

Airport experiences at the Fly Inn restaurant

The new passenger terminal at Helsinki Airport was completed in 1969. At the same time, the 216-seat Lentoravintola was opened, serving passengers and visitors to the airport.

The restaurant, later known as Fly Inn, earned its place as a favourite of air passengers, a spot for spotting planes and a meeting place with an international atmosphere.

Tables could be booked at the Fly Inn restaurant e.g. for May Day or Mother's Day lunches. Until the 1983 terminal extension, Fly Inn was responsible for almost all of the airport's restaurant services.

Over the decades, the restaurant was owned by several restaurant entrepreneurs. The location still remained the same, as did the high quality of the restaurant. In the past, when flight delays were more common, airlines could offer their passengers three-course meals with drinks included while they waited for their flights. Even this kind of surprise catering for up to 300 people could be carried out smoothly.

In the 1970s, Lentoravintola was also responsible for catering services at the airport's VIP facilities. In the 1980s, the restaurant's only private dining room was in heavy use. In the 1990s, people were encouraged to come to Fly Inn to watch planes and the bustle of the airport, with no obligation to eat.

The entrance to the Fly Inn restaurant was moved to the gate area in connection with the extension work that began in 2008. Today, there is a lounge area where the Fly Inn used to be. Nowadays Helsinki Airport has almost 40 restaurants and cafes serving both passengers and all customers visiting the airport.

Finavia in collaboration with Finnish Aviation Museum
Photo: Seppo Kervinen / Finnish Aviation Museum.

