

THE PENINSULA

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THE PENINSULA TOKYO'S ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM 1934

THE PENINSULA & ROLLS-ROYCE: LONG TIME PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

"Strive for perfection in everything you do. Take the best that exists and make it better. When it does not exist, design it." Henry Royce (Circa 1905)

The Peninsula and Rolls-Royce have been partners in excellence for almost 40 years, in a record-breaking partnership that began with The Peninsula Hong Kong's first order for seven Silver Shadows in 1970. That purchase made history for being the largest ever single order for Rolls-Royce motor cars, and over the years, The Peninsula Hong Kong has set new records with each successive order for Rolls-Royces.

The Peninsula Tokyo continues this tradition of excellence with two bespoke Rolls-Royce Extended Wheelbase Phantoms for the hotel, but pride of place of the hotel's fleet of Rolls-Royces goes to a magnificent and immaculately restored 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II. In trademark Peninsula green, the car is one of only three built with the Sedanca De Ville bodywork by Messrs Barker & Co (Coachbuilders by Appointment to HM The King and HRH The Prince of Wales) - the other two are owned by The Peninsula Hong Kong and The Peninsula Shanghai.

The design of the Phantom is typical of the time in England between two World Wars when formal themes were balanced by extraordinary outpourings of flair and flamboyance. During this period, the top carmakers produced only the working chassis, leaving other specialists to complete the vehicles to the requirements of individual clients.

This unique car is used for weddings at The Peninsula Tokyo, but before being put into service for Peninsula brides and grooms, the Phantom II needed substantial restoration and modification before it could shine in all its original splendour, and cope with modern Tokyo road conditions. The man responsible for steering the dream into reality was The Honourable Sir Michael Kadoorie, Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, and a self-confessed motoring buff, whose private collection of vehicles reflects his liberal tastes. Sir Michael took a

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personal interest in every stage of the restoration that was, he admits, “a real labour of love.”

The Phantom II was transported to the workshops of Ashton Keynes Vintage Restorations in Wiltshire, England, where the extensive, yet delicate, task of refurbishing and re-equipping has been undertaken. The vehicle has been unobtrusively adapted to current standards to ensure the comfort of its passengers without compromising its appearance or character, and technical modifications have been made to enable it to be used in Tokyo’s demanding traffic conditions.

Given its age, and the fact that it was built for a much gentler climate and motoring environment, the ability of the Phantom II’s original brakes, gearbox and engine cooling system to cope with Tokyo’s heat and traffic with only minor modifications is testament to the engineering skills of the original builders.

As well as the relatively straightforward mechanical and coachwork renovation, there is the matter of installing a multi-function telephone exchange, a complex audio system, air conditioning and a refrigerated drinks cabinet, all of which depend on finding space where the original builders had allocated none. These modern facilities are tastefully integrated or cleverly concealed under the dash, beneath the front and rear seating, within the division, behind the rear quarters and in the boot.

The result is a timeless classic that combines the grace and elegance of a bygone era with the modern luxuries and conveniences expected by today's discerning guests.

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About The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited (HSH)

Incorporated in 1866 and listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (00045), HSH is the holding company of a Group which is engaged in the ownership, development and management of prestigious hotel, commercial and residential properties in key locations in Asia, the United States and Europe, as well as the provision of transport, club management and other services. The hotel portfolio of the Group comprises The Peninsula Hotels in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, Tokyo, Bangkok, Manila and Paris (opening in 2013). The property portfolio of the Group includes The Repulse Bay Complex, The Peak Tower and The Peak Tramways, St. John's Building, The Landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Thai Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand.

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