collection includes:

- Hotel de Russie, Rome
- Hotel Savoy, Florence
- The Balmoral, Edinburgh
- The Lowry Hotel, Manchester
- Hotel Astoria, St Petersburg
- Hotel Amigo, Brussels
- Brown's Hotel, London
- Villa Kennedy, Frankfurt
- Hotel de Rome, Berlin
- Le Richemond, Geneva
- The Charles Hotel, Munich

Future openings:

Prague - 2008

Verdura Golf & Spa Resort, Sicily - 2009

Marrakech - 2009

For further information and online reservations, please visit The Rocco Forte Collection website: www.roccofortecollection.com.

Angleterre Hotel, St Petersburg, is a deluxe four-star sister to Hotel Astoria. For information and reservations, please visit www.angleterrehotel.com.