

MAGNIFICENTLY RESTORED AND JOYFULLY RE-OPENED

The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai
welcomes guests once again

*“When we open the heritage wing and do whatever it takes to get back its old glory;
we will send a stronger message – a message that strongly resonates among all of us
that we can be hurt, but we cannot be knocked down”*

Mr Ratan Tata, Chairman, Indian Hotels Company Ltd, 21st December 2008

Mumbai, August 12th, 2010: As the country brings in India’s 63rd Independence Day, the iconic **Taj Mahal Palace** re-opens its doors to the magnificently restored Palace wing in Mumbai.

Mr. Ratan Tata’s promise made to the world in 2008 has been a compelling force and a testament to the Taj Group’s commitment to resurrecting India’s original luxury hotel. And as promised the hotel will continue to benchmark the best in hospitality and service.

Speaking at a preview press conference, **Mr. Raymond Bickson, Managing Director, Indian Hotels Company Limited**, said, *“Today, we have fulfilled our promise of rebuilding the Taj to its former glory. The Taj Mahal has always reinvented itself and its storied past which makes it the icon that it is. The palace wing has been lovingly and painstakingly restored, and we will now offer our guests an even more customized experience. It is a befitting tribute to the spirit and resilience that is The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai; and the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the hotel. As India celebrates its 63rd year of independence, we warmly welcome our guests, old and new to the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel.”*

An extensive restoration by internationally acclaimed designers, **Lissoni Associati**, Milan, **BAMO** San Francisco, **DesignWilkes**, Malaysia and **James Park Associates**, Singapore was carried out. The Palace accommodations that is, the Taj Club rooms, Luxury Grande rooms, themed Grand Luxury Suites are graciously appointed spaces filled with precious art, redolent with luxury and state-of-the-art technology befitting the architectural magnificence of the building making it an unforgettable experience that encapsulates a slice of history, legend & romance.

The reinvigorated Palace wing comes with a warm arrival arrangement and stunning stay experiences. All our guests in the **Palace wing** will experience the highly attentive and personalized “*Palace Butler Service*” where the butler will discreetly and efficiently, guide guests to the pleasures that lie within and outside the walls. **The Palace Lounge** will be a private retreat; exclusively for residents of the Palace wing, for a cup of perfectly brewed tea or coffee; an evening cocktail or after hour chocolate and cognac. Guests can look forward to an indulgent **customized bath experience**, in the most luxuriously appointed bathrooms. High end technology and interactive multimedia systems at the touch of a button ensure that guest’s experiences are wired for efficiency and comfort. Taj Club rooms and suites come with chauffeur-driven luxurious **Jaguar transfers**.

Even when the hotel was closed, renowned world leaders and prominent dignitaries continued to stay with us at the Tower wing of the hotel. With the reopening of the Palace wing, we look forward to receiving once again all those who have supported us and considered The Taj Mahal Palace as a home away from home. Through the last couple of years, the hotel has also been the quintessential venue for landmark events and celebrations. The restaurants and eateries which have been renovated, including *Sea Lounge, Golden Dragon and the Taj Ballroom (design by LTW) and the Harbour Bar and Wasabi by Morimoto (design by the Rockwell Group)* are accompanied by inspired cuisine from our team of acclaimed chefs

The entire staff of the hotel shared a special moment with the Chairman Mr. Ratan Tata and the Vice Chairman, Mr. R K Krishnakumar and our Managing Director MR. Raymond Bickson

The 15th of August is a day that India made her tryst with destiny. Echoing the same sentiments, the staff and management of The Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai, make their tryst with destiny and have pledged to reinvent the magic that made the Taj the institution it is.

The staff and management of The Taj Mahal Palace, joined hands with the *Dabbawalas* in a spirit of celebration and as a token of giving back to the city to share a meal with the less privileged in certain identified institutions ... *Dabbawalas* are intrinsic to the city of Mumbai, and are indeed the nerve center and lifeline of the city, ensuring that in rain, hail, snow or storm – no one goes hungry. With their help, we will be able to share our happiness with our little friends.

On December 16, 1903, the Taj opened its doors to its first 17 guests. Over the years, the hotel has played perfect host to Maharajas and Princes, presidents & legends, performers and world figures offering them the ultimate in luxury, fine dining and impeccable service. It was all made possible by the love and support that all our guests wished upon us. A wish that finally finds freedom as the Taj welcomes you once more.

For access to press event images / videos and press documents, please visit us on - www.vccpl.in/taj

For more details on the Celebration Offer, please visit - www.tajhotels.com/

To know more about the Press Conference please visit us on – www.tajhotels.com/Taj-Mahal-Palace/Press-Conference

You can now follow us on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/TajMahalMumbai> and Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/TajMahalMumbai>

About Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces

Established in 1903, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is one of Asia's largest and finest group of hotels, comprising 67 hotels in 43 locations across India with an additional 16 international hotels in the Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, UK, USA, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Africa and the Middle East. From world-renowned landmarks to modern business hotels, idyllic beach resorts to authentic Grand palaces, each Taj hotel offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury. The Taj, a symbol of Indian hospitality, completed the centenary of its landmark hotel, The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai. Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is part of the Tata Group, India's premier business house.

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