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LE CASINO MONTE-CARLO - One of the oldest with its BELLE EPOQUE Architecture

Inauguration back to February 18, 1863

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USPA NEWS - Visiting MONACO, you can not miss The Casino de Monte-Carlo which attracts an international clientèle thanks to history, legendary décor and full range of table games and slot machines. It is one of the oldest as its inauguration dates back to February 18, 1863...

Visiting MONACO, you can not miss The Casino de Monte-Carlo which attracts an international clientèle thanks to history, legendary décor and full range of table games and slot machines. It is one of the oldest as its inauguration dates back to February 18, 1863. It is also one of the most representative examples of Belle Epoque architecture, which was first seen during the reign of Emperor Napoleon III. The first stone was laid by Prince Albert I in the presence of Prince Charles III on May 13, 1858.

The name 'Monte-Carlo' (the Ligurian translation of 'Mount Charles'), in honour of the Sovereign, Prince Charles III, first appeared in 1866. Two years later, the railway reached Monaco, finally bringing a large number of visitors and gamblers. In its gaming rooms, the Casino de Monte-Carlo offers the European Roulette, Trente et Quarante, Black Jack, English Roulette and Ultimate Texas Hold'em Poker tables. And if you're torn between tables and slot machines, the machines in the Salle Renaissance and the Salle des Amériques will satisfy you. The man behind this world-renowned gaming centre, without which the layout and particularity of this country would simply not be the same, is François Blanc, founder of the Société des Bains de Mer.

Images of the Casino de Monte-Carlo, one of the oldest casinos in existence, have toured the world through the press, cinema, literature, internet and the Formula 1 Grand Prix. It would be an almost impossible task to list all the people that have contributed to making the Casino de Monte-Carlo and its famous roundabout a historical landmark for tourism and entertainment.

* L'ATRIUM
It is a magnificient vestibule with 28 Ilonic, marble colums supporting a balustraded balcony that is lit by remarkable bronze chandeliers.

* LA SALLE RENAISSANCE
It is the imposing vestibule a the entrance to the salle Europe. It is one of the oldest rooms in the Casino, transformed in 1968; it was completely renovated in 2012 and now houses the slot machines.

* LA SALLE EUROPE
The first gambling lounge was built by the architect Dutrou in 1965. In 1878, it was transformed by Charles Garnier to the 'Salle Mauresque', and then completely rebuilt in 1898 by Henri Schmidt. Following its restoration in 1968, it became known as the 'Salle Europe'. It was completely renovated in 2012 and it now houses the American games. It is lit by 8 monumental Bohemian crystal chandeliers that weigh more than 150 lg each. All the works were painted in 1898.

On the left is the 'Blue Train' restaurant, which was inaugurated in 1988. Its decor is a reproduction of a dining room on the wagons-lits during the Belle Epoque period, down to the smallest detail.

* SALON ROSE
This room was commissioned by Mr. Camile Blanc and designed and built by Henri Schmidt in 1903 for gamblers who could not refrain from smoking. At the time, smoking was forbidden in the gambling rooms. The painter Massimo Gallelli drew buxom nudes with impressive cigarillos on the ceiling. The lounge was completely renovated in 2011 and it now houses a restaurant.

* LA SALLE DES AMERIQUES
Previously known as the 'Garnier Gambling Lounge', this room was built by Charles Garnier and inaugurated in 1881. It was transformed in 1969 by the decorator, André Levasseur and since been known as the 'Salle des Amériques' following the installation

of American games (craps, Black Jack...). The figures in the centre of each panel on the ceiling symbolise the seasons. The room was completely renovated in 2005 and now houses slot machines.

* LA SALLE BLANCHE
In 1903, Schmidt, the architect, has imagined having the light fittings borne by immense caryatids in the Salle Blanche, while a strange painting by the Parisian Artist, Paul Gervais stands out, representing the 'Florentine Graces' whose faces strangely resemble those of the highly desired Cléo de Méroden, Liane de Pougy and La Belle Otéro. This room was originally designed as a parlour. This room is now the throbbing heart of Monte-Carlo Casino, with its lounge bar and live music at week-ends.

* LES SALLES TOUZET
These rooms were built by the architect of the same name, Jules Touzet and they were inaugurated in 1890. These rooms are reminiscent of a somptuous station precinct which only issues tickets for dream destinations. The décor of the rooms is divides into three distinct sections forming a most harmonious whole. The wainscot panelling forms a solid base in a variety of colours, comprising a handsome mixture of oak, Tonkinese mahogany and Oriental jasper in warm shades. The walls are decorated with remarkable paintings.

Source : The Casino Monte-Carlo - Monaco Tourist and Convention Authority

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