

# Hospitality since 1873

HOTEL KRAFFT BASEL

Writers, parrots, famous politicians and guests who never want to leave all stay here.  
Everyone stays here. You stay here.

## THE HISTORY OF HOTEL KRAFFT BASEL

The Hotel Krafft am Rhein opens in Basel in 1873 on Rheingasse. Streets are still unpaved, horse-drawn carriages move through the city and the Rhine is primarily a waste disposal canal. Europe is in the throes of industrialization and the railways are booming. Basel's population is growing rapidly, the dismantling of the city walls begins and people are traveling more. Levi Strauss patents jeans in 1873, and a German property owner in the Rheingasse, Ernst Krafft, senses a business opportunity. He opens a hotel that exists to this day, an extraordinary achievement of longevity.

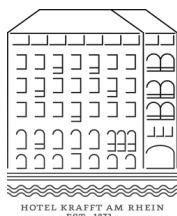
## A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

The Krafft Hotel is one year older than the Basel Zoo, two years older than the city's drinking water supply and even 20 years older than the FC Basel football club. Hermann Hesse wrote parts of his *Steppenwolf* in the 1920s in today's room 401, and the Schnooggeloch restaurant was a trendy hot spot in the 1960s.

Trudi's kiosk has been part of Krafft for over 50 years. In 1973 Roy Lichtenstein leaves a sketch for all time in the hotel guest book, in the 1980s the Rheingasse is dominated by drugs and prostitution, and in 1997 a fire breaks out in the fully booked hotel - fortunately without any injuries

## MANY PERSPECTIVES, FEW CHANGES OF OWNERSHIP

Krafft is a lively place, and it keeps those around it lively. With a view of the street and a view of the Rhine, Krafft has always thrived on the variety of perspectives it has - and that it offers. The terrace brings together people from all walks of life. Krafft is a focal point of the city. Local ties, coupled with sustainable planning, make this traditional hotel a steadfast location on Rheingasse. Who will be the next guest to stay here?



## TIMELINE

- 1872 New building in classicist style designed by architect Ferdinand Iselin after demolition of three old buildings
- 1873 Opening
- 1946 Acquisition by the Waldmeier hotelier family from Fricktal
- 1958 Total renovation, with new loggias in the top floor and extension with passage to the Rhine
- 1997 Fire with the hotel at full occupancy
- 2002 Acquisition by Franz-Xaver Leonhardt, and as of 2003 with the Edith Maryon Foundation as owner (lease agreement with the newly founded Krafft AG, now Krafft Group), from 2003 to 2010 extension and renovation of the dining restaurant and terrace, and remodeling of rooms
- 2008 Reopening of the dépendance in the Consum wine bar
- 2010 Extension of the roof terrace rooms, redesign of the entrance including reception
- 2016 Four-star classification (previously three-star superior)
- 2023 Anniversary celebrations and new logo: 150 years of Krafft Basel

## CALL FOR STORIES

What kind of experiences have you had at Krafft? Do you have a Krafft story you would like to share? Surprising reports, poignant anecdotes but also simple memories will be rewarded with a drink on the terrace.

Contact us using the code word 1873:

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