



CELESTE ST PAUL  
HOTEL + BAR

**From Holy Music to Heavenly Suites:  
*Rebound Hospitality Reveals Details for Celeste St. Paul*  
*Boutique Hotel to Open Fall 2019***

St. Paul, Minn. – (Oct. 30., 2018) – Rebound Hospitality unveiled plans for transforming the historic Exchange Building in downtown St. Paul from its roots as a convent and Minnesota’s first fine arts school into a charming boutique hotel today. [Celeste St. Paul](#) is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019.

Built between 1908 and 1910, the Beaux-Arts-style building was originally home to [St. Agatha’s Conservatory of Music and Art](#), once the state’s premier institution of its type. It also served as the convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who ran the school until 1962 when it closed. The building was named to the National Register of Historic Sites in 1989.

Upon opening next year, Celeste St. Paul will include 71 guest rooms including 14 suites, 22 kings and 35 entry level rooms, as well as a bar, meeting rooms and a fitness room. With its downtown St. Paul location the hotel – blocks from the Minnesota Capitol, adjacent to the historic Fitzgerald Theater and steps away from the light rail Central Line – the hotel will be conveniently located for both business travelers, politicians and tourists visiting the city for work or to take in the flourishing food and theater scene.

“We believe that based on its original use as a school and convent that the Exchange Building is ideally suited to serve as a hotel,” said Brett Reese, president and CEO, Rebound Hospitality. “In addition, with its historical significance, this is a way of opening the property up to the public and once again engaging with the community. Celeste St. Paul is type of property that can help enrich a neighborhood and make it feel complete, much the same way St. Agatha’s Conservatory did.”

While upgrading the property – which is definitely showing some wear – with modern amenities, the owners plan to highlight and pay homage to the building’s rich history in a multitude of ways, beginning with the name. The new hotel will be christened Celeste St Paul in honor of Mother Celestine (nee Ellen Howard), the convent’s first Superior.

Guest rooms also will have names that harken back to the building’s origins, such as the Chapel Suite, a bridal suite that will occupy the former front sanctuary and altar area of the school’s chapel and showcases the chapel’s original stained glass ceiling; the Mother Superior Suite, the former offices of the Mother Superior; and Celestial King suites, which will occupy the topmost floor that initially housed an open air garden for the sisters – a rare architectural feature for the region.

The school’s two ornate front parlors that once served to greet new students and their families will become the registration area and a club-style bar and lounge. In the bar, dark-stained hardwoods will be

balanced by the room's 12 foot ceilings, ornate moldings and large, original over-sized casement windows. Adjoining the lounge will be an small annex that can be sectioned off for smaller more intimate groups and gatherings. The bar and lounge will feature hand-crafted cocktails and a light menu of appetizers, tapas and charcuterie that will be served up by classic white jacket-clad bartenders.

On the second floor a large portion of the school's former chapel will become a guest-only dining room offering complimentary breakfast with omelet station. The dining room as well as a board room that will occupy a portion of the school's original library will be available by reservation for private events, receptions and weddings.

Throughout the property, pains are being taken to preserve and restore many of the building's original architectural features, including the double-stair front entrance, original doors and trim, wood and terrazzo floors, stained glass windows in the chapel and original fireplaces in lobby and bar, original marble stair treads and iron work railings that decorate the main staircase, and a small private center courtyard.

[Rebound Hospitality](#) is a hospitality management company that specializes in restoring and converting historic properties into hotels. It focuses on developing businesses and people that are dedicated to serving and connecting their communities. Rebound Hospitality operates multiple hotel properties including the historic Archer House River Inn, Northfield, Minn.; and the Des Lux Hotel in Des Moines, Iowa; the Hotel Winneshiek, and Fairfield Inn & Suites, both in Decorah, Iowa. Rebound also recently opened a Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott in Northfield.

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