



OVER A CENTURY  
OF **HISTORY** &  
UNIQUE HERITAGE

### ***A Place Like No Other***

When we first opened our doors in late 19<sup>th</sup> century New York City, we set out to define luxury. We provided services and amenities that were marvels of the modern age: electricity, telephones, a bath in most guest rooms and palatial public spaces. Our unique blend of personalized service, architectural grandeur and sophisticated style made Waldorf Astoria truly unforgettable.



## **World Fame & Timeless Luxury 举世闻名，奢华永驻**

When Conrad N. Hilton wrote "The greatest of them all" on a picture of the Waldorf Astoria New York in 1932, his dream to own the hotel and expand the brand was just being realized. In 1949, Conrad N. Hilton acquired this legendary New York landmark and embedded in it, the ideal "to fill the earth with the light and warmth of hospitality." Today the hotel serves as the inspiration for the Waldorf Astoria Collection and for every unique Waldorf Astoria hotel and resort located in all corners of the world. The legacy of wonderful discoveries and extraordinary experiences created by the Waldorf Astoria has nurtured many of the most glamorous hotels around the world.

William Waldorf Astor, the son of John Jacob Astor III, founded the 13-story Waldorf Hotel on his own property on 5th Avenue, the most busy and vibrant street in New York. Since the hotel officially opened business in 1893, it has become the much-sought-after destination for successful businessmen, social elites and celebrities around the world. Four years later, Mr. Astor's cousin John Jacob Astor IV founded the 17-story Astoria Hotel next to the Waldorf Hotel. The two grandiose and renowned hotels were both designed by Henry Hardenbergh, a famous hotel designer unique in the field of aesthetics, who insisted on connecting the two hotels with a 300-foot long hallway. The hallway has now become a timeless symbol of the Waldorf Astoria New York and is visually represented by the double hyphen in the hotel's name "Waldorf=Astoria."

## Legendary Stories 传世经典

Within the walls of the Waldorf Astoria lie legendary stories that are forever etched into the minds of our guests. Hollywood icons including Marilyn Monroe and Grace Kelly created unforgettable memories at the Waldorf Astoria. Heads of State and dignitaries from far and wide called the hotel their home away from home. Famous Chinese dignitaries including Li Hongzhang, Deng Xiaoping and Soong May-ling experienced authentic Waldorf moments when they came to stay at the Waldorf Astoria in New York.

Today, this proud legacy defines who we are and paints a picture of our future. Every hotel that bears the name *Waldorf Astoria* brings the same refined spirit of excellence to contemporary travelers. Simply put, we challenge ourselves to be the standard by which others are measured.



## ***Waldorf Astoria and Li Hongzhang***



The Waldorf Astoria began its romance with China on the afternoon of August 28th, 1896, when Li Hongzhang, the late Qing Empire's Viceroy of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang, arrived at the Waldorf Astoria New York, accompanied by the son of former US President, Ulysses S. Grant and surrounded by several senior US officials. This was the first time the 74-year-old Chinese dignitary had visited the US, bringing with him two sons and a 40-person-strong entourage. His 10-day national visit at Waldorf Astoria New York soon became a subject of great interest and fanfare which grabbed the headlines of New York Times. Li was the first Chinese guest to have stayed at the Waldorf Astoria and his visit served as a hallmark of great political, economic, diplomatic, religious and cultural significance to China's long history of diplomacy.

And Li Hongzhang's story with the Waldorf Astoria continues on today. Located at the former site of Xianliang Temple, Li's former permanent residence in Beijing, is the current location of the Waldorf Astoria Beijing. The hotel's unique copper-clad design, its cherished heritage of 'True Waldorf Service' and its advantageous location which features a timeless vibrancy and vigor, all have contributed to the rise of this local landmark, where history meets modernity and where talent meets wisdom. Against the test of time, the Waldorf Astoria's attitude of classic luxury and timeless grace stands firm.