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Experience Stockholm like a Nobel Prize winner

A Nobel life in Stockholm

Many people would love to attend the Nobel Prize festivities, but few are privileged to do so. One way to breathe in some of the Nobel aura without a formal invitation is to visit the City Hall Cellar (Stadshuskällaren), where all the historical Nobel menus, from 1901 to 2002, are served.

On December 10, Nobel Day, the world's most prestigious prizes will be presented to a handful of individuals for their exceptional contributions to the world of science, economics, and literature. After Sweden's monarch gives out the prizes, the winners, their families, and other invited guests make their way to Stadshuset, where one of Sweden's most exclusive parties takes place. The dinner's 1,300 guests include members of the royal family, the Nobel Prize winners and other outstanding scientists, as well as some of Sweden's most influential movers and shakers.

Enjoy a luxurious Nobel Prize dinner

Undoubtedly, some of the guests at the City Hall Cellar long ago realized that their dream of attending the Nobel Prize ceremonies would forever remain a dream. However, if you did not receive an invitation to the dinner, you can still enjoy a Nobel experience here and, for a few hours, in the restaurant's rustic brick chambers, succumb to the heady aura of these celebrations.

One of the guiding principles of these Nobel dinners is that the cuisine should be distinctly Scandinavian in character. The most common components are salmon, lobster, shellfish and game. Another important consideration is how the foods are combined. The dishes have to be appropriate for a broad group of people representing different cultures and religions. A third requirement is that everything having to do with the meal must be of the very highest quality. City Hall Cellar, Hantverkargatan 1, 08-506 322 00

www.profilrestauranger.se/eng/rest/stadshus

Nobel dinner service, an intriguing extra

The City Hall Cellar's charming atmosphere is reinforced by the table settings, composed of china and glassware used at Nobel dinners: Rörstrand porcelain, designed by Karin Björquist, and Orrefors glassware, designed by Gunnar Cyrén.



Like the proverbial “dot on the i,” the Nobel porcelain gives the entire meal an air of authenticity. However, in one departure from the Nobel tradition, the tables are not set in Blå Hallen (The Blue Hall). Further, the drinks on today’s menus differ from those served in the past because most of the wines are no longer available. Appropriate substitutes are made where necessary.

Facts about Alfred Nobel and his will

Alfred Nobel was born in 1833 and died in 1896. Upon his death, he owned 355 patents, as well as companies in 90 locations in 20 countries, and he had amassed a fortune of SEK 31.5 million. Under the terms of his will, the return on capital was to be distributed each year to individuals who had made the greatest contributions to mankind in the fields of literature, chemistry, physics, medicine and peace. The first Nobel Prize ceremony took place in 1901. Every year on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death, the Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm by HM King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden. The Nobel Prize in Economics was added to the list of prize categories in 1968. The Peace Prize is presented in Norway.

The Nobel Museum

The Nobel Museum, located in Gamla Stan, features the exhibition "Individuals, Milieus, and Creativity" and a table set with the Nobel dinner service. Museum hours: Tues, 11am-8pm; Wed-Sun, 11am-5pm; Closed Mondays. Stortorget, 08-534 818 00, www.nobel.se/nobelmuseum