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## Room Keys: Intercontinental Marseille Hôtel Dieu

By Rochelle Lash, Special to National Post

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*The majestic Intercontinental Marseille Hôtel Dieu opened in April and instantly became a landmark of the intriguing city*

Intercontinental Marseille Hôtel Dieu,  
1 Place Daviel, Marseille, France,  
1-877- 660 8550, [www.ihg.com/marseille](http://www.ihg.com/marseille)

The majestic Intercontinental Marseille Hôtel Dieu opened in April and instantly became a landmark of the intriguing city of Marseilles - for the second time. The Intercontinental is a \$160-million restoration of the venerable Hôtel Dieu, a hospital that dates back to the Middle Ages. The hospitality venture is part of a major upswing in Marseille, which has created stunning new museums and arts venues for its role as is the 2013 European Capital of Culture. Now, the city has its first grand, prestigious hotel.

### THE VIBE

Loaded with character, history and luxe life, the Intercontinental Marseille has a Michelin-starred chef, a luxurious Clarins spa, an indoor pool and an elite 24-hour staff hand-picked from throughout Europe.

The Intercontinental is a hill-top aerie of sophisticated comfort, only steps from the fun fray of Marseille's Old Port, but a world apart. Perhaps Madame would like a cocktail of pastis, vodka and Champagne on the terrace? Monsieur le Ministre, may I suggest the milk shake of bouillabaisse or Brittany lobster at our gastronomic dining room?

The hotel also is a breathtaking, architectural tour-de-force with magnificent iron gates, a skylight over the swish Art Nouveau lobby and stylized contemporary furnishings that are a cool contrast to the aged stone walls peeking out here and there.

### THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Hôtel Dieu has been the heart of the 'hood for centuries. It is a two minute walk from the Quai du Port, the touristy waterfront promenade, and the ferries to Marseille's picturesque waterways, the Calanques. It also is at the foot of Le Panier, a tangle of scruffy alleys that once was Marseille's busy red-light district and now is on the cusp of being trendy, at least if you have an adventurous spirit. Adjacent to the hotel are purveyors of Provence's most famous products: pastis, fine soaps, bouillabaisse and the moitié-moitié pizza (cheese/anchovy).

### THE ROOMS

The 194 rooms and suites are decked out in handsome contemporary decor, with white leather headboards contrasting against dark wood panelling and plush silvery fabrics. The bathrooms have sliding doors so you can soak in the tub and gaze out at the iconic view of Basilica Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde. Rates start at about \$330 and top off at \$6,600 for the Presidential Suite with a sweeping private terrace. I suggest adding about \$38 p.p. for a package with breakfast. The crepes are divine and the maple syrup comes from Canada.

Stay provided by Intercontinental Hotel Group.