

Latest News at the Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort

Renovation Transforms Iconic ‘Jewel of the Desert’: The iconic Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort has re-mastered guest rooms and suites, meeting spaces, ballrooms, pre-function rooms, spa and salon, as well as the prohibition-era “speakeasy,” with a sophisticated look that recalls the seductive style of the resort’s early years. The multi-million-dollar renovation created modern and refined accommodations with posh new interior décor and enhanced technology to accommodate the needs of today’s well-connected travelers, while preserving the historic Frank Lloyd Wright architectural style that distinguishes the “Jewel of the Desert.” Interior designer Smith Firestone Associates is creating timeless refinement where classic luxury meets modern sanctuary. “We are thrilled to complete this major renovation in time to celebrate our historic property’s 85th anniversary this year,” said General Manager Sheila Foley. “The Grand Dame has emerged with state-of-the-art facilities set to an historic and architecturally stunning backdrop, creating an unrivaled desert oasis.” Also playing a major role in transforming the resort has been the recent additions of 120-room Ocatilla, an exclusive “hotel within the hotel,” and vibrant and popular Frank & Albert’s, serving Arizona Comfort Food. Meanwhile, signature restaurant Wright’s at The Biltmore was remodeled and repositioned with a menu of classic dishes re-invented with today’s culinary trends.



Roaring 20s Redux: “Speakeasy” Re-Opens: The 1920s have come roaring back at the Arizona Biltmore with the re-creation of the legendary resort’s original “Mystery Room,” the secret speakeasy that was hidden in the resort’s main building. When the hotel opened in 1929



during Prohibition, the Mystery Room boasted a well-stocked liquor cabinet that conveniently converted into a bookcase in the event of a raid – with a high-powered spotlight mounted on the roof to watch for patrol cars. The era’s fun times are relived in a signature setting of the ‘20s defined by the distinctive architectural style of Frank Lloyd Wright. The speakeasy comes to life 8-11 p.m. on Sundays. Enclosed in original Biltmore Blocks, with a restored gold-leaf ceiling, the room sports a bartender in period attire and music and cocktails from the Prohibition years. Admission is free but, like the security measure employed at Roaring ‘20s speakeasies, a password is required. Search #speakeasy on Twitter for the password (the resort tweets a clue weekly from @ArizonaBiltmore).

85th Anniversary of a Grand Dame: The Arizona Biltmore is one of America’s most iconic and storied resorts, a synonym for rich history and grand style. And this year the legendary property is celebrating an historic milestone – its 85th anniversary! The legendary grand dame is acclaimed for its distinctive architecture and Who’s Who clientele. As the consulting architect, Frank Lloyd Wright’s imprint and style defines every aspect of the property. When the hotel

opened in 1929, socialites, titans of business and prominent politicians flocked to the “Jewel of the Desert,” ushering in a decades-long, Gatsby-like era of extravagance and cachet. Every president from Herbert Hoover through George W. Bush has been a guest. Hollywood stars discovered the resort in the 1940s and have been coming ever since – from Marilyn Monroe sunning at her favorite pool (Catalina Pool) to Frank Sinatra and Liza Minnelli giving impromptu concerts at the lobby piano to Bruce Springsteen vacationing with his family. Today, the landmark resort offers the sophisticated, engrossing vacation lifestyle guests expect, from trend-setting accommodations in Ocatilla to exciting culinary events in Wright’s to the latest fitness programs at the spa.



Winemaker Dinners: Silver Anniversary: The Arizona Biltmore is celebrating 25 years of Winemaker Dinners with its most extensive season ever: 11 extravagant culinary evenings plus prize drawings for the first time. Held in historic Wright’s at The Biltmore, the dinners combine innovative gourmet dining, acclaimed wines, winemakers in attendance to discuss their wines, after-dinner drinks and cigars, plus the opportunity to win bottles of wine and a stay or dining at the resort. Each dinner features an original multi-course menu prepared by Executive Chef Gordon Maybury and Chef de Cuisine Bryan Gorton, paired with specially selected wines of a noted vintner. “We work intimately with the vintners to create an edgy and exciting menu of four-to-five courses with tastes and textures that perfectly complement the wines being poured,” said Chef Maybury. Featured wineries will be from Napa Valley and Paso Robles, California, and Piedmont, Italy. Dinners are \$95 each.

2nd Annual Arizona Concours

d’Elegance: Following a successful inaugural event last year, the Arizona Biltmore will host the 2nd annual Arizona Concours d’Elegance on Sunday, Jan 11, 2015. “With our warm and sunny winter weather in Phoenix, and our historic architecture dating from 1929 that perfectly complements and enhances the vintage experience of the Concours d’Elegance, everyone can look forward to a spectacular day of dazzling automobiles and reliving history,” said General Manager Sheila Foley. America’s most celebrated architect,



Frank Lloyd Wright, was also a dedicated car enthusiast, and in tribute to his influence on the landmark design of the Biltmore (he was the consulting architect), the event will feature The Cars of Frank Lloyd Wright. In all, 80 classic automobiles spanning the history of motoring will be on display, and judges will pick winners in 17 specialty classes as well as the Best of Show. www.ArizonaConcours.com. The Arizona Biltmore is offering special Concours room rates.

Arizona Biltmore: 602-955-6600, 800-950-0086, www.arizonabiltmore.com

Media Contacts: - Marian Gerlich / Ed Placidi, Partners, P&G Communications
818-786-8687, pgworld@aol.com
- Samantha Swadish, PR & Marketing Manager, Arizona Biltmore
602-950-2550, samantha.swadish@waldorfastoria.com