



Biography

Alain Sebban

Founding Chairman of the Vatel Group

Born in Oran in March 1946, Alain Sebban arrived in Lyon in 1958 with his parents who came to take over the management of the Hotel 'Le Verdun' in Lyon.

He started his hospitality studies in 1968 at Thonon-les-Bains, and finished them in Paris where he graduated in Hotel Management and catering. Thereafter, he took over the management of the Hotel Verdun and created in 1975 *Hôtel Assistance*, a hotel-specific staff recruitment group.

In 1978, he felt that the development of the Hotel and catering industry would involve internationalisation and he therefore created *Hotel Consultant International*.

Nominated President of *the Association Internationale des Diplômés de la Restauration et de l'Hôtellerie (ADIRH)*, he was convinced that this sector lacked partners ready to take on the challenge of internationalisation.

In 1981, he opened the first *Vatel* school in Paris. His goal was to train employees in order to meet the requirements needed for the Hotel and catering sector to develop.

In 1984, he opened the second *Vatel* school in Lyon, followed by a third in Nîmes in 1989. *Vatel's* teaching concept was born, and Alain Sebban therefore decided to multiply this concept via franchises; the first of which was in Bordeaux in 1994. Then in 2002, with the advent of globalisation, *Vatel* began to accelerate its international development.

In 1989, he creates Eurhodip with Mr Rene Menu and took on the position of President for 10 years.

During the 17^e Worldwide Hospitality Awards, in 2016, the *Vatel* group became the 'Best Hospitality Management School' among 42 of the most prestigious hotel schools in the world.

Today, the *Vatel* group is made up of 50 schools, 7,000 students and 35,000 graduates worldwide and continues to be the number one Hotel and Tourism Management training group.



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