

Capital comfort

The **Herbert Samuel** Hotel opens in Jerusalem



A new standard of luxury in the capital

The **Herbert Samuel** Hotel opens its doors in downtown Jerusalem

• HOTEL REVIEW

By DANIEL ROTH

The 134-room, 11-story Herbert Samuel Hotel has made an impressive entrance onto Jerusalem's well-established hotel scene and offers patrons a unique experience in the capital city.

The brand new hotel, opened last month, is the latest arrival in the Orchid Hotel chain. Nestled just off bustling Zion Square, there is an sense of cushioned tranquility despite the surrounding tumult of the city center.

The hotel's accommodations provide visitors with a level of comfort rarely found while traveling abroad. Its stylish decor includes brown and cream colored patterns that adorn each room furnished with queen-size beds, drapes and carpeting, lending an ambiance of calm and serenity that permeates throughout the area. A small but charming mahogany table lines the back wall while dark armchairs are situated close to large windows overlooking the capital's captivating surroundings.

The room's facilities, decorated in sandstone tile along with brass-framed mirrors, is equipped with large rainfall showerhead ideal after a long day of sightseeing around the city. Guests are just minutes away from the capital's throbbing commercial center and vaunted Old City where some of the world's most precious holy sites and historical locations are at your fingertips, including the Western Wall, King David's Tomb, Church of the Holy Sepulcher and much more. The area offers a wealth of shopping opportunities and downtown attractions, while Jerusalem's vibrant nightlife provides endless entertainment.

Back at the hotel for some relaxation, one of the features is a first-rate spa and treatment center, providing patrons with world-class message facilities, sauna and steam rooms, fitness center and personal showers. Guests can also enjoy the hotel's indoor heated pool all year round.

Perhaps the crown of the Herbert Samuel is the sparkling Herbert Samuel Restaurant, a kosher kitchen perched on the top floor of the Jerusalem stone building affording observers a breathtaking view of the Old City. This creative and authentic

space is commanded by one of Israel's most eclectic chefs, Oren Yerushalami, and offers traditional Israeli dishes with a modern flare that pleases the most discerning of pallets. Stocked with the best spirits, wines and custom cocktails, the Herbert Samuel restaurant grants diners an amazing variety of seasonal fresh food and artisan delicacies that has won Yerushalami praise across the globe.

In the morning, guests are treated to an extravagant breakfast buffet at the Herbert Samuel restaurant, with a variety of smoked fish, artisan cheeses, delicious breads and desserts along with fruits, vegetables, yogurt and cereals of the highest quality.

But it is not just the luxury and location that make the Herbert Samuel a worthwhile stay for domestic and foreign travelers looking to make the best out of a memorable trip, as the hotel's chief of operations would later tell me.

"You know what distinguishes us?" Roger Attias, General Manager of the Herbert Samuel Hotel, asks as we speak on the building's top floor terrace restaurant, admiring the compelling view of the Old City as night begins to fall.



THE HERBERT Samuel Hotel offers a luxurious option for overnight stays in Jerusalem. (Courtesy)

"It's the attention to small details, the particulars."

Most managers are content with just mastering the "big things," Attias continues as I quietly listen to the

25-year veteran of the hospitality industry, "but it is never enough. There's always more to do... and that is how we keep striving to be the best."

Summer rates for lodging for two at the Herbert Samuel Hotel in Jerusalem start at NIS 1,450 or \$375.

The writer was a guest of the hotel.