

A Little Bit of History...

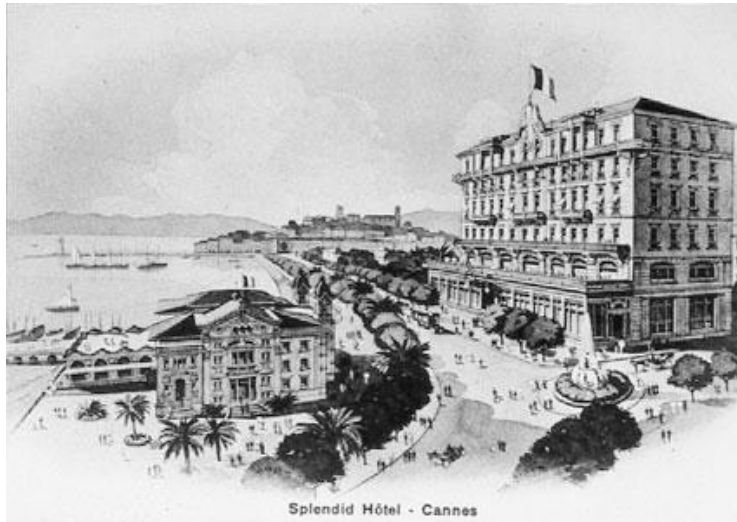
The history of the Hotel Splendid goes back to 1758. On June 15, 1758, the Priest of Lerins donated a land on the Marina to build a chapel – on the location of Hotel Splendid. The chapel was never completed and the construction work were stopped in 1764. The building was then sold in 1771 to J. F. Bournin, a merchant from Grasse, who made it a soap factory. He filed for bankruptcy and sold the building to Mr. Gazielle, who transformed it into an oil and corn store and then a hostel. Facing the hostel was the sea and a hilly landscape. There, fishermen used to cast their nets or they would dock their boats.



Here also were held the maneuvers of the troops passing through. It was here, on March 1 and 2, 1815, that a small troop coming from Elba island with its legendary leader Napoleon, spent its first night on French soil. The street "Rue Bivouac-Napoleon" remembers this brief epoch. The legend says that Pauline Bonaparte stayed in the little Gazielle hostel.



In December 1834, Lord Brougham discovered Cannes and contributed to its development and its growth. On June 14, 1838, Cannes harbor was born. From 1850, the city council was interested in building a boulevard along the shore and the construction of the Croisette began. The road was soon lined with hotels and villas; sidewalks were built and palm trees were planted. This road took the name "Boulevard de la Croisette" in 1872. The curtain rises on the marvels of the Belle Epoque.



The small hostel grew, and then Splendid Hotel was built on the site of this hostel. Jacques Offenbach spent the winter of 1874 in Splendid Hotel. In 1905, it was considerably expanded from three to five floors; it was then named Hotel Splendid. At the time, Cannes was busy during the winter. Hotels closed for the summer because of the heat.



On August 24, 1944, during the Second World War, some Germans based in Cannes aimed to slow the Allied by destroying the coast along with its hotels and buildings before heading to Nice. After a meeting with the band Jean Marie, the German Colonel Schneider revealed the place of firing at two in the morning the same day: the basement of Hotel Splendid. Its neutralization was made immediately, the city was saved and the Allied advance could not be slowed down.



After the war, Cannes continued to grow. Hotel Splendid welcomed many loyal French and foreign guests (painters, musicians, writers and artists) who appreciated its location at the heart of the city, overlooking the old harbor. In 1974, our family took it over. Since then, we have been whole heartedly devoted to developing and modernizing the hotel, always preserving its authentic charm. Throughout the years, we have had the pleasure of welcoming many guests from all over the world, including celebrities. Our sole aim is to satisfy them and make their stay as perfect as they deserve.

Ruiss Coquet.