

Robb Report

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LA RESIDENCE HUE, HUE

It isn't often that one can claim to stay in the same hotel, much less the same floor, that hosted the Emperor of Japan, the Queen of Denmark, the King of Thailand and the Grand Duc of Luxembourg. In the footsteps of these VIPs, guests at La Residence Hue, will walk the same corridors and admire the same art deco building.

The royal connection is not accidental. Hue, some 100km from Danang through the Hai Van Pass, is the last imperial capital of Vietnam. From the hotel's terraces, the walls and ramparts of a vast citadel are visible. Within this is the Imperial City and the

Great care was taken to preserve the charm, comfort and atmosphere of a classic colonial villa.



Purple Forbidden Palace - a complex of remarkable beauty and resilience damaged during the Tet Offensive and slowly being restored. Beyond the city limits are the royal tombs - each in its own bucolic location and with its own grandeur, particularly the ornate tomb of Emperor Dong Khanh.

La Residence Hue is no tomb. It is very much alive. The former residence of the colonial French envoy, then government guest house, it became La Residence Hue Hotel & Spa in 2005. The handsome art deco touches were retained and some new ones built - the two room wings are

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SMART LEISURE

new, expertly built to mimic the original's lavish atmosphere. Le Gouverneur Bar greets guests on entry, where an extraordinary mural by Roland Renaud hints to the glory of 1920s luxury ocean liners. At Le Parfum, the menu has roots in Hue's imperial cuisine along with more international

fare. The 122 rooms - ranging from the riverview dens to themed suites (on birds, films and history) - are lavish and redolent of a bygone era. Most have views of the citadel, underscoring the royal connection that only La Residence Hue can boast of.

www.la-residence-hue.com



The hotel's distinctive bowed facade, long horizontal lines and nautical flourishes are hallmarks of the 1920s Streamline Moderne school of art deco architecture.