



Oslo's Grand Hotel has been the hangout of stars since the 1880s.

Grand changes

Oslo's finest hotel, the Grand Hotel, is entering a new era after a complete renovation.

By Inga Ragnhild Holst Photos by Grand Hotel

In the 1880s, Oslo's Grand Café was the place that the stars of the day such as painters Edvard Munch and writer Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson came to eat and drink.

The Café is part of the Grand Hotel, which was established in 1874 and has been the place to celebrate major social events at ever since.

Over the past 12 months, the hotel has been renovated from top to toe. "It has cost Nkr160 million," says Fredrikke Næss, Managing Director at the Grand Hotel.

As soon as you step into the lobby, you start noticing the differences. The wall next to the Palmen restaurant has been opened up. A new bar has been created and illuminated by a neon version of *The Scream* by British artist Tracy Emin. The old marble still features at Palmen but the restaurant has been restyled in a new, sober color scheme. The entire room is lit by an enormous chandelier.

"The thinking was to bring the Grand into a new era while retaining our bohemian heritage," Næss says. "We have

expressed this via features like the chandelier."

It was also important that the hotel should remain a social venue, just like it was when it first opened. "A place where you can come in for a coffee, a cocktail, use WiFi and enjoy the atmosphere," says Grand Hotel Commercial Director Angelica Montéz de Oca.

The bedrooms have also been given a complete overhaul. Some rooms have been knocked through into larger rooms. "You should be able to feel you are staying at the Grand. The hotel should be both luxurious and practical," Næss says.

The Grand Café has also been renovated. The old booths, heavy drapes and white linen are gone. But naturally, the old paintings by Per Krogh still remain.

Visitors are now flocking here. However, Næss declines to discuss the guests. "We are very discreet and would never say who is staying or has stayed here."



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