



San Francisco's Iconic Mark Hopkins Hotel Celebrates 90 Years

BY FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER | HAUTE SCENE, NEWS | DECEMBER 13, 2016

All 90th birthdays deserve a grand celebration where friends and family fete the honoree. A hotel is no exception. For nine decades now, the **InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel** has held court atop tony Nob Hill, serving as a 'must-stop' for Hollywood stars, political dignitaries, royalty, artists, and others in search of impeccable hospitality and pristine San Francisco skyline views. One of only three local hotels to witness nearly a century of San Francisco history (the Fairmont and the Palace being the other two), the Mark opened in December 1926 and immediately became a West Coast landmark and a symbol of elegance and refinement within the local hotel landscape – a role it graciously continues to play to this day.

To celebrate its historic 90th birthday, the Mark Hopkins recently rolled-out the red carpet to some of its most loyal fans and longtime supporters. With a theme of "Dining Through the Decades," guests were led through time-period motif drinks and dishes typical of society's culinary aspirations of each era. A 1920's themed reception celebrated the Roaring Twenties, when the majority of the U.S.'s cocktail drinks were first concocted and finger foods originated. Guests enjoyed mini 'foggy martinis' from the **Top of the Mark's** lengthy martini menu. The dinner's first course represented the 1930's and Americans' need to conserve. While Oxtail Osso Buco typified the type of humble meal enjoyed by a great majority, executive chef **Michael Wong** turned the dish into a gourmet delicacy.

Guests enjoyed wine pairings from **Buena Vista Winery**, one of California's first wineries, chosen for its heritage – as rich as that of the Mark Hopkins. **The Kliptones** provided live, decade-themed music as guests took-in the ambiance of the hotel's **Nob Hill Club**, San Francisco's newest lounge that combines the hotel's French Chateau and Spanish Renaissance design with a cosmopolitan vibe. Walnut floors, crimson-hued walls, and plush banquettes provided a posh, intimate atmosphere worthy of a 90th anniversary celebration and befitting the iconic Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel and its indelible imprint on San Francisco's hospitality industry.