"Arena di Serdica" Residence Hotel



Owner	
Name:	„Арена ди Сердика”("Arena di Serdica") Резиденс-Хотел(Residence Hotel)
First Name:	„Арена ди Сердика”("Arena di Serdica")
Last Name:	Резиденс-Хотел(Residence Hotel)
Phone:	359 2 8107788, 359 2 8107777
City:	София(Sofia)

Listing details

Location

City:	Sofia
Address:	2-4, Budapeshta Str.

Common

Title:	"Arena di Serdica" Residence Hotel
Property Type:	Hotels
Price:	€ 0.00

Additional information

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The newest luxurious business hotel in Sofia from the FPI Hotels & Resorts chain is located in the heart of the city. Arena di Serdika is steps from main administrative, financial and shopping districts, as well the cultural and historical sights. The Hotel is easily accessible from Sofia International Airport (10 km) and the Railway station (4km).

The pearl of modern Sofia are the ruins of an ancient Roman coliseum, dated from III century, exposed at the ground floor of the hotel. Enjoy its beauty while having breakfast or resting in the Lobby bar. The stylish Main Restaurant and the exquisite Panorama Restaurant offer fine wine selection, as well culinary temptations from the international and Bulgarian cuisine. For the well-being of the body, mind and spirit the Sports and Wellness club features latest technologies and professional service.

THE AMPHITEATER OF SERDICA
(AMPHITEATRUM SERDICENSE)

A slate was found in 1919 not far away from the Government building in Sofia. It depicted gladiator fights between men and predators. This artifact was a sure sign that there was a gladiator fights arena on the territory of ancient Serdica (modern Sofia). It was a known fact eversince that the amphitheater existed but its exact whereabouts were not clear. Serdica used to be an important trade and political center in the past. The large and well-developed city was built like Rome, with broad cobbled streets, a forum, beautiful shrines and imposing buildings with a magnificent decoration. At that time Serdica was the capital city of the Eastern internal province Dakia – a part of the Great Roman Empire.

Some 85 years after the finding of the slate, in 2004, a wall from Roman times was accidentally discovered during construction works of the newest hotel of the FPI Hotels & Resorts chain – Arena di Serdica. Archaeological excavation commenced. Archaeologist Zharin Velichkov, head of the project, had no doubt – what was found was the Amphitheater of Serdica! Surprises kept coming, though. Research of the site showed that there was a theater 5 meters beneath the amphitheater. It was built in 2nd or 3rd century A.D. i.e. about 100 years before the amphitheater was built in 3rd or 4th century A. D. These are the largest buildings from the age of ancient Serdica, evidencing its prosperity throughout the centuries. The find was declared unique and the discovery – unmatched in the world!

77 antique amphitheaters have discovered in the world so far. The largest one is the Colosseum in Rome. The Arena of Serdica (60.5 m long and 43 m wide) is only 10 m smaller. Only nine share the same architectural design with the Sofia one (its sitting part only encircles half of the arena). Yet the amphitheater of Serdica is the only one in the world, combining a Roman theater and a late-antique

amphitheater at the same place, and the only such building on the Balkan Peninsula. This makes the site really unique and its discovery – sensational. It is a fact that no capital or city in the world boast a combined theater and amphitheater in its very center. Research shows that the amphitheater of Sofia is twice as large as the one in Plovdiv and at least ten times as large as the Roman ruins in Hisarya and Devnya.

The multitude of coins and pottery, found by archaeologists on the site, have helped the scientists to precisely pinpoint the time of building of the amphitheater of Serdica: the end of 3rd century – the beginning of the 4th. Its construction has begun during the reign of emperor Diocletian and was completed during the reign of Constantine the Great. Theodosius I issues and edict in the end of 4th century, banning the spectacles that took place on the arena, depriving it of its function of an important community building. It was then left to fall apart. The building material from it was plundered as if it was a brick and stone pit and its ruins were used to build living premises. It is thought that people lived around the amphitheater till the end of 6th century.

The archaeological excavations are funded by Fair Play International AD, which invests in the large project of restoration, preservation and exhibition of this unique historical monument. The find, described by archaeologists and architects as unique, priceless and sensational, forced some changes in the architectural blueprints of the Arena di Serdica Hotel. Its very concept went through significant changes. It is entirely within the legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria which protects the national historic and cultural treasures.

Today, 17 centuries later, the amphitheater accepts guests once again, thanks to the efforts of the company. Its walls have kept their genuine look, the arena is covered with sand as it used to be in the past, and the clay tiles still bear the footprints of the animal (goats, dogs, cats) that died in the ferocious gladiator fights. One can see the dressing rooms of

the actors who performed on the stage and the East Gate Entrance where the chariots passed during the gladiator fights. Seven stone spectator seats have been preserved and set into their original places. A dwelling place and a furnace, dating back to the 5th-6th century, as well as a well from the 4th-5th century have been exposed. Additional constructions, coins and pottery from the time of the Ottoman Empire have also been discovered.

The access to the archaeological exposition is free today. 1/6 of the amphitheater of Serdica that has been restored and is on the Arena di Serdica hotel territory, is exposed in a most appropriate way and anyone can walk around and explore the excavations between 10.00 am and 4 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday. Arena di Serdica hotel is a living proof that modern buildings can live in harmony with what we have inherited from the past.

Coins

Archaeological research of the exposed 1/6 of the amphitheater of Serdica has found 616 coins, dating back to the rule of several Roman emperors. Most of them are made of copper and bronze, some are covered with silver and only one of them is covered with gold. The coins were minted mostly in the East – Thesalonica, Siscia, Nikomedia, Constantinople, Cisic, Antiohia and Alexandria. There are some western coins, minted in workshops in Rome, Aqualea and Ticinum.

There are coins from the rule of:
Emperor Caracalla (211 – 217) – coins, dating back to the earliest times
Emperor Maximian (296-305)Emperor DiocletianEmperor Constantine the Great (305-337)Emperor Galerius (309/311-317)Emperor LaelianusEmperor Constantine I (319-324/330)Emperors Constantine II, Constantius II and Constans II (337 – 355) – sons of emperor Constantine the GreatEmperor Julian the Apostate (361 – 363) and his heir emperor Jovian (363 – 364)Emperors Valens and Valentinian I

(364/367-375)Emperor Marcian
(450-457)EmperorEmperor Anastasius
(508-512)Emperor Justinian (540-565)Emperor
Theodosius I, Valentinian II and Arcadius (383 –
392) - coins, dating back to the latest times

Pottery

Fragments of pottery, used daily, as well as pottery from the 16th-19th century. It is assumed that at this time or later on a building was erected on the top of the antique walls. Two furnaces of Turkish bricks have been found that belonged to it. Some Ottoman coins have been found as well. One of them dates back to 1687 and was minted in Constantinie (Istambul). A large number of fragments and decorated vessels set the period of the whole collection – from the end of the 14th till the 18th century. Most valuable from an artistic point of view are the elements from the so called Turkish faience from the 14th century.
Various animals have been found in the antique layers that have lived in the amphitheater of Serdica – bears, a camel, a bull, a buffalo, goats, dogs.

Prices:

Contact information

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