

Canary Wharf – September 2015

Hôtel Byblos

CANARY WHARF



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BYBLOS: THE PARTY



When it comes to illustrious guests, the patronage of Brigitte Bardot, Mick Jagger, Jack Nicholson and Clint Eastwood does

a property no harm. It does however betray a sense of hedonistic glamour that Hôtel Byblos has thrived on for nearly five decades.

The year 2017 will see the 50th anniversary of the hotel's opening amid three days of festivities with a guest list of 700.

Originally launched by businessman Jean-Prospér Gay-Para, it is French entrepreneur Sylvain Floirat and his heirs that have been credited with positioning Byblos as 'a palace' which welcomes the great and the good of Hollywood. The type of place where everyone knows everyone (Richard, the concierge is the son of the founding head concierge Jean-Christophe of 1967), Alain Ducasse has lent his name and expertise to garden restaurant RIVEA, where it's not unheard of to bring your mistress, your children or your chihuahua for dinner on the terrace.

Starters are best shared and include marinated fresh amberfish (a super light, citrusy ceviche), sardine and courgette flower fritters, charcuterie and focaccia de recco, a buttery, crisp Italian-inspired version of cheese on toast. Mains include meat, fish and pasta options: if you're hungry choose the beef rib steak with macaroni al gratin as the well-seasoned cut takes up an entire plate, alternatively the fennel ravioli with sautéed gamberoni (king prawns) and baby squid is a light, stylish dish, giving energy for the night ahead.

Les Caves du Roy, the nightclub at Byblos, is one of the French Riviera's most famous and enduring venues and queues begin around 11pm, for those not on the VIP list, or flaunting wads of Euros, laissez-faire. Take drinks at the poolside bar after supper and you'll be able to migrate at the best moment. Inside, expect an unapologetic throng of white chinos and signet rings lolling around the central dance floor, which seems to buzz with glitter and lights, attracting young and old alike. The music is fantastic, and the cocktails potent, but you'll never forget it.

Rooms at hotel Byblos start from €440, (approximately £309.83), byblos.com