

NH Collection Grand Hotel de Zaragoza



The legend is reborn

A "Grand Dame", like those that conquered the hearts of the European capital cities over the early 20th century. In 1929, the Grand Hotel was inaugurated. Little by little, its luxurious rooms and elegant neoclassic halls became a meeting point for society and its imposing canopy looked over many stars of the golden era of Hollywood. Today, this legendary European hotel has become the [NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza](#).

Located on the Ensanche, in the most aristocratic part of the city, is a top meeting point for visitors and local society. It is the most emblematic hotel of this capital city of the Ebro.

NH Collection was born as a symbol of wealth in a society attempting to attain the modernity of its European neighbours. Its construction, promoted by King Alfonso XIII, was preceded by the Hispanic-French Exhibition of 1908, an event that transformed this small city into a modern capital city. Zaragoza grew in the area where the hotel is currently located, becoming the new centre, where the local high Bourgeoisie would choose to live. Amongst these buildings, the Gran Hotel stood out, a project created by Madrid architect Antonio Rubio, one of the champions and proponents of architecture of his time, be it Mudejar or Renaissance, reinterpreted with a contemporary vision from his era.

Many names have been associated with the history of the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza. These include King Juan Carlos I, who resided here while serving as a cadet in the Academia General Militar de Zaragoza. He always resided in room number 105. Also, North American writer Ernest Hemingway made this hotel his home during his trips to Spain, first on his own as a war correspondent and subsequently, when accompanied by his fourth wife, journalist Mary Welsh.

Later, some of the great Hollywood films were to arrive and with them, the legendary actors such as Ava Gardner, Gina Lollobrigida, George Sanders, Tyrone Power, Anthony Mann and King Vidor... just some of the personalities who led to the hotel receiving the nickname in Zaragoza of "the house of the famous ". Its signature book was signed by Walt Disney, accompanied by a drawing, following his stay in the city in 1957.

Travelling across the common areas of the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza, we enter a world of classic glamour and contemporary sophistication. Walls and ceilings in white and grey tones that recall and praise the ancient plaster mouldings with pristine floors of white marble that shine with their original brilliance. This classical architecture in some of the largest, most luminous and functional spaces has been complemented with contemporary furniture, careful lighting and studied aesthetics that reminds us that this is a modern 21st century hotel.

Softer tones of pearl gray take center stage on the building's enormous stairs, interspersed with the white of the original plasters and the marble of the floors. We find this composition again in the spacious hallways of the rooms.

Two exterior terraces, one in Isaac Peral street and the other in Felipe Sanclemente street, are the highlight of the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza, situating it at the top of the local hotel and restaurant business.

The Heart of Zaragoza

Its location in the heart of the city, its architecture and a unique service made the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza the "operation base" for the thousands of visitors that the hotel has received in its existence.

Twelve minutes by car separate the hotel from the main AVE train station Zaragoza-Delicias, which connects the capital of Aragon with Madrid and Barcelona in just over an hour. It is in this area that it's located the modern Congress Palace of Aragon. The airport is just 14 kilometers away.

The Paseo de la Independencia, the city's main commercial hub, is just on street away, with big stores and important international fashion brands. The Plaza de España, located in the end of Paseo de la Independencia and five minutes walking from the hotel, is one of the most important squares of the city and it is the entrance to Casco Antiguo. A short walk through its narrow streets known as "El Tubo", take us to Basilica del Pilar, to La Seo (or Catedral del Salvador de Zaragoza) and to its gothics hangings, located by the river. The shore of Ebro river, with its magnificent bridges, borders and garden areas is also a great offer for leisure and sports.

Comfort. The new luxury

One of the secrets of the renovated NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza lies in the maximum comfort of its 133 rooms. The staging of the hotel's common spaces helps to create an atmosphere of calm and tranquillity.

The fifth floor of the building hides one of the hotel's biggest surprises. A renovated gym with natural lighting that has been fully equipped with equipment from the prestigious brand Technogym. Its services include massages upon request, a mixed sauna and innovative machines for running, bicycling, elliptic or weights, all while observing the blue sky of Zaragoza.

Gran hotel. A gastronomic destination

Having received a Michelin star in his Navarra restaurant, Enrique Martínez is responsible for the gastronomy of the renovated NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza. Its dual offering, casual or formal, is presented in two separate areas. La Ontina has been reinvented so as to become one of the gastronomic reference points in the city. Two outside terraces complement the offering of this emblem of Aragon cuisine.

But it is the novel proposal of the menu that has turned this gastro bar into a top meeting point for local society. Day or night. Even between hours. Any time is a good time to try out some of the original dishes that reinterpret traditional dishes, combining them with international influences, such as the coveted free range chicken strips, covered with crisp potato flakes, Iberian pork Carpaccio or crunchy prawns with spicy mayonnaise. And those who are watching their figures may select from the different salads such as the Russian crab surprise, or the seasonal Provençal. Those wanting a heartier meal may opt for the Chistorra de Arbizu, flattened potatoes with torta del casar cheese and pickles or from the different stews. The menu also includes hamburgers, toasts, pizzas, focaccias or local cold meats. A visit to the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza gastro bar is a surprise for all of the senses and the visit is not complete until you try the deserts. Among the most famous are the caramelized torrijas, warm chocolate soufflé or apple pie with vanilla.

The upper floor, the more formal area, is where gastronomy lovers meet to enjoy the dishes of award winning chef Enrique Martínez. This is the more sober area, distributed in intimate rooms with modern décor that combines Provençal and industrial styles, faithfully maintaining the colour code of the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza, where greys predominate.

The menu plays with top quality ingredients so that visitors may try out dishes such as poached egg kettledrums with vegetables or ox sirloin steaks with candied mushroom reduction sauce, as well as fish and vegetable dishes. The main stars are the raw products, brought in on a daily basis, ensuring freshness—, under the studied care of Martínez.

At this top part of La Ontina, a buffet breakfast takes place every morning. Aragonese cuisine is present the form of homemade cakes and pies, made daily in a section dedicated to local products. The offer also includes a chef ready to prepare “eggs to your liking” or some other dish on the spot. During holidays or weekends, it’s the little ones who become the ‘kings’ in a space reserved for them with their own tableware and children’s products. And if they need to wake up early, guests can request an early breakfast at the reception.

A meeting point

Three impressive meeting and event rooms and two conference rooms form one of the most exclusive offers in the city for presentations, galas or meetings. Continuously, since its opening in the 1920s, Zaragoza’s society has made the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza a top point of reference for holding its most celebrations.

The meeting and events halls of the NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza are prepared with all of the modern equipment and technology and also include other services such as multi-lingual personnel, furniture and equipment rental, audio-visual support, private “check in” for groups and free Wi-Fi. Another distinctive feature of this hotel compared to the local offerings is the event and presentation menus made by La Ontina under the direction and expertise of the head chef, Enrique Martínez.