

THE WESTIN
ST. FRANCIS
SAN FRANCISCO
ON UNION SQUARE

TIME STANDS STILL UNDER THE CLOCK
History and Tradition Ring True At The Westin St. Francis on Union Square

"Meet me under the clock!" This time-honored refrain has echoed throughout the halls of The Westin St. Francis on Union Square for more than a century. Since the hotel's grand debut on March 21, 1904, The Westin St. Francis on Union Square, renowned for historical elegance and old world grandeur, has held a special place in hearts and minds throughout the world. An enduring symbol of the hotel's longevity, the Great Magneta Clock has been an official San Francisco meeting spot since it was first erected in the hotel lobby in 1907.

Built in 1856, the Great Magneta Clock made an arduous steamer trip from Europe around Cape Horn in 1907, and was officially dedicated to The Westin St. Francis on Union Square on November 30, 1907. This Viennese timepiece was the first master clock introduced to the West, and was installed in its place of honor in the grand lobby of The Westin St. Francis on Union Square following the hotel's recovery from The Great 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. For many years, the clock served as the master timepiece, controlling all the other clocks in the hotel. It quickly became a popular meeting place, especially during World War II when men in uniform would meet their girlfriends for a final rendezvous before shipping out to sea. More than a century later, it is still a special meeting place for families, friends, lovers and international adventurers.

In honor of the centennial anniversary of the Great Magneta Clock in 2007, The Westin St. Francis on Union Square launched a nationwide search for couples who met "under the clock." The winning couple, John and Elaine Palmer of Moraga, California, was selected from more than 50 entries received nationwide. Entries were submitted from couples who met as early as 1945, up to those who met a few years ago. The Palmers were awarded with a public vow renewal ceremony under the clock, followed by a lavish reception complete with a champagne toast, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, "clocktails" and a wedding cake created by Executive Pastry Chef Jean-François Houdré.

In Summer 2008, the Great Magneta Clock made its grand return to the Landmark Lobby alongside award-winning Chef Michael Mina's BOURBON STEAK and his first-ever cocktail lounge, aptly named CLOCK BAR.

ABOUT THE WESTIN ST. FRANCIS

Opened more than a century ago on March 21, 1904, The Westin St. Francis still today maintains its preeminence as San Francisco's center of social, theatrical and business life. Renowned for luxury accommodations and excellent service, The Westin St. Francis continues to preserve its rich history and elegance while enhancing the guest experience with fresh, innovative concepts. The only hotel located on San Francisco's famous Union Square, The Westin St. Francis is just

steps from world class shopping, dining, theatres and art galleries. For reservations and more information, call (415) 397-7000, toll free (800) 917-7458 or visit www.westinstfrancis.com.

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Photography available upon request.

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