

# Historic Hotels!

## IX: Chicago's *The Stevens*

Located on Michigan Avenue overlooking Grant Park and Lake Michigan, the old Hilton Hotel is one of the older and most beautiful hotels in Chicago. It is in Italian Renaissance style. Built in 1927, it was originally known as the Stevens Hotel. At the time of completion, it became the world's largest hotel, sporting 3,000 guest rooms, a rooftop golf course, and a grand ballroom. The grand ballroom was modelled after the Palace of Versailles: washed in pinks, cream and powder blue, it features 24 carat gold leaf and crystal chandeliers and a series of golden arched doorways linked by gilt framed pastoral murals. There is also a double story Grand Stairwell.

The hotel however, went bankrupt during the Great Depression. Luckily, the hotel went through a \$185 million renovation in 1985, restoring the property to its original form. Now with only 1544 rooms, yet more conference rooms and halls, the building features an authentic Irish pub.

It's now the Hilton Chicago, offering guests a beautiful lakeside, metropolitan setting in the center of Chicago's cultural campus, close to all the exciting museums, theaters, and nightlife. The hotel has received some of the hospitality field's most prestigious awards including the Gold Key, Pinnacle, M&D, Mobil Travel Guide's Four Star Rating and AAA's Four Diamond Award.

