

*T'is nowhere but a Polish home
 That love's so lavished on the guest!
 Hailed like the Emperor of Rome,
 He needn't say a word of request!
 On him frolic is amply shed,
 To be followed by festive hours.
 His servants look'd to and well-clad;
 For his host exerts his powers.
 Tender roast, with overseas spices,
 Washed down with rich wine galore;
 To gladden the heart more than suffices.
 As of good feeling, there couldn't be more.*

Dear Guests,

The foregoing is an excerpt from a poem by the Polish Romantic poet Wincenty Pol, the “Song of Our Land,” which extols the charm and beauty of our country. It is with these poetic, romantic words that I want to welcome you to a romantic area, a romantic palace, at the outset of the romantic adventure that I hope your stay here will prove to be.

As is the time-honored Polish custom, I welcome you with bread and salt to Paszkówka Palace, now your home away from home.

I am exceedingly pleased that you have chosen to stay with us. My staff and I are honored and gratified to be your hosts.

On behalf of myself and all staff members, I want to assure you that you are the reason we are here. We want to look after you and care for you. We wish to meet your needs and fulfill your desires that we will go out of our way to anticipate so as to make you satisfied in every way. Should we in some way fail to guess all your wishes, please say so, make demands, make a fuss, be choosy!

It took me years to create this hotel—all for you, our Guests. In it, I have tried to combine the charms of a 19th-century palace with the standards of a 21st-century luxury hotel. Surrounding us is the beauty of nature and period architecture. For you to admire is art old and new. We are here to make sure that you find nothing wanting so that you may have pleasurable rest.

As we all wish you a happy stay at Paszkówka, I encourage you to take a short tour, in time and space, of the palace: its history and present. You will find here essential information on the operation of our hotel as well as tidbits to satisfy your curiosity, or perhaps suggest ways of spending your free time.

This guidebook is intended to be a leisurely reading to help you rest after a tiring journey, as well as a summary of useful information for the duration of your stay with us. This twin purpose is served by its graphic layout, its handy bookmarks and index.

To begin with, here is an outline of the history of the place. Located to the south-west of Kraków, Paszkówka is first mentioned in records in the latter half of the 12th century when it was in the possession of the powerful Radwanita family. The name probably derives from the founder's name of Paszka, of whom we know nothing. Local fish ponds are known to have been valued in the Middle Ages. In the 14th century little Paszkówka with its neighboring village of Po-biedro, later incorporated into Paszkówka, became the property of the renowned knightly family of Paszkowski of the Zadora arms (in field azure, lion's head spewing red flames). The oldest known member of the family was Henryk Paszkowski at the turn of the 15th century. The family

produced a large number of clergymen, artists, philosophers, and poets. The best known of them was Maciej living at the turn of the 17th century, a poet, author, Oriental scholar, and translator, whose works include one of the first compendia of knowledge about the Islamic world. He was associated with princely house of Lubomirski of Wiśnicz. Another famous member of the Paszkowski family was General Franciszek Paszkowski, aide-de-camp to Commander Thaddeus Kościuszko and later the first chairman of the Kościuszko Mound Committee.

In later centuries, the village and area were successively owned by Żydowski, Pruszczyński, Rottermund, and Wężyk families. Located on the historical border between Kraków province and Silesia, the place was selected by Leonard Wężyk as the site of a neo-Gothic palace about 1860. Once completed, the palace belonged to the family until the end of World War II, which it luckily survived. After the war, in 1948, the property was taken over by the State Treasury, a condition that continued until 1997. At that time, the palace first housed a farming cooperative, then a school, and later a health center and veterinary clinic. For a time, the lower floors were used as a mushroom farm, which obviously caused much damage to the structure. From its sorry condition, the palace was renovated in 1971 having another floor added and being converted to a hotel. It operated for almost twenty years as a resort known as Kasztelanka, owned by Kraków's Turysta Travel Agency. In the early 1990's, however, it deteriorated again. Abandoned and dilapidated, it was purchased from the local community in 1997 by the undersigned, Jan Oleksy and his wife Anna. The new owners thoroughly rebuilt the property, restoring it to former glory and character, and opened a hotel and conference center.

Probably as early as the 15th century, when Paszkówka was an endowment of the Wawel Cathedral Canonry, the site of today's palace was occupied by a modest wooden manor with an adjacent chapel, although no view of this first facility is known. The present palace is in the neo-Gothic style, even though some art historians maintain that it fails to meet all the formal criteria of the style and can be no more than pseudo-Gothic. Whichever is the case, it shows influences of English neo-Gothic. The design was made by the notable Kraków-based architect Feliks Księżarski (1820-1884), who also built several houses and palaces in the city in the second

half of the 19th century. His works include Collegium Novum, the Jagiellonian University's chief building. Construction of the palace began in 1865 and was completed five years later. Originally, it was a single-story building of highly varied form. It stood out for its octagonal stairway, on the outside topped with battlements to give it the appearance of a medieval tower. Also notable is the decorative design under first-floor windows: ceramic tiles present mythical and mythological figures.

The palace's main entrance leads you to a large lobby. Its beautiful groin-vaulted ceiling originally rested on four stone pillars of which today, after alterations, we can admire two. From the elegant lobby, doors used to lead to utility spaces: kitchen, pantry, servants' bedrooms. Today these are delightfully appointed restaurant rooms. The stern appearance of the ceiling is softened by the colors of the walls and floor. Originally, a wide, ornamented stairway ascending from the lobby led to the owners' private rooms. Those included living quarters, office, library, drawing room, dining room. The last renovation enhanced the beautiful, richly decorated Mirror Room on the first floor, now serving as drawing room. The neo-Renaissance hall has retained its original wall and ceiling décor. Today it hosts concerts, meetings, banquets, and conferences.

Surrounding the palace is an old park probably started in the 17th century; the dating is suggested by the age of the trees and the Baroque geometric layout. Its walkways are lined with ancient linden, oak, and hornbeam. Across from the palace, a former granary now houses a sports & recreation facility and hotel, part of the entire complex.

At present Paszkówka Palace is owned by the Oleksy family, originally from Nowy Sącz area, now living in the United States.

In the 1970's, after graduating from Kraków's Academy of Agriculture, a renowned school at that time, I left for internship in France and later the USA. Soon afterward, encouraged by my American employer and friend David Ruś, I decided to move to the United States with my family for good, as an opportunity presented itself for a better life and a successful career. I threw in my lot with Rose Acre Farms, a large company operating a chain of modern industrial farms

and producing about 10 million eggs per day. For 15 years I have been running my own brokerage business dealing in egg powder produced by Rose Acre Farms.

I made permanent residence in the United States, together with my wife and children: daughters Alexandra and Małgorzata and son Michał, who have already finished college and are on their own. Although I found my place outside of Poland and built a successful career in a foreign land, I have not lost touch with Homeland. For one thing, I decided to invest in Poland.

My adventure with Paszkówka began in 1997 set off, as often happens, by chance. My long-time hobby is antiques, especially old chairs, which perhaps unlike any other furniture are connected with particular people and bear signs of use by them. I have always been intrigued by stories encapsulated in a chair about who sat in it, what he was thinking about, who he talked about with whom, what he wrote.... Every chair has its history and its secrets. In one such Internet search, I entered a site offering historical properties in Poland. A list opened before me of about 60 castles, palaces, and manors put up for sale. I clicked for facilities near Kraków, the city of my youth. My attention soon became focused on Paszkówka Palace, priced at \$35,000. The figure sounded obviously intriguing but, as it turned out, was untrue. At any rate I considered the likelihood of a hoax or even fraud. The advertisement had been placed by some suspicious firm dealing in real estate between Poland and the USA with which, by the way, contact proved impossible. Nonetheless, I asked my friend Waclaw Nogaś to investigate. Indeed, the local community, which then owned the palace, was planning to sell it. The building badly needed repair, an operation the local government could not contemplate paying for; worse still, while bringing no profit, the facility generated considerable costs in maintenance. It was valued at \$250,000.

Clearly, the palace was too big for a temporary residence, and what was more it needed vast financial outlay to restore to former grandeur. Yet my friend pointed out to me that the premises had for a time served as a hotel and had all it took to become a luxury hotel complex. "We could use a hotel around here," he remarked. Until then, my experience with hotels was solely as a guest. This, however, did not deter a thought that started to recur in my mind to create a hotel of my dreams, a place free from all those shortcomings that had always irritated me as a guest;

a hotel, in other words, where the guest feels among good friends. Now a splendid opportunity was presenting itself for such fancy to be brought to life. I decided to have a closer look at Paszówka during my next trip to Poland.

The first encounter made a tremendous impression on me. The time was Fall 1997. Toward sunset one evening my friend and I drove up to the palace. In the twilight, we stood mesmerized in front of the stately lines of a castle rimmed at bottom with the yellowing green of neglected shrubbery and with towers looming gloomily against a darkened sky. We were filled with awe and excitement. The sight made me think of an old man, wronged and humiliated, haggard and bedraggled, whose eyes and posture still revealed a dignity, a lost splendor and magnificence. Feeling sorry for him, I resolved to help him, rescue him out of his sorry state. I felt a secret bond form between us, a friendship, a sense of destiny that guided me across space to these noble walls. Within weeks, I was the new owner. The event came to pass on December 27, our wedding anniversary as it happened, now a twofold date celebrating my marriage to my wife and to my palace.

Early the following year I established my company simply named Jan Oleksy and proceeded to thoroughly renovate, restore, and modernize the building, hiring local craftsmen and laborers. Work began with a clean-up of the palace and premises and measures to prevent further dilapidation.

The next stage was to dry the damp walls whose lower parts were largely covered with mold. At this point it was a priority to stop the expanding mold that climbed up walls and onto ceilings. In the process, we dug out the entire foundations, which, we discovered to our amazement, in part dated back to the 14th century! From this we learned that the site had been selected ages ago as an exceptional place, for in the past the site for a home was meticulously chosen: it had to have the right exposure, be surrounded by the most charming countryside, be easily defended, and distant from water veins to afford good, healthy sleep at night. And indeed, I found out, and my guests have copiously confirmed—here you sleep like a baby.

After we secured the building against moisture, repaired the roof, replaced electric wiring, plumbing, and sewage, we proceeded to arrange the interiors to become a high-class hotel. The

interior designers were Monika and Jan Gołębiowski of Kraków, with whom we continued the work, supervised by the Provincial Conservation Officer, even in winter. Done at veritably an American pace, the work took a year to complete. There were days when as many as 80 master masons and laborers were busy restoring the palace. Our objective, as I said, was to create a luxury hotel, but also to restore the residence to its former pride while preserving all we could of the original substance that remained such as woodwork, stucco work, architectural detail, etc.

Our first guests we welcomed in the former granary, which we had converted to a hotel, in August 1998, the palace itself still being under reconstruction. Also then came our first big marketing success, an event we splendidly held for EuroLot, complete with a fireworks display. The 14 chambers were completed in November of the same year. The restoration project was finally complete in 2000.

That year, the first year of operation of the entire hotel & recreational facility, unfortunately proved the onset of trouble that has continued to this day. The impoverished heirs of former owners, who had been dispossessed by post-1945 laws and who could not afford even the basic upkeep of the premises when the community handed the property to them in the early 1990's, showed no particular interest in it. After I had repaired and rebuilt the complex, they demanded from me in 2000 a return of the property that was formally held, at the time I bought it, as a mortgaged property of the community of Brzeźnica. The litigation continues to this day.

I find it an awkward and unpleasant situation as I respect and try to understand the people whose predecessors were dispossessed of their ancestral holdings by a political system imposed on Poland. Nonetheless, I must emphatically state my position which is that I purchased Paszkówka Palace in good faith from the local authorities at Brzeźnica, which showed to me its full rights to the said property. I bought its several years after the systemic change that opened to former owners legal paths to seek a return of once state-confiscated property; furthermore, I bought it at one in a series of auctions held by the community's authority as the first and only bidder. Needless to say, the resources I invested in its restoration far exceeded its worth at the time.

Whatever the adversities, the year 2007, an anniversary year as ten years will have passed on December 10 since I purchased the palace, I must proudly say that the facility I created has made a name for itself in a number of ways. First as a luxury hotel, now known and advertised throughout the world. Equally importantly, it has become a local landmark, a place close to the hearts of local residents of which they are proud and with which they can identify in many ways. It was the local residents who helped me restore it and who have manned the staff. Quite a number of young people learned the hotel business from me; today you can meet them in many respectable Kraków hotels, often in managerial positions. Local farmers and food processing plants are our suppliers, local craftsmen perform many valuable services for us, etc. We are now deeply and permanently rooted in the community here. The hotel was created and began its operation at a time marked by the greatest unemployment in Poland, which particularly affected rural areas. An additional challenge at first, it turned out to be a source of great satisfaction as I tried to remedy the adverse situation by creating jobs outside agriculture.

It is only appropriate to say a few words about our staff who take a special place in the hotel. It is the people working here who create an atmosphere of kindness, it is their professionalism and involvement that makes our guests feel pampered and leave hoping to return. This is our shared success. At present, the entire hotel & recreational complex employs 35 people, chiefly young or very young, full of energy and enthusiasm. Many of them pursue further training under the stipends and courses I fund.

At this point you would probably expect to see a list of distinguished guests, and notable events we have hosted over those years. Indeed our hotel receives many eminent figures: high officials, businessmen, and people of culture; likewise, we hold many prestigious events. Nonetheless, I do not make such lists as it is a matter of principle with us that there are no VIP's among our guests, or, conversely, each one is a VIP. We do not distinguish between more or less special occasions, either: they are all special and unique.

One of my passions is for art, which I promote in Paszkówka Palace. Its walls serve as a gallery of contemporary painting. Several times annually I hold exhibitions by various artists, Polish and

foreign, who make up a unique, if somewhat peculiar, group among our visitors. One of the first such events was an exhibition by members of Euman group, which is composed of artists coming from outside the European Union but working in its member countries.

Paszkówka Palace was chosen as its residence by the Wawel Brotherhood of the Bronze Bell. The Brotherhood is an elite society aiming to foster civic virtue, old Polish and modern patriotic tradition; strengthen the ties of expatriate Poles with homeland, and conduct broadly understood educational activity. Members of this elite group are successful professionals, figures enjoying prestige in their respective circles; luminaries in science, culture, and the arts; business and political personalities—a kind of 21st-century aristocracy. The Brotherhood consists of: Master Superior, Masters, honorary members, ordinary and supporting, and deserving members. Jan Oleksy is one of the society's founders and co-author of its tenets; he also serves as a Lodge Master.

The palace and its history, surroundings, and décor, its staff and cuisine, the services offered, and last but not least our Guests—all these combine to create the soul of the place, give it its distinctive quality. Before I embarked on the reconstruction and furnishing of the Palace, I made a weeks-long tour of European hotels. I was looking for exceptional places, particularly on historical premises. The sum total of my observations helped give Paszkówka its final shape.

Our aim and dream is to make you think of the Palace as representative for Polish countryside with its unique character, warmth and hospitality, peace and harmony. Your satisfaction and contentedness is our success and pleasure.



GUIDEBOOK TO THE HOTEL AND ITS SERVICES

THINGS TO DO

A number of services are available in our hotel-recreational facility to help you keep fit or relax after a hard day's work, to restore the balance of body and soul. Some services you can enjoy on your own, others require our assistance. Please remember that we are at your service at any time. You can pursue your dreams and whims whenever you feel like it. We will be delighted to satisfy all your wishes.

I. In your chamber

Bubble-bath massage

Bath massage is a very special way to relax after a busy working day. It will soothe tense nerves, relieve stress, help relax before sleep. The beneficial effects of hydrotherapy, or healing by the movement of water, have been known for centuries. It is helpful in the treatment of chronic diseases such as hypertension and arthritis, its action is relaxing and anti-inflammatory. Even such serious disorders as diabetes have been reported improved by hydrotherapy.

Rejuvenating goat-milk bath

This pleasant and beneficial bath was once available only to powerful ancient rulers. Queen Cleopatra's legendary beauty was enhanced and prolonged by such baths, which today are still considered exclusive cosmetic treatment. A goat-milk bath adds vitality, smoothness and firmness to the whole skin, lends it exceptional delicacy and radiance. This refined treatment is available to you any day, every day.

Essential oil and flower bath

The excellent relaxation afforded by water can still be emphasized with aromatherapy. Our staff are prepared to offer you a professionally developed essential-oil bath of your choice that can either soothe, calm, and ease you into deep sleep, or to the contrary, enliven and energize your body before night's entertainment. Whatever the type, any essential-oil bath naturally moisturizes the skin and lends firmness to the body. A wide range of natural aromas are available for you to choose from.

Classical massage

This popular and well-liked massaging technique results in perfect, almost immediate muscle relaxation. In addition to classical massage, we offer therapeutic massage should you need it such as in rehabilitation. Doctor's recommendations are followed.

Relaxation massage

This gentle massage has excellent stress-reducing and relaxing effect bringing relief to tense mus-

cles and assuring proper energy flow in the body. Affording a state of deep relaxation, it leaves you with an unforgettable sense of lightness and full harmony of body and soul.

2. In the Palace

At your disposal are all the stately rooms in the Palace. They can be used in many different ways, such as for games, relaxation, or group entertainment conducted specially for you. Moreover, we will professionally and comprehensively organize conferences, thematic symposia, and other events as our Guests may require.

Restaurant

We hope that in the four halls of the Palace restaurant we will succeed in satisfying all your culinary requirements, whatever your taste. We offer delicacies of Polish and French cuisine, with emphasis on old-Polish cooking, both manor and cottage style. On request, a vegetarian menu is available as is a special menu developed following your dietitian's recommendations. Also on request, we can arrange for live music to accompany your meal according to your choice among classical chamber ensemble, romantic Gypsy duo, or pop pianist.

Our cuisine is a contemporary blend of Polish tradition and French sophistication. The kitchen serves breakfasts, lunches, and dinners with a special menu available for vegetarians and children. Assorted antiques and painting displays combine to produce an air conducive to relaxation and give the interiors an informal, homey feel. Meals are also served in the garden.

Buffet breakfast is officially served from 8 to 10 a.m., but in reality the guests can take as long as they require for a leisurely meal. If you so wish, breakfast can be served in your room. The menu is plentiful and varied, so much so that some guests have commented that it is more like brunch that can sustain you until dinner.

We have developed a practice, although never a requirement, of guests arranging menus for the day with the butler at or after breakfast. You can compose menu dishes to suit your fancy, or even have a dish prepared that is not on the menu. The chef will do his utmost to satisfy your gourmet desires.

Before a meal, you are invited to stroll to our wine cellar. It is a healthy practice as, for one thing, it is a stroll, for another, doctors recommend drinking wine. There you can select the perfect wine to go with your meal. While our wines are exquisite, our prices are very decent.

Bar

Situated in the Palace's Antique Hall, the bar is open from early afternoon until the last guest leaves. It is up to you, therefore, when the bar closes. In it, you can find all the renowned brands from all over the world as well as our especially recommended exquisite Polish vodkas.

Banquet halls and conference rooms

The hotel features elegant banquet and conference halls that can accommodate up to 250 guests. The halls can be variously arranged (combined or divided) to suit your particular need. They can serve many different purposes: conferences or receptions in any arrangement you desire.

The Palace includes four conference rooms:

- One, the **Gallery** seating up to 100,
- Two, the **Marble Room**, seating up to 70,
- Three, the **Mirror Room**, seating up to 50,
- Four, the **Colonnade**, seating up to 30.

The **Gallery** is a place that serves as a conference room and doubles as a contemporary art gallery. Surrounded by graphic artworks and photographs, it is an excellent place for a corpo-

rate meeting, banquet, conference, or training course. It is our biggest hall, ideal for any kind of training or convivial get-together, an exquisite place in which to listen to a concert or hold a social event.

The **Marble Room** on the first floor is ideally suited to hold a course, conference, symposium, or lecture. A porch on the northern side of the Palace offers a splendid view of the park and affords a chance for a delightful coffee break in the open air. With its height, the hall offers excellent acoustics.

The **Mirror Room** on the first floor, in the very heart of the Palace, has been fully reconstructed. Its octagonal shape, unique wooden lacunar ceiling embellished with gilt ornamental woodwork in the classicist style—all combined give it a character that is all its own. A chamber ensemble rarely sounds so good. A very special room, it is used for those most treasured occasions. The Mirror Room can also be arranged for training groups.

The **Colonnade** on the first floor has a balcony overlooking a picturesque panorama. It is perfect for a smaller assembly or ceremony.

Hall equipment

Slide projectors, overhead projectors, TV, DVD player, wireless microphone, screens, flip-charts. Also available: plasma monitors, DLP/CTR display walls, LED display walls, visualizers, video mixers, tele- and videoconferencing, simultaneous translation systems, loudspeaker systems.

For more information on the conference rooms and equipment, please call our Marketing Department at extension 802 during working hours 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

3. On the compound

The charming location on a hill away from urban centers, surrounded by 300-year old hornbeam trees encourages outdoor activity and romantic strolls. The palace's vast green area is perfect for early-morning jogging and your favorite outdoor games.

Your fitness and health will be well served by daily exercise. Comprehensive exercise services are available to our guests. We know that regular exercise help improve work efficiency and overall good comfort. Enjoy your life longer and in better shape!

Year-round Jacuzzi pool

How about a swim? Our pool is open all year round, with part of it indoors, the heated other part outdoors. Not only is the pool great fun, but its offers health-stimulating exercise. After all, swimming is one of the most beneficial forms of moving your limbs as it helps overall fitness in engaging all muscle groups while it is easy on the spine and joints. While in water, you can exercise intensely and yet avoid perspiration or overheating, all of which contribute to a wholesome comfort of the sport.

Three meters deep, the pool is available from dawn to dusk to those who can swim (no life-guard service). Children are permitted to use the pool only supervised by an adult. A group bathe is possible at night, subject to arrangement with the staff. For safety reasons, people under the influence of alcohol are not allowed in the pool.

Fitness room

Well-guided exercise can help achieve that dream figure and offers a chance to strengthen selected parts of the body. Muscular development significantly activates the body's immune system

and its ability to absorb calcium, a factor to consider especially after age 35, when the bones are increasingly demineralized.

Sauna

The sauna excellently strengthens the body's immune system. Research shows that people who use the sauna regularly are ten times less likely to contract flu or cold. The sauna helps stabilize blood pressure, relieves insomnia, accelerates metabolism, cleanses the body and soothes nervous tensions. You can enjoy a dry or a steam sauna bath.

Group games

If you should but wish, we are ready to organize games for one or more: an open-air table tennis tournament, fishing in a nearby pond or perhaps a sack race. We will be only too pleased to respond to any unusual requests from you. Developing a game for you to play will be a pleasant diversion for us as well.

Wine cellar

Our cellar houses almost 1000 bottles of wine. Most of them come from Bergerac province, France, but not all. Wine is kept at proper temperature. Interesting in layout, the cellar has an air of its own for you to do your own wine-tasting. Before every dinner, you can search the cellar for that particular bottle of wine. The quality is fine, yet the prices are highly affordable.

The wine cellar is located in the Palace park with an excellent spot right next to it to celebrate a barbecue or bonfire feast.

Bonfire, picnic, barbecue

Whatever the season, what a way to spend time with your family or friends at a campfire, have breakfast in the open air, or enjoy a barbecue in the park or by the pond! The place is for you to choose.

4. In the area

We suggest that you take a walk or a hike to see the area and seek outdoor enjoyment. One good destination of a hike, bike or horse ride may be St. Mary's wooden church of the 16th century in the nearby village of Sosnowice, St. Bartholomew's church at Poręba Wielka, St. Martin's church at Marcyporęba of the 17th century, Or St. Nicholas' church at Polanka Wielka—all of them gems of Małopolska Trail of Wooden Architecture. The surrounding woods are an attraction in themselves.

Horse rides

Riding on horseback is a popular pastime. In addition to its pleasures and relaxing effect, it is a lovely way to see nearby sights.

Carriage rides

A luxury way to see the surroundings is from a carriage that can accommodate your family and friends. Your return to the Palace will be highlighted with a barbecue-and-song.

Sleigh rides

Winter looks lovely in and around Paszkówka. A blanket of snow conjures up an entirely new landscape. A ride in a traditional horse-drawn sleigh, bells ringing and torches lighting the way, is an experience to cherish. As an additional reward, a goodly cup of mulled wine by a campfire will be waiting at the end of your ride.

Bicycle rides

A bicycle is more than sport and recreation: use it for good health. Biking relieves pressure on the legs and joints while helping burn excess fatty tissue, improve blood circulation, and fight cellulite. Give your body an extra shot of oxygen to combat feelings of heaviness, fatigue, and sleepiness. Bicycle riding is a highly effective way to relax, one benefit of which is that you tend to smile more often. We suggests a number of attractive bike routes in the vicinity.

Balloon flights to remember

Have you ever thought of rising up in the air the gentle way? With us, that, too, is possible. A splendid panorama unfolds from the height of hundreds of feet above the ground. In good weather, ballooning offers a thrilling experience and unmatched views. It will certainly be one of those unforgettable moments to cherish.

5. Within 100 kilometers

Active rest in a Polish nobleman's castle may involve visits to some Southern Poland's tourist highlights. They include:

– Kraków, including Kazimierz district, the former Jewish quarter, and Nowa Huta, the socialist city,

- Wieliczka Salt Mine,
- Częstochowa (Jasna Góra shrine),
- Kalwaria Zebrzydowska (Bernardine basilica and scenic outdoor Way of the Cross),
- Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II,
- Oświęcim (Auschwitz museum),
- Zakopane (Tatra Mts., Lake Morskie Oko, Krupówki St.),
- Pieniny Mts. (Dunajec river raft ride, Niedzica Castle).

THINGS TO KNOW

1. Hotel guidelines—our customs

We will be grateful if you will observe the following guidelines to assure efficient service and a safe, pleasant stay in our walls.

§ 1

1. Hotel rooms are rented by the day (check-in from 2 p.m., check-out by 12 p.m. the following day).
2. Unless you indicate to the contrary, we assume that you have rented a room for one day.

§ 2

1. Please let the receptionist know of your intention to extend your stay before 10 a.m. on the check-out day. If only possible, we comply with Guests' wishes.

§ 3

1. A room is rented to a specific person, so it is not allowed to transfer the room to other persons, even if the period of rent the Guest has paid for is not up yet.

§ 4

1. Should you have any complaints whatsoever about our service, please report them to the reception as soon as you can. This will help us address the problem immediately.
2. The hotel provides:
 - 1) Suitable conditions for Guests to get complete rest;
 - 2) Guest safety, including the security of information about Guests;
 - 3) Professional and courteous staff to perform any of the services the hotel offers;
 - 4) Cleaning of rooms and any necessary maintenance while Guests are out, or in their presence if they so request;
 - 5) Technically competent services; should a malfunction occur that cannot be rectified, the hotel will exercise its best efforts, insofar as it is possible, to change the room or otherwise alleviate the inconvenience;
 - 6) Cigarette smokers are asked to inform the staff of the fact. Consideration for non-smoking Guests and conservation recommendations for the palace and park imposes certain limitations on smoking, although smoking is allowed in rooms, chambers and the bar. Moreover, we offer genuine luxury VSOP cigars from the Dominican Republic at promotional prices. To go with them, naturally, the bar is well stocked with a wide selection of port.

§ 5

On request by a Guest, the hotel offers the following services free of charge:

1. Safekeeping of money and valuables for the duration of the Guest's stay.

2. Storage of baggage; however, the hotel may refuse to accept baggage for storage beyond the Guests stay; it may also refuse storage of articles of a nature different from personal baggage.

§ 6

1. Please be advised that in conformity with legislation and generally accepted regulations, the hotel cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to articles brought in by its Customers, unless such articles have been deposited with the reception (clauses 846-852 of the Civil Code).
2. Guests who suffer any loss or injury are requested immediately to inform the reception of the event.

§ 7

1. Guests are requested to observe night-time quiet from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
2. Guests and other Customers are kindly requested to show consideration to others.

§ 8

1. On leaving the room every time, please deposit your key in the reception. The key is returned against an accommodation card.
2. Please be advised that the person renting a room is financially responsible for any damage to hotel furniture and technical installations caused through his fault or that of his visitors.
3. Please be advised that due to fire precautions, the use in rooms of water heaters, electric irons, and other similar devices not provided in the room is not allowed.

§ 9

Personal articles left behind in a hotel room by a departing Guest will be sent to the address provided by the Guest.

2. Room furnishings

Palace: 14 chambers (accommodating 28). The chambers are equipped with stylish oak furniture: king-size or queen-size beds, couches, armchairs, writing desks, cabinets, wardrobes, and 21st-century Jacuzzi baths, spacious bathrooms with large mirrors, TV, telephone, Internet connection, refrigerator.

Palace annex (former granary): single and double rooms (accommodating 49). Each room has a bathroom, TV, telephone, Internet connection, writing desk, refrigerator.

Available TV stations:

- 1 TVP 1
- 2 TVP 2
- 3 TVP 3
- 4 POLSAT
- 5 TVN
- 6 TV 4
- 7 TV PULS
- 8 VIVA
- 9 CNN
- 10 EUROSPORT

Telephone numbers

Chambers:

Chamber 2II—2II

Chamber 212—212

Chamber 213—213

Chamber 215—215

Chamber 221—221

Chamber 222—222

Chamber 223—223

Chamber 224—224

Chamber 225—225

Chamber 226—226

Chamber 227—227

Chamber 228—228

Chamber 229—229

Chamber 230—230

Rooms:

Room 101—101

Room 102—102

Room 103—103

Room 104—104

Room 105—105

Room 106—106

Room 111—111

Room 112—112

Room 113—113

Room 114—114

Room 115—115

Room 116—116

Room 117—117
Room 121—121
Room 122—122
Room 123—123
Room 124—124
Room 125—125
Room 126—126
Room 127—127
Room 131—131
Room 132—132
Room 133—133
Room 134—134
Room 135—135
Room 136—136
Room 137—137

Reception—0

Outside line—9

Automatic wake-up call *81 HH MM

Cancel #81

H—hour

M—minute

3. Safety

Instructions to Guests who have seen fire or another hazard

1. Please keep calm and do not panic.
2. Please leave your room immediately and follow emergency signs to the nearest emergency exit, and on the upper floor down the stairs as indicated by emergency signs and then to an exit on the ground floor.
3. If it is possible, before leaving the building, please alert loudly any persons that might be in danger. Please also inform the manager or any other staff member, and if you have access to a telephone, also the fire brigade (tel. 998).
4. If a fire breaks out in your room, please remember that there is a fire extinguisher in the hallway outside.
5. In case of danger and during rescue operation, please follow instructions by rescue personnel.

To ensure Guest safety:

1. Please exercise care in handling any source of open flame or high temperature (matches, candles, lighted cigarettes or butts, etc.).
2. Please be advised that to ensure your safety, it is not allowed to use in rooms such devices as may generate surface heat (including irons, water heaters, room heaters with exposed heating coils, soldering irons, etc.).
3. We kindly ask that on leaving your room you switch off any electrical appliances that could cause danger of fire and that do not require continuous power supply.

4. Please also do not leave in hallway and doorways any large object or furniture that could hamper safe exit in case of emergency.
5. Please take a minute to study a map of emergency routes and exits, emergency instructions, and fire protection equipment on the premises.

4. Transportation

Our location is “off the beaten track,” in a place that is special in many ways. Surrounding us is peace and quiet, likely sounds being birds chirping or cocks crowing. In the vicinity you may encounter farmers working their fields, some still using horses for propulsion and tools that seem archaic in an age of industrial farming. Yet this does not mean that you are cut off from civilization. Our offering includes a number of transportation solutions to enable you to reach your destination easily.

1. We are pleased to offer our Guests transportation to the airport, to Kraków, Oświęcim, etc. Our fleet includes cars and vans seating from four to 20 and coaches for 40 and more. Your butler will be pleased to give you more details.

2. Car rental is easiest at the airport. If needed, we will order a car for you from a rental service that will deliver it to the Hotel. Car rental costs from 70 zł per day.

3. Local minibus service is available several times a day from Paszkówka to Kraków and back. Minibuses to Kraków to run every 30 minutes from a stop two kilometers away, at Trzebol. Although it means a two-kilometer walk, sometimes a transfer to another bus, and the comfort is less than impressive, such disadvantages are compensated for by the low cost of the trip at 4 zł.

4. From Wielkie Drogi station you can take a train to Kraków and Oświęcim. It is another inexpensive way to travel, though it may be challenging. The trip is rather long and low on comfort (Polish rail has room for improvement in cleanliness); moreover, for down-town Kraków you

will have to change trains at Kraków-Płaszów. All in all, an expedition that can be recommended to rail buffs and adventure hunters.

INDEX OF SERVICES

Alphabetical list of services offered by the hotel

Access: See p. XX.

Airing: Between 2 and 7:30 a.m.

Airport: The John Paul II International Airport at Kraków-Balice is 20 km from us; Katowice-Pyrzowice—about 60 km.

Alcoholic drinks: We are noted for our large selection of wines; our wine cellar is open to you to taste personally and select your wines to go with your meals or between meals. We also stock a variety of beer brands, as well as a wide choice of excellent Polish and imported vodkas and other alcoholic drinks.

Architecture, wooden: On the premises and in adjacent areas, you can still see historical wooden architecture (Wooden Architecture Trail), churches, and peasants' cottages. Worldwide, their number is shrinking, so it is in Poland, too. They are worth a visit, a pause, a snapshot.

Area map: In the reception.

Art: We host exhibits by domestic and international artists. See p. XX.

ATM's: The nearest teller machine is eight kilometers away toward Kraków, at a place called Zelczyna, at a Petrolchemia gas station, and the same distance toward Oświęcim, at Brzeźnica, at Bank Spółdzielczy there.

AUTOMATIC WAKE-UP CALL: See p. XX.

Baby cots: On request we will furnish one free of charge.

Baggage: Your baggage will be carried for you to your room and again to the car. Please notify the reception in advance when you are going to be finished packing. You can also leave your baggage for a few hours after checking out if you feel like taking a little longer by the pool or in the park.

Bar: See p. XX.

Barbecue: Would you like to BBQ by yourselves or with us? Your butler will arrange all.

Bathrobe: On request, we will send it up to your room.

Baths: See p. XX.

Bed linen: Changed every three days or on request.

Bicycles: Several bicycles are at hand for you to enjoy a ride in an area particularly well suited for this sport. A bike trail nearby will guide you. See also p. XX.

Blanket: You will find an additional blanket in the wardrobe or chest of drawers in your room. If you are still cold, do let us know.

Bonfires: See p. XX.

Books: The atmosphere of the Palace encourages reading. We recommend our own book collection. The nearest bookstore is about 12 km distant at Skawina.

Breakfast in bed: At no extra charge, served on request.

BUS TIMETABE ENCLOSED

Bus: See p. XX.

Bus timetable: See p. XX.

Butler: Is a staff member designated to look after you, to help you organize your time while in Paszkówka, to see to it that all your fancies are satisfied (within reason and decency), to help solve any problems, no matter how trivial, as you stay with us, and more. You can also expect help from us while away in another city in Poland.

Car hire: A car can be hired at the airport, in Kraków, or we can arrange for a car to be delivered to you at Paszkówka—your butler awaits your orders.

Carriage / sleigh rides: See p. XX.

Carriages: We are in cooperation with some local farmers who breed horses and will gladly drive up their carriages to our doorstep for you to enjoy a ride. A ride may take an hour or longer, it can also include a picnic or bonfire in the country. The fee is 250 zł (for 5-6 people) per hour.

Catholic Church: The nearest is 300 m from the Palace. There are more beautiful wooden churches

in the vicinity: Marcyporęba, Sosnowice, etc. Kraków is home to about 300 temples, also of other denominations.

Check-in, check-out: Check-in is from 2 p.m., Check-out by 12 p.m. If you wish to leave later or extend your stay, please contact the reception before 10 a.m. See also p. XX.

Children: Up to age 6, if they sleep with parents, children are accommodated free of charge. From 7 to 12, children's rate is 50% of adult rate. Children require constant attention; therefore if you would like to spend some time away from your darlings, we can care for them subject to prior arrangement.

Cigarettes: See: Cigars.

Cigars: We like the natural smell of cigars. Cigar smokers, you are welcome guests! We promote VSOP cigars from the Dominican Republic.

Cinema: You did not come to Paszkówka to go to the movies, but if that should be your wish, your butler will supply a list of cinemas and their listings.

Clinic: Health Center at Paszkówka, Day-and-Night Clinic at Skawina, medical emergency service at Skawina.

Computer: If you did not bring your own, we will lend you ours. While in Kraków, you can use one of its many Internet cafes.

Conference rooms: See p. XX.

Copying: Please contact the reception.

Cosmetics: Basic things are available in the reception. The nearest shop is about 300 m away. Your butler can arrange for delivery of what you need.

Credit cards: We accept Diners Club, Visa, JCB, Eurocard, Mastercard, American Express, and Polcard—as long as there is any credit left...

Currency exchange: See: Money exchange.

Discotheque: Disco fans may engage in their passion at the popular Energy 2000 Disco at Przytkowice nearby. It is so well liked it attracts people from 50 km away. Many more discos and clubs stand waiting in Kraków.

Doctor: The nearest clinic is 50 m away. If you are suddenly taken ill, a friendly doctor will at the Palace.

Dogs: Our two dogs, Cooper and Nona, steady residents at the Palace, our favorites and our Guests', will welcome you and your pets. All they ask is that you refrain from bringing over their more aggressive cousins, as this may adversely affect the peace and quiet at the Palace...

Dress: Any dress is acceptable; most guests dress casually, depending on situation.

E-mail: You can send and read your e-mails in your chamber using a cable connection or in lobbies or hallways by wireless. If you have left your computer at home, we will lend you ours for a quick contact with your near ones wherever they are.

Electricity: Each room and bathroom comes equipped with 220/230VAC power sockets.

Excursions: See p. XX.

Fax: We will send it for you if you like. Faxes are sent and received in the reception 24 hours a day.

Fire: See: Fire Instructions.

First aid: Please contact the reception.

Fishing: It is possible (though not always) to fish in our palace pond (but bring your own gear).

Fitness club: See p. XX.

Flowers: The nearest florist's is about 500 m from the Palace. On your request, we will order and deliver flowers to you.

Forest: There are kilometers of forests all around us... See p. XX.

Galleries: Paszkówka Palace doubles as an art gallery. Its walls are full of paintings, ever new. For information on new collections, please check a separate folder. In Kraków, you will find galleries aplenty of old and contemporary art. Ask for more information in the reception.

Games: Your butler has a list of available games. Fun is just a phone call away.

Gas station: The closest is about 4 km away, at a place called Jaśkowice (Petrochemia chain), open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Ghosts: We have got them, of course, which palace does not? You can rest assured, however, ours are benign spirits of the merry variety. If they haunt, it is with gaiety. Unfortunately, not all get to see them.

Guest book: It is a book we enjoy reading, and you enjoy writing in. Thank you for your most kind entries; we also welcome any comments: they help us improve our service further.

Guide: On request, we arrange for guides in Polish, German, and English (after prior booking).

Hair styling: Just tell the butler what you need and when. A hairdresser will call.

Health food: The Palace kitchen is supplied with produce from local farmers.

Historical sites: Kraków with its Old Town is 30 km away. Guidebooks are available in the reception.

Horses: we have them, but we only let experienced riders mount them. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee your safety on horseback. For those less qualified, we can arrange for a ride with an instructor at a stable. Please talk to your butler.

Hotel day: Check-in is from 2 p.m. (but if you arrive early, and your room is free, we will gladly accommodate you. If that is not possible, you can while away the time in the restaurant, bar, park, on by the pool, while we ready the room for you). Check-out time is 11 a.m. But please feel invited to stay a little longer: just do your packing and we will look after your baggage while you enjoy whatever the Palace has to offer, as long as you like. The pleasure is ours.

Hotel regulations: See p. XX.

Information: Your butler and receptionist are at your disposal at all times and wait for your call to help solve your problem or provide information.

Internet: Wireless connection in the Palace building, modem connection in the annex.

Ironing: Of course we will do it for you. Please inquire in the reception.

Jacuzzi: Your chamber is complete with a Jacuzzi or bubble bath. Please make sure that you do not turn on the bubble action before the bath is filled with water as it may cause damage. Ideally, please let us know, and we will ready a bath for you, perhaps in rose petals or goat milk?

Jogging: We go jogging in the park, near the pond, along country lanes, in the woods....

Laundry: Laundry service is available all week. In a drawer in your bathroom you will find a laundry bag. We will try to clean small stains on your clothing and will do your laundry. The nearest professional dry cleaner's is at Skawina, 12 km away. If needed, while you travel or rest, we will see that your laundry is attended to.

Lawn service: All day long, meals and drinks can be served outside on request.

Lights (on/out): Outside illumination is turned on after dusk, and extinguished after midnight if no guests are outside.

Local administration: the village of Paszkówka where you are is part of the Community of Brzeźnica (tel. +48 33 879 20 29). The community is part of Wadowice County (Powiat), Małopolska Province. The provincial capital is Kraków. An administrative map is enclosed.

Lost property: Please ask in the reception.

Maps: Available from the reception.

Massage: See p. XX.

Messages: Messages left for our Guests can be collected from the reception.

Mini-buses: See p. XX. (Bus timetable enclosed)

Money Exchange: The nearest exchange office is about 12 km away at Skawina. Not to worry: we accept foreign currencies.

Mountains: Paszkówka Palace is surrounded by lovely rolling hills of Wieliczka Upland (Pogórze Wielickie), Droboża range. Mountains begin 30 km to the west—Beskid Żywiecki, and 70 km to the south—the Tatras. Your butler will help you plan a trip and provide necessary information.

Museums: Brochures and guidebooks are to be picked up in the reception, while your butler will supply more information and good advice. Also see p. XX.

Music: See p. XX.

Payment: See: Credit cards

Peace and quiet: At Paszkówka Palace, we promise you peace and quiet. In order that we might keep our word, we request, on behalf of ourselves and your fellow Guests, that you refrain from making noise from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. This restriction, of course, does not apply to late-night receptions and weddings.

Pets: See: Dogs.

Pharmacy: The nearest is Remedium in Brzeźnica 325, eight kilometers away, tel. +48 33 879 2101. In any case, please contact your butler, who will arrange for delivery of your medicines.

Pond: On the premises, with a thousand green froggies singing their song. A frog concert is our spring-summer attraction. No extra charge.

Pool: See p. XX.

Post: Letters and packages are delivered to the reception. You can also leave here your outgoing correspondence. We sell stamps.

Postcards: As you send postcards to your family and friends, use ours and we will pay the postage. For more information, ask in the reception.

Press: Several dailies are available from the reception for you to peruse. If your favorite is not among them, we will get it for you once you tell the butler or the reception.

Prices for additional services: To hear current prices, please call the butler or reception.

Rail station: The nearest large railroad station is in Kraków, about 30 km from Paszkówka.

Railroad: See p. XX.

Reception: At your service day and night.

Refrigerator: There is one in each room.

Restaurant: The Palace restaurant will welcome you with traditional Polish dishes and French cuisine. See also p. XX.

Room cleaning: Daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you wish not to be disturbed or prefer cleaning to be done at a later time, please tell the reception.

Room locking: On leaving the room, please make sure that the door is locked. When leaving, please return the key to the reception.

Room service: On request, free of charge.

Safe: Free of charge in the reception.

Safety: See p. XX.

Sauna: See p. XX.

Sewing notions: You will find them in the desk in your room.

Shopping: The nearest shop is 50 m from us.

Skiing: See p. XX.

Sleigh ride: It is great fun. While snow is not guaranteed, the cooperation of our neighbor farmers who make it possible is. See p. XX.

Smoking: See: Cigars.

Soccer: A sports field is about 50 m away.

Souvenirs: Please inquire in the reception.

Stadium: The nearest is 50 m away: Dąb Paszkówki.

Swimming: See p. XX.

Taxi: Please ask in the reception. (Prices are enclosed.)

Telegram: We will send it or show you the way to the post office.

Telephone: See p. XX.

Television: Our TV offers only 12 channels: basic Polish channels, CNN, a German and a French channel. See also p. XX.

Theater: Kraków boasts several theaters and cabarets. Your butler has the addresses and listings.

Tipping: We expect no tips. However, we are told that we must not decline them once offered not to give offense.

Towels: To be found in the bathroom; for extras, please ask the reception.

Train: See p. XX.

Transportation: See p. XX.

TV channels: See p. XX.

Umbrellas: Available from the reception at no extra charge.

Veterinarian: There is one in the neighborhood and one at Skawina.

Wake-up call: Please contact the reception.

Walks: See p. XX.

Weather: Daily forecasts are available in the reception.

Window blackout: It is possible to darken the room entirely, such as during the day. For details please ask in the reception.

Wine cellar: See p. XX.

Wines: See: Wine cellar.

Wooden Architecture Trail: See p. XX.

Working out: See p. XX.

Writing accessories: You will find them in the desk in your room.



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