

THE DOLDER GRAND

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Press release

The Dolder Grand Advent calendar 2024 – heroes of the month of December

This year, the Dolder Grand is once again offering an immersive pre-Christmas experience by artist Jani Leinonen. The Advent calendar entitled “A toast to our heroes” honours individuals whose deeds in December have made our world a better place.



Internationally renowned artist Jani Leinonen has compiled 24 important events for his work of art, each of which took place on a day in December. Using an artistic language inspired by pop art that is both political and critical of consumerism, Jani Leinonen has created an impressive oversized Advent calendar for the five-star hotel.

The work communicates directly with the viewer, encouraging them to reflect on social values and inspiring them to become heroes in their own right. Some December heroes at a glance:

- 1 December 1955: The “heroine of the day” is Rosa Parks. Her brave resistance on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, marked the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and a turning point in the American civil rights movement.
- 20 December 1963: The opening of the Berlin Wall during the Christmas season allowed West Berliners to visit their relatives in East Berlin – a rare sign of hope and unity.
- 14 December 2008: An Iraqi journalist protested against the US invasion of Iraq at a press conference and drew attention to the suffering of the Iraqi population by courageously throwing his shoes at the US President.

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“With this Advent calendar, we want to give guests the opportunity to come together to pay tribute to people and moments that deserve to be remembered”, explains the Finnish artist. He uses cereal boxes – objects from the real world – to illustrate these heroic deeds, stating that although the visual language of commercial products is understood globally, it offers a toxically positive view of the world. “Pairing the cereal mascots with complex topics and celebrating these stories creates a moment of surprise that encourages reflection and inspires us to experience the spirit of unity, courage and humanity in a new way”, says Leinonen. The cereal boxes in this year’s Advent calendar are also a nod to the Dolder Grand’s art collection, which includes other works of this kind.

Head Bartender Matthieu Doucet has creatively interpreted this inspiration in a special Christmas cocktail that can be enjoyed in the Hotel’s new Canvas Bar & Lounge from 1 to 24 December 2024.

As in previous years, the Dolder Grand wants to help make the world a better place. Instead of traditional Christmas post, the hotel will be sending digital Christmas cards. The production and postage costs saved are donated to Winterhilfe Schweiz – an organisation that supports families, couples and individuals affected by invisible poverty.

About the Dolder Grand

Opened in 1899, the Dolder Grand has 175 luxurious rooms and suites. Regally perched high above Zurich on the Adlisberg, the City Resort offers stunning views of the vibrant city life, Lake Zurich and the Swiss Alps. In 2024, the Dolder Grand will celebrate its 125th anniversary. The legendary hotel has had an extraordinary history with illustrious guests and has established itself as a destination for culinary delights, art and wellness. The striking, palatial building bears the signature of renowned architect Lord Norman Foster. With its five permanent restaurants, the five-star superior hotel offers an exceptional dining concept: The Restaurant (2 Michelin stars and 19 GaultMillau points), Mikuriya (16 GaultMillau points), Saltz restaurant (15 GaultMillau points), the vegan/vegetarian garden restaurant blooms (15 GaultMillau points) and a restaurant with time-limited food concepts. The Canvas Bar & Lounge complements the culinary offerings that garnered the Dolder Grand the title of “Hotel of the Year 2024” from GaultMillau. The spa area offers 4,000 square metres of pure relaxation. The Hotel is also known for its extensive art collection, encompassing over 100 works from world-renowned artists including Salvador Dalí and Takashi Murakami. The Dolder Grand is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, Swiss Deluxe Hotels and the Responsible Hotels of Switzerland.

For images and general information, visit our [media page](#).

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