



HOTEL ASTORIA  
ST PETERSBURG

### WINTER IN ST PETERSBURG AT ITS BEST



*Stay at Hotel Astoria and experience all the winter wonders of the city*

St Petersburg is truly one of the most romantic travel destinations, for summer and winter alike, but the winter season also allows for more cultural and unique experiences, all during a quieter tourist season. When staying at Astoria Hotel, a Rocco Forte hotel, you are staying in the heart of historic St Petersburg near the most iconic attractions of the great city.

When visiting the Hermitage Museum, there are many things to see such as the **Believe Not Thine Eyes** exhibition or the **Trompe l'oeil in Art** exhibition that is dedicated to the illusory reproduction of real-life objects by artistic methods. Also showing is the **Piero della Francesca Monarch of Painting**, that brings together works by one of the most celebrated 15th-century masters from art collections in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Britain. In addition, if you are lucky to be visiting the main arts treasury on a Wednesday, plan to be there in the evening. At 8pm every week the famous gilded Peacock Clock is wound. The clock was a gift of love to the Empress Catherine the Great from Count Potemkin, and represents a composition of gilded birds that starts moving and singing once the clock is wound. Make your wish while watching the incredible work of art – the clock performance only lasts for one minute weekly.

The collection at the Faberge Museum tells a story of the royal gifts of love – the first jeweled eggs were the Easter presents from the Tsar Nicolas II to his wife Alexandra. Elaborate pieces of art had secret mechanisms and precious decorations and were elaborately done to smallest details. Once you visit the museum, upon your return to the hotel, make sure to try Astoria's signature dessert – Faberge Winter, a chocolate and mint indulgence by Pastry Chef Yulia Ivanova.

Seeing the ballet in Mariinsky and Mikhailovsky Theatres promises to be a highlight of your stay in St. Petersburg, especially if you are lucky to be here in time for Corsaire, Spartacus or Flame of Paris starring the incredible Ivan Vasiliev. To make it even more special, when staying at The Astoria Hotel you can sit in the hotel's VIP box in the Mikhailovsky Theatre. Our Concierge will be delighted to assist with tickets.



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You can't leave St. Petersburg without dedicating a day to wondering the streets of the historic city centre. Be sure to stop at the New Holland, a contemporary center of arts and entertainment, with an open-air ice skating rink and variety of dining options. Walk to Pospeluev Bridge (Kissing Bridge), which is believed to bring good luck to couples – but only if they keep kissing while walking the whole length of the bridge.

The first week of March is meant to celebrate the arrival of spring with Shrovetide otherwise known as Pancake Week, during which all possible variations of the baked goodies are cooked and enjoyed, because a large lacy pancake represents the sun. At the end of the week, a straw dummy of the Shrovetide is burnt, symbolizing annual eviction of winter cold and awakening of nature. Venture out to the suburbs of the city that used to be the residences of Russian Tsars, and have royal fun enjoying a sleigh ride along the paths of Pavlovsk or Pushkin, followed by hot tea from the traditional samovar with pies and pancakes to ring in spring.

Experience all the city has to offer when you book Hotel Astoria's **Discover St Petersburg** package: [Forte Experiences](#)

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### **Astoria Hotel**

Hotel Astoria is a luxurious contemporary hotel, located in historical center of St Petersburg, with illustrious biography and elegant traditions, fashionable interiors and dynamic service. It is the preferred hotel for cinema stars and musicians, politicians and famous artists. The most popular museums and theatres, galleries and shops, trendiest bars and restaurants are located within just a short walk from the hotel, allowing the guests to be in the epicentre of events and feel the pulse of the big city. The rooms and suites of Astoria combine ultramodern design elements with classic interiors and great views, creating cozy residential atmosphere, ideal for relaxation after an intense day of exploring St Petersburg.

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### **Rocco Forte Hotels**

Established by Sir Rocco Forte and sister, Olga Polizzi in 1996, Rocco Forte Hotels is a collection of 11 individual hotels and resorts. All of the hotels are landmarks, both old and new, occupying magnificent buildings in exceptional locations. Led by a family who has been in hospitality for four generations, the hotels are united by their distinctive approach to service ensuring guests experience the best of the cities and surrounding areas. Rocco Forte Hotels



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comprises: Hotel de Russie, Rome; Hotel Savoy, Florence; Verdura Resort, Sicily; The Balmoral, Edinburgh; Brown's Hotel, London; The Charles Hotel, Munich; Villa Kennedy, Frankfurt; Hotel de Rome, Berlin; Hotel Amigo, Brussels; Hotel Astoria, St Petersburg; Assila Hotel, Jeddah. 2019 will see the openings of Hotel de la Ville, Rome; Masseria Torre Maizza, Puglia; and The Westbund Hotel, Shangahi. 2020 will see the opening of Villa Igiea in Sicily.

[www.roccofortehotels.com/hoteldelaville](http://www.roccofortehotels.com/hoteldelaville)

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