



ROYAL HAINAUT SPA & RESORT HOTEL

VALENCIENNES



PRESS KIT

## Once upon a time, the Royal Hainaut

1752-2009

A place steeped in history: from the General Hospital to the Royal Hainaut Spa & Resort.

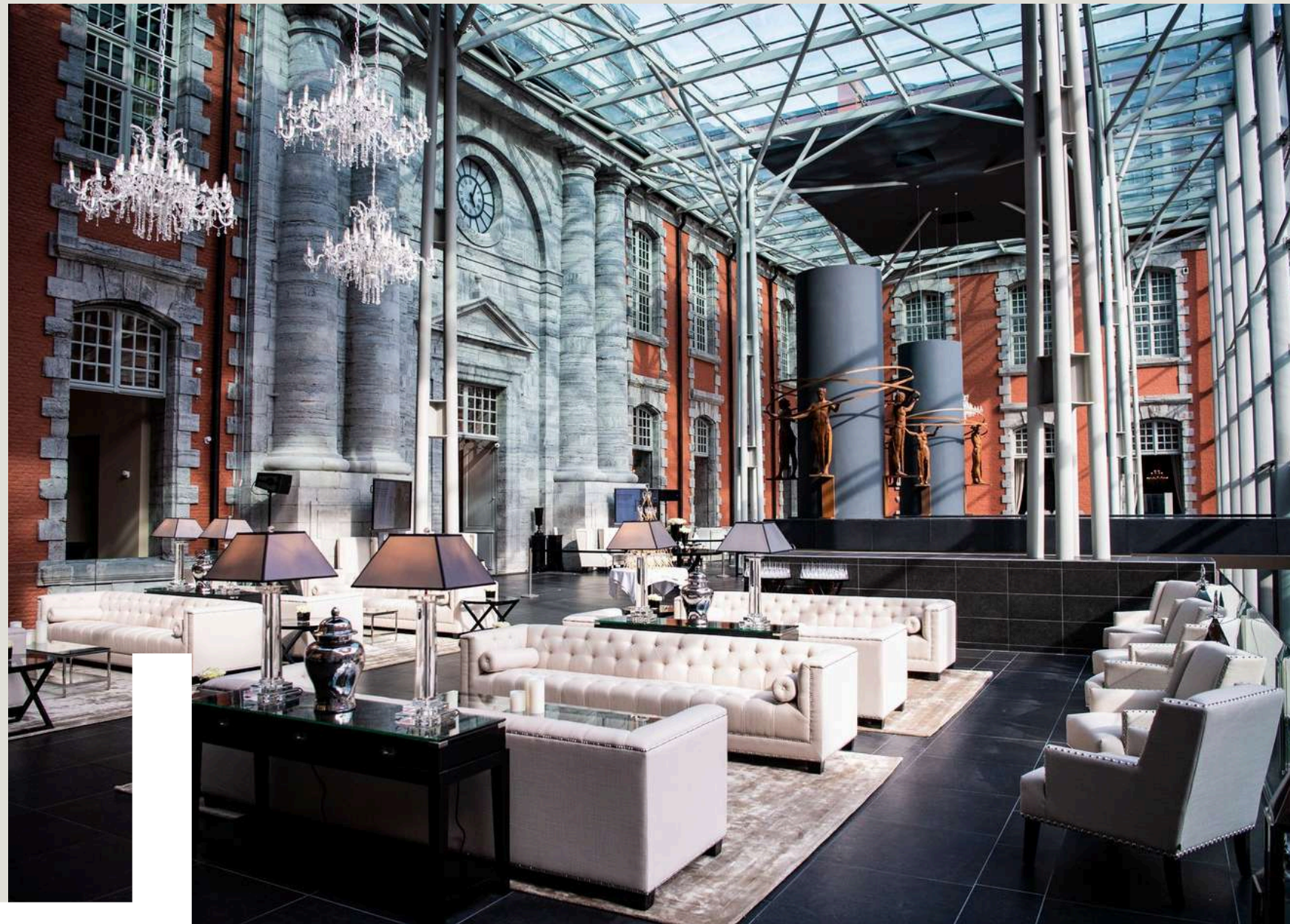


The General Hospital of Charity, also known as the Hainaut Hospital, opened its doors in 1767 under the reign of Louis XV. Intended to host the sick and marginalized from the entire province, this massive structure is an integral part of the heritage of the city of Valenciennes. Throughout history, it served as a military hospital, a prison under German occupation, and later as a hospice for the elderly.

Classified as a Historic Monument in 1945, the building represents a unique architectural heritage that, thanks to this exceptional renovation, will become a reference in luxury hospitality in the region. The story of this transformation began in 2009 when the municipality of Valenciennes and the hospital center decided to launch a consultation. Financière Vauban was then selected to create a luxury hotel.

## Once upon a time, the Royal Hainaut

2009 – 2019



### An exceptional renovation

This is the story of the largest renovation project of a privately-owned historic monument in France. At the peak of the project, 250 people were working on site. Technical feats and artisanal craftsmanship by skilled workers enhanced 450 blue stone vaults and 300 windows, covering more than 15,000 square meters. A glass atrium rising 13 meters was erected. The roof was meticulously restored to its original state, with 11,000 square meters of slate tiles, complete with dormer windows as they were in 1752!

In May 2019, the immense gateway unveiled an extraordinary urban hotel with a unique and unmatched architecture. The architects preserved the soul of the place while infusing it with the aesthetics of the 21st century.

Today, the Royal Hainaut remains an emblematic destination where elegance and refinement radiate within this sublime building. A unique address, it is a prestigious 4-star hotel with 79 rooms and suites, featuring a spa and pool, an Italian restaurant, a brasserie, two bars, and event spaces.

## Rooms and Suites



Interior designer Séverine Lucas brought a chic baroque spirit to the rooms and suites. With a keen eye for detail and comfort, she played with spacious layouts, generous furnishings, and natural colors to enhance each room, creating a harmonious flow throughout. The essence of the location is preserved, and its character is timelessly modernized.

The 80-square-meter duplex suite features a 45-square-meter living room, a duplex bedroom, and a bathroom. The Royal Suite, located at the heart of the hotel, embodies the feel of a luxurious 120-square-meter apartment. It includes a living room, dining area, two bedrooms, a shower room, and a bathroom, with a stunning view over the Atrium and the Cour d'honneur.

79 rooms, including forty-two suites with exceptionally generous proportions ranging from 30 to 120 square meters, offer extreme comfort and absolute tranquility.

## The Chef



The new chef, **Maxime Van-Hulle**, directs the kitchens of both restaurants, crafting authentic culinary experiences filled with generosity and a sense of sharing. His dishes follow the rhythm of the seasons, using ingredients carefully selected from local producers, each dish showcasing the essence of its ingredients.

With his team, all united by a shared passion and dedication to delighting guests, they convey emotions through their cuisine. At the restaurant La Galerie, the menu highlights sincere, authentic cuisine that honors local products. Signature dishes include the famed Lucullus of Valenciennes, a true local specialty, paired with slow-cooked favorites like braised beef shoulder prepared in the style of Flemish carbonnade. For dessert, the chocolate mousse with hazelnut praline satisfies every sweet tooth.

At the restaurant La Storia, the chef offers a menu celebrating Italy, reimagining beloved classics. This authentic cuisine is crafted with exclusive Italian ingredients: white truffle from Piedmont, Vercelli rice, olive oil with a thousand nuances, Parma ham, and top wines from all regions of Italy.

# Gastronomy

## La Galerie, the Traditional Brasserie



La Galerie showcases the rich culinary heritage of the Northern region and Hauts-de-France.

The executive chef crafts and updates the menu according to the seasons, working in close collaboration with local producers.

Guests can enjoy discovering and tasting typical dishes in the warm atmosphere of the long, beautifully decorated portrait hall, featuring iconic deep red tufted banquettes.

Open daily from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM, and from Sunday to Thursday from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM, and on Fridays, Saturdays, the eve of public holidays, and public holidays from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

## La Storia, the Italian Restaurant



As soon as you cross the threshold, you are struck by the refinement and prestige of the space, which beautifully blends past and present.

Majestic with its high ceilings, blue stone pillars from Hainaut, and immense windows, noble with grand portraits of beautiful prima donnas, and dazzling with its chandelier drapes, the restaurant "La Storia" invites you on a journey.

Opening days and hours: Wednesday to Thursday from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Friday to Saturday from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM and Sunday from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

## At Cocktail Hour



Under the immense glass roof bathed in light, with a stunning view of the Cour d'honneur, comfortable sofas and armchairs await you at any time of the day. You can indulge in a "Waterloo" cocktail crafted by the head bartender. Enjoy the lively atmosphere with music provided by a DJ every Friday and Saturday night. Treat yourself to a snack or a sweet moment with the fabulous Liège waffle.

Open from Monday to Thursday and Sunday from 10:30 AM to midnight and Friday to Saturday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 AM.

L'Atrium, the Lounge Bar

## The Royal Bar

The Royal Bar embraces the grand tradition of hotel bars, creating a unique atmosphere that combines tranquility and relaxation within a refined and cozy setting. Time flows with the soft conversations of friends comfortably seated in plush armchairs, enjoying a borrowed book from the extensive library or a game of billiards. Evening fans and lifelong enthusiasts gather around a large screen to watch major sporting events.

This space is open to all.



# The Spa, Beauty and Wellness

Experience a timeless journey in an exceptional, elegant, and delicate setting.

In a soothing atmosphere, the Royal Hainaut features a 1,200-square-meter space dedicated exclusively to beauty, wellness, and relaxation.

The nine treatment rooms invite you to unwind and take care of yourself, either solo or as a duo, under the expert hands of our practitioners. Unforgettable moments are guided by the expertise of the protocols and products from Codage and Sothys.



Sothys, a world of sensuality and emotions of extreme refinement, is a legendary name synonymous with excellence and prestige in spas worldwide. A highly specialized brand, Sothys has distinguished itself for 70 years through a remarkable commitment to research and innovation, establishing itself as a recognized leader in cutting-edge aesthetic expertise.





# The Pool

## Exceptional Moments



The pool has been dug beneath the foundations and plays with the iconic blue stone columns of the Hauts-de-France region.

The blue stone becomes a subject in itself, as it structures the ambiance of the space, influences the diffusion of light, alters the colors of other materials, and impacts the acoustic atmosphere.

This beautiful turquoise water pool measures 22 meters long by 10 meters wide and is heated to 29°C, with its deck offering comfortable loungers for moments of rest and relaxation.

## The Chapel, a Unique Place

The chapel of the Royal Hainaut is the largest hospital chapel in France.

With its vaulted ceilings, period stained glass windows, and majestic nave, it serves as the central point of the hotel.

Deconsecrated, the chapel has been transformed into a concert venue, exemplified by the private performance of Christophe Maé, as well as a grand reception hall for weddings and private dinners, and corporate events. It can accommodate up to 300 people.



## Key Dates

**1752:** Construction decided by letters patent from King Louis XV.

**1767:** Inauguration and opening of the establishment.

**1816 to 1818:** Occupation of the northern wing of the building by the army, followed by British troops.

**1831 to 1894:** Northern wing reserved for the military hospital.

**1940:** Destruction of the entire roof by fire.

**1945:** Classification of the Valenciennes hospital as a historic monument.

**1970 to 1984:** Implementation of various renovation campaigns.

**2013:** Launch of the rehabilitation project for the Hainaut hospital.

**2019:** Inauguration of the Royal Hainaut Spa & Resort Hotel.

## Some Addresses

**The Golf de Mérignies:** Established in 2008, the Golf de Mérignies is known as "the most hilly golf course in the flat country." It covers a total of 185 hectares of nature near Valenciennes. With its three 9-hole courses, the golf offers harmony and technicality accessible to both experienced and beginner players.

**The Golf de Mormal** takes you through a rolling landscape of hedgerows, orchards, and bodies of water near the forest. Measuring 6,022 meters with a par of 72, the course is accessible to players of all levels.

**Balloon Flight:** Experience Valenciennes from a hot air balloon. This unique way to discover the city and the Scarpe-Escaut regional natural park allows you to soar over the region.

**L'Étang du Vignoble** offers outdoor activities, particularly at the water sports center, allowing you to enjoy the generous nature just steps from the city center.

**Arenberg Mining Site:** A journey back in time to understand the past of a region that has shaped France's industrial history. Discover landscapes shaped by man since the 19th century, with impressive industrial sites. Immerse yourself in the world of the "gueules noires."

**Matisse Museum:** Founded by the painter himself during his lifetime, the Matisse Museum has enriched its collections over the years, allowing visitors to admire works by Picasso, Chagall, Giacometti, and others.

**Scavenger Hunt in Valenciennes:** Discover the charms, points of interest, and architecture of Valenciennes in a unique way, starting from the Royal Hainaut and following an 8-step itinerary.

## The Royal Hainaut in Detail

15,000 m<sup>2</sup> dedicated to luxury hospitality  
79 rooms including 42 suites ranging from  
30 to 120 m<sup>2</sup>  
1 Italian restaurant  
1 brasserie  
2 bars  
1 swimming pool  
1 chapel  
1 courtyard  
1 spa of 1,200 m<sup>2</sup>  
1 seminar space of 1,300 m<sup>2</sup>  
2 years of preparation  
5 and a half years of construction  
450 blue stone vaults  
300 windows  
A 13-meter high glass roof

General Director: Emmanuel Béquet  
Chef: Maxime Van-Hulle  
Architects: MAES Architectes Urbanistes,  
represented by Hubert Maes.  
Owner: La Financière Vauban.