

Marriott adds touch of grace to city centre

ROSE Rushe goes on tour of the plush Marriott Hotel, on the site of the former Savoy Cinema, and is very favourably impressed

A MULTI-million euro state-of-the-art hotel complex, 96 employees, 94 bedrooms, eight suites, two function rooms, a leisure centre, two bars and one restaurant,

will comprise the Limerick Marriott Hotel when it opens on Monday, May 14.

Developed by Fordmount, which comprises a num-

ber of local investors, this Henry Street landmark will be operated by Irresistible Hotels Ltd,

which runs the Castletroy Park Hotel.

Indeed,

the Dublin Road establishment shares senior staff on several levels, with their managing partner Brian Harrington, also managing director of Irresistible Hotels Ltd, who will operate the

Marriott Hotel.

He was host to a press tour of the seven storey, eight floor hotel this week and brought the media posse from basement leisure centre, the Savoy Aqua & Fitness Club, right up to roof top terrace leading off the 60m x 60m suites - twice the size of regular bedrooms.

"This is the 6th Marriott to open in Ireland and the first in Munster," Mr Harrington said.

"Everything has been built to five star specification and we intend to provide five star service to match. We've been very pleased with the finish and design of the building, by Burke Kennedy Doyle, architects, and John Duffy Design".

He pointed out that all meeting rooms are on the third and fourth floors, and for a small supplement guests can enjoy access to the exclusive Executive

Lounge and concierge service. There'll be a complimentary bar and light food, and access on to the attractive winter terrace for clients.

Keen on courting the banqueting, private dining and leisure market also, the two largest meeting rooms, the Charlotte and the Harvey Rooms (named after Limerick quays, as with the others) will seat 200 theatre style, or 120 banquet style.

Marble floors in reception areas, neat cascade chandeliers, a sweeping marble staircase, sophisticated lighting and a soft blue/ red velvet look, promise luxury and comfort. The Swiss-born doorman wears top hat and tails.

According to Ursula Cullen, sales director, resident guests will enjoy complimentary valet parking at Harvey's Quay. "We are calling our bar and 65-seater restaurant after the Savoy cinema which was

here, and the leisure centre with its 8m pool, gym, salon and four treatment rooms also".

Public membership for this Savoy Aqua & Fitness Club is likely to cap at 100members to respect its relatively bijou dimensions and, of course, exclusivity.

Aisling Nagle, marketing manager, says the Savoy Cinema theme will be a defining point in the bar and restaurant's decor.

"We are working closely with local historian Denis Leonard [director of Limerick Civic Trust], to find photographs of the old cinema over decade. We will also use film posters and tickets to complement the theme, and many of our meeting rooms are named after celebrated artistes who appeared on stage at the Savoy".

Both bar and restaurant will have street access; the spacious first floor Liszt Lounge

will serve food and drink all day in a lobby-style environment. A fireplace, piano, terrace and 12-seater private dining, enhance its multipurpose identity.

Why Liszt?

Hungarian composer Franz once played the piano at the Savoy Theatre.



Brian Harrington managing director Irresistible Hotels, Ursula Cullen director sales and marketing Marriott Limerick, Bob Chestnut chairman Irresistible Hotels and Rudy Baumann.

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