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## THE BREAKERS HISTORY

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After accumulating a great fortune through a partnership with John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil, today ExxonMobil, Henry Morrison Flagler turned his attention to Florida in 1883. Impressed with the mild winter climate, he began the construction of his first hotel in St. Augustine and continued south to Palm Beach. Until his death in 1913, Flagler established an extraordinary legacy along the state's east coast, of which The Breakers is a monumental part.

- 1893** Henry Morrison Flagler purchases 140 acres between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Worth.
- 1894** On February 11, Flagler opens his first luxury Palm Beach hotel on Lake Worth, Hotel Royal Poinciana, which becomes the largest hotel in the world at the time. On April 2, the Florida East Coast Railway begins service to West Palm Beach.
- 1896** Flagler enlarges a winter home on the oceanfront side of the property forming the Palm Beach Inn (later renamed The Breakers), an extension of Hotel Royal Poinciana and the only oceanfront hotel south of Daytona Beach. Flagler also extends the Florida East Coast Railway to Miami and builds the Port of Palm Beach, a 1,000-foot pier off the Palm Beach Inn, which allows guests to travel via steamship to Nassau, Havana and Key West.
- 1897** Flagler contracts Alexander H. Findlay to build the first 9-hole golf course in Florida.
- 1899** Due to Palm Beach's growing popularity and new reputation as a "winter paradise", Hotel Royal Poinciana is enlarged by half its size.
- 1900** During the summer, Flagler lays foundation for Whitehall, his private residence.
- 1901** Guests begin to request a room "down by the breakers" and the Palm Beach Inn is officially renamed The Breakers. On August 24, Flagler marries Mary Lily Kenan in Kenansville, North Carolina.
- 1902** On February 6, Mr. and Mrs. Flagler move into Whitehall, one of the great estates of America's Gilded Age. This exquisite 55-room marble palace on Lake Worth was specially built as a gift to Flagler's bride. Today, Whitehall is also known as the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum and open for the public to enjoy.

- 1903** While being enlarged, The Breakers catches fire and burns to the ground on June 9. A magnificent new wooden structure opens in its place on February 1, 1904 and is deemed one of the finest hotels in America. Flagler extends his railroad to the front of the hotel for convenience. The tracks remain until the late 1920s.
- 1913** Following a serious fall at Whitehall, Flagler moves to his seaside Nautilus Cottage where he dies on May 20.
- 1925** On March 18, the “second” Breakers burns down due to a fire that was allegedly started by one of those “newfangled curling irons.” The Turner Construction Company signs a contract to build the new Breakers on December 4.
- 1926** In a tribute to Henry Flagler’s vision, his heirs build the current Breakers, one of the finest resorts in the world, at a cost of \$7 million. The Breakers is completed in a record 11 1/2 months and opens on December 29, just in time for the start of season.
- 1928** As The Breakers increases in popularity, and to accommodate guests more comfortably at dinner, the heirs add The Circle, one of the most picturesque dining rooms in the world.
- 1930 - 1935** Hotel Royal Poinciana is gradually torn down as The Breakers has become the primary resort in town.
- 1942 - 1944** On September 10, The Breakers becomes the U.S. Army’s Ream General Hospital, where thousands of servicemen and women recuperate from their wounds and illnesses during World War II. More than a dozen babies – known as “Breakers Babies” – are born at the hotel. In May of 1944, the U.S. Army returns The Breakers to its owners. The Breakers reopens as a hotel on December 24.
- 1968** The Breakers adds 150 guest rooms to the east wings, extensive meeting facilities, the Venetian Ballroom and a new Beach Club, which replaces the older Beach Casino.
- 1970** The Breakers is fully air conditioned.
- 1971** The Breakers, originally open mid-December to mid-April, commences year-round operation.
- 1973** The Breakers is named to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1995 - 1997** The Breakers establishes The Shops at The Breakers, an ever expanding and evolving collection of world-class boutiques, that includes The Breakers Signature Shop, Guerlain, Absolutely Suitable and more. In 1996, the resort celebrates its Centennial Anniversary as a Palm Beach and national landmark.
- 1999** The Breakers opens its new oceanfront Spa, Beach Club and Ponce de Leon Ballroom.

- 2000** Echo, the resort's first off-site restaurant opens; it features the distinctive cuisines of Asia.
- 2001** The historic Ocean Course is renovated and the new Golf & Tennis Clubhouse opens.
- 2002** A guest room and suite renovation comes to completion and the Main Drive is redesigned.
- 2003** The Breakers unveils its new Family Entertainment Center, a complex of activities for all ages.
- 2004** Famed golf course architect Rees Jones partners with The Breakers on the reconstruction of the golf course at Breakers West.
- 2006** The Breakers unveils a beachfront redevelopment that includes the addition of two pools, three whirlpool spas, 20 private poolside bungalows and The Ocean Grill.
- 2007** A five-year, guest room renovation commences and the John Webster Golf Academy opens at both the Ocean Course and The Breakers Rees Jones® Course at Breakers West.
- 2008** The Breakers opens Mix - a new fashion and fine jewelry boutique.
- 2011** The ultimate resort shoe boutique, Match, opens.
- 2012** The Breakers begins a design partnership with Tihany Design, which launches with the opening of HMF, the resorts chic social club. Its name honors The Breakers legendary founder, Henry Morrison Flagler.
- 2013** The Breakers introduces The Surf Break - an open-air, oceanfront bar, and the Adult Pool. Flagler Steakhouse is reimaged by Tihany Design and the resort embarks on another phased guest room revitalization.
- 2014** With views of the Atlantic, Ocean Fitness, a spectacular 6,000 square foot, indoor-outdoor fitness center, opens to hotel guests on a complimentary basis.
- 2015** The Breakers unveils the ultra-luxurious Flagler Club – an exclusive boutique hotel within the hotel, a magnificent new indoor-outdoor Spa and renovated Ocean House (formerly The Ocean Grill).
- 2016** Inspired by the yachting lifestyle of Palm Beach, the legendary Seafood Bar is completely redesigned by Tihany Design and reopens in time for the upcoming winter season.
- 2017** The expansion of the south mezzanine meeting spaces increases the number of conference rooms to 33.
- 2018** Named after Flagler's wife, Mary Lily's welcomes visitors with sweet treats and frozen indulgences and News & Gourmet undergoes an extensive renovation. The historic Ocean Course is reconstructed by golf course architect Rees Jones.

- 2019** The Imperial and Royal Poinciana Suites in the resort's south oceanfront tower, along with the hotel's main lobby, Ponce de Leon Ballroom and 25 poolside bungalows are all refreshed by celebrated Tihany Design.
- 2020** The Gulfstream Meeting Rooms, Ocean Fitness center and Polo Ralph Lauren and Match boutiques are updated. Via Flagler by The Breakers, an inviting plaza featuring a collection of galleries, boutiques and eateries, opens on Royal Poinciana Way. Included are the resort's second off-site restaurant, Henry's Palm Beach - elevated comfort food with character, and SHAN - innovative swim and resort wear.
- 2021** Blending a classic café with a contemporary boutique, the resort welcomes Main Street by The Breakers at Via Flagler. The Family Entertainment Center reimagines its playground and adds a nine-hole mini golf course. On January 16, The Breakers commemorates its 125th Anniversary.
- 2022** The resort elevates its Adult Pool experience, while The Shops at The Breakers completes extensive enhancements to its Guerlain and Absolutely Suitable boutiques and welcomes Polo Ralph Lauren Kids to the collection. Breakers West Country Club modernizes various areas within its clubhouse and debuts the renovated Rees Jones® golf course.
- 2023** Flagler Club - the private access, ultra-luxury boutique hotel set atop The Breakers - undergoes a full remodel by Tihany Design, while modifications and enhancements are made to four of the resort's premier event spaces (Venetian Ballroom, Mediterranean Ballroom, Magnolia Room and Gold Room).

Thanks to our long-standing family ownership, The Breakers continues to reinvest an average of \$30 million in annual capital improvements and ongoing revitalization. More to come...

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