



Winter 2012

Dear Journalist:

The legendary Hotel del Coronado has unveiled several major enhancements over the last few years, including spectacular ocean-view dining, the cottages and villas at Beach Village, upscale shops and boutiques, an award-winning Spa and new centers for kids and teens.

The cottages and villas at Beach Village offer an exclusive enclave within the iconic setting of the oceanfront resort. Located on Coronado's award-winning beach and inspired by the original hotel's coastal architectural style, the 78 guestrooms and suites at Beach Village offer dining and living spaces with gourmet kitchens, cozy fireplaces, spa-style baths and spacious ocean-view balconies and private terraces.

The award-winning Spa at The Del features 21 treatment rooms, a spectacular outdoor relaxation terrace with vanishing edge pool, and unique ocean-inspired treatments. A state-of-the-art fitness center adjacent to the Spa offers personal training, weight and cardiovascular equipment and a studio for aerobics, spin classes and Pilates. Yoga and mediation on the beach are also available.

Kidtopia is an exciting facility for children ages 4 to 12, featuring beach-themed rooms for crafts and playtime. Kidtopia offers three-hour camps and one-hour craft programs that are entertaining and educational. Vibz is a year-round teen lounge with billiards, foosball, darts, computers, movie-time media, Dance Dance Revolution and, most importantly, the opportunity for teens to meet other people their own age.

"We are thrilled to offer Beach Village as the ultimate vacation experience, along with oceanfront dining, shopping, and wellness amenities," says Todd Shalan, Vice President and General Manager of the Hotel del Coronado. "We are committed to preserving the magic of this more than 120-year-old icon while transitioning into the 21st century."

Please visit our press room at [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com) for current and archive releases and photography. In the meantime, thank you very much for your interest in The Del.

All the best,

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**January 6, 2012**

**HOTEL DEL CORONADO OFFERS THE ULTIMATE BACKDROP FOR ROMANCE**

Coronado, CA — Even before the Hotel del Coronado opened its doors in 1888, it showed its romantic promise. In fact, the resort celebrated its first wedding in 1887, while The Del was still under construction. The bride and groom, daughter and son of two supervising engineers, exchanged vows in the Ballroom. Since that time, The Del has enjoyed more than 120 years of legendary romance. With an endless white sand beach, fairytale Victorian architecture and spectacular Pacific sunsets, The Del is truly San Diego's most romantic setting.

**1500 OCEAN**

With spectacular ocean views and cozy outdoor fire pits, 1500 OCEAN offers an intimate setting for a memorable rendezvous. On Valentine's Day, Chef Aaron Martinez will create magnificent "Just for Two" menu options utilizing fresh, regional food and wine selections.

**ENO Wine Room**

Devoted to providing the three most delectable indulgences in the culinary world — fine wine, rare cheeses and gourmet chocolate — ENO wine room offers guests only the very best in a one-of-a-kind tasting experience, all served individually or in sets of three (also called flights). On Tasting Tuesdays enjoy 10 wine tastings for \$12 from 5-8pm.

**That's S'more!**

Spa at The Del offers the ultimate outing for you and your sweetheart. Enjoy a side-by-side 50-minute Swedish Massage in the couples spa suite. Then head out to the sand for a private beach bonfire complete with s'mores, champagne and spectacular Pacific views. We'll provide the fire, you bring the flames!

**"Night of Romance" Package**

Treat your sweetheart to an overnight stay. The 'Night of Romance' Package includes a dozen roses, champagne and strawberries plus breakfast for two overlooking the Pacific and complimentary valet parking. Rates start at \$460/night.

**Advance reservations are highly recommended. Please call HOTEL-DEL or visit [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com).**

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**January, 6, 2012**

**BE WELL AT THE DEL BY YOGATRIPS™**  
**Hotel del Coronado Presents Wellness Weekend Series**  
**March 16-18, 2012**

Coronado, CA – The Spa at The Del and YogaTrips™ are pleased to present the first in a new series of ‘Be Well at The Del’ weekend retreats on March 16-18, 2012. This revitalizing weekend will be focus on health, wellness and the ancient art of yoga. Guests will be treated to invigorating yoga classes tailored to all skill levels, an ocean-inspired spa treatment, special fitness instruction and spa cuisine over the course of the weekend.

Luciana LoPresto is the nationally-acclaimed founder of YogaTrips™, vacations centered around daily yoga practice to enhance one’s sense of culture and place. With more than twenty years experience teaching yoga, Luciana offers instruction that blends the vigorous Vinyasa style with the precision of Iyengar yoga. She is excited at the prospect of bringing her craft to Coronado’s award-winning beach. In addition to her classes, Luciana will also be on hand throughout the weekend to provide personal yoga consultations.

The ‘Be Well at The Del’ weekend retreat includes:

- 2 nights accommodations at the legendary Hotel del Coronado
- One 50-minute spa treatment at the award-winning Spa at The Del
- Welcome reception and elixir bar overlooking the Pacific Ocean
- Breakfast daily at Sheerwater
- Herb garden reception with The Del’s master chefs followed by a garden-inspired lunch
- Wine and wellness dinner with enlightening presentations
- Two invigorating 90-minute yoga classes on the beach with acclaimed instructor, Luciana LoPresto. Classes will be tailored to all skill levels.
- An inspirational Pilates class
- Luciana LoPresto will provide personal yoga consultations throughout the weekend

**The ‘Be Well at The Del’ two-night package is \$735 per person based on double occupancy. Single occupancy pricing available.**

Additional 2012 ‘Be Well at The Del’ weekend retreats include June 1-3 and October 19-21 (itinerary participants subject to change).

For reservations, please visit [www.hoteldel.com/wellness](http://www.hoteldel.com/wellness) or call 800-HOTEL DEL.

**About Spa at The Del:**

Spa at The Del, named one of the “top 20 hotel spas in the world” by *Travel + Leisure*, offers a variety of luxurious, ocean-inspired treatments, including massages, wraps and facials. The spacious spa includes 21 treatment rooms, sanctuary areas, hydrotherapy tubs and steam rooms. A private terrace and vanishing-edge pool overlooking the magnificent Pacific offers the ultimate therapeutic retreat. Salon at The Del features hair, nails and make-up artistry. The wellness-based approach to salon services reflects the beauty and grandeur of the seaside resort, offering the Pacific Ocean’s tranquil sanctuary with a touch of Victorian elegance.



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**January 5, 2012**

**HOTEL DEL CORONADO ANNOUNCES \$8 MILLION  
VICTORIAN GUESTROOM RENOVATION**

Coronado, CA –The historic Hotel del Coronado is pleased to announce a dramatic multi-million dollar renovation of its 368 guestrooms and suites in the original 124-year-old Victorian building. Featuring sleek new contemporary furnishings, crisp white linens with cream and gray accents, this California icon has been transformed to define modern luxury while retaining classic elegance and period style.

“As stewards of this national treasure, we are thrilled to unveil these latest enhancements and know that our guests will also share in our excitement,” says Todd Shallan, Vice President and General Manager.

Conceived by Looney & Associates, the design philosophy for the project is softly contemporary with historical and regional references. The goal was to introduce a more current, clean-lined direction without losing the sense of place and beauty for which The Del is known. With subtle, sophisticated elegance as its hallmark, the recreated guestrooms reflect the warm, natural style of the beachfront resort. The calm, soothing palette includes soft lilacs, rich browns and delicate oyster-tinged neutrals, infusing the spaces with a fresh new perspective. The design references the historical relevance of the property with Victorian-era motifs subtly utilized in fabrics, textures, and geometric forms. The new furnishings are constructed of honest, natural materials such as woven leathers and wools, embroidered patterns and woods such as teak and cerused walnut.

The unique guestrooms also feature 42-inch flat screen televisions, upholstered headboards, executive desks with high speed internet access and updated artwork selections that reflect the area’s natural surroundings. Many of the guestrooms include separate seating areas with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, Glorietta Bay and picturesque Coronado Island. The renovation, which is slated for completion in March, will meld state-of-the-art amenities and technology with the timeless beauty and charm that the legendary resort embodies.

For more information or reservations, call 800 HOTEL DEL or visit [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com) .

**About The Del:**

The legendary Hotel del Coronado is located on 28 oceanfront acres on Coronado Island. Built in 1888 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977, The Del is an American treasure with over 120 years of stories to tell. Rated one of the top 10 hotels in the world by *USA Today*, The Del continues to maintain its rich history while also offering contemporary conveniences such as unique beachfront dining experiences, an award-winning spa, upscale shopping, a variety of recreational activities and the luxurious cottages and villas at Beach Village.

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**THE LEGENDARY HOTEL DEL CORONADO UNVEILS  
NEW SIGNATURE GARDENS**

Coronado, CA — When the historic Hotel del Coronado opened in 1888, travelers were drawn to the lush landscaping and mild climate. The resort was considered a sanctuary of health, and guests loved strolling the grounds and admiring the beautiful gardens. Today, the resort is continuing that legacy with spectacular new signature gardens by the world's leading plant brand, Proven Winners.

The Del's signature gardens feature spectacular annuals, perennials and succulents with the newest plants from horticulture's leading breeders. The gardens stretch along the Windsor Lawn by the oceanfront restaurants and blends with the sustainable herb garden just outside of the spa's private terrace and vanishing edge pool. The colorful beds are sure to inspire guests and visitors and encourage creative ideas for home gardens everywhere.

Roughly 6,500 plants of more than 35 Proven Winner varieties were planted in April 2011. More than 80 percent of the plants were grown in a jumbo Elle pot – a plantable, bio-degradable, paper-like sheath that eliminates the need for a plastic pot. The gardening team also used a special blend of Coastal Color Blend soil made by Agriservice. About a dozen large baskets hang from the decorative light posts near the herb garden. Some of the key varieties in the new gardens include: calibrachos, hibiscus, mandevillas, petunias, anisodonteia hybrid, euphorbia graminea, lobularia hybrid, aeonium hybrid, aloe variegata, and echeveria hybrid.

The new gardens blend seamlessly with the existing sustainable herb garden that was planted in 2010. The herb garden provides seasonal vegetables, fruit and herbs to The Del's restaurants, allowing for the chefs to select the freshest ingredients daily. The garden features strawberries, rosemary, garlic, red cabbage, golden sage, oregano, celery, mint leaves, Italian parsley, fennel, chives, lettuce, peppers, chamomile and more. The adjacent Spa at The Del also uses some of the herbs for their signature spa treatments and to make homemade flavored waters..

The Signature Gardens and sustainable herb garden at the Hotel del Coronado feature detailed plant labels, enabling guests to take self-guided tours and learn about the gorgeous, colorful varieties from Proven Winners.

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**HOTEL DEL CORONADO'S EXECUTIVE CHEF JOHN SHELTON  
TRANSFORMS A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ICON**

Coronado, CA – Since the resort opened in 1888, the Hotel del Coronado has enjoyed a distinguished culinary history. In those days, dining was a lavish social event, and much of the day was devoted to dressing for or enjoying a meal. In 1920, an enormous banquet was held here for England's Prince of Wales, and in 1927 Charles Lindbergh was honored with his own celebration after his successful transatlantic flight. The Crown Room was also the scene for the first state dinner held outside of the White House. *Wizard of Oz* author L. Frank Baum is credited with designing the crown chandeliers that adorn the ceiling.

It is only fitting then that The Del's Executive Chef, a California native who loves to surf, fish and has more energy than Superman, is definitely not your typical chef. The position of Executive Chef for a major hotel is a daunting job to say the least. It requires managing a culinary staff in the hundreds, operations for multiple restaurants and overseeing banquet and catering events, food and wine purchasing, dining presentation and service and much more. Joining The Del in November 2006, Chef John made it his objective to not only oversee the resort's dining operations, but to transform The Del's culinary landscape completely.

Shelton grew up in San Juan Capistrano, fishing and surfing the Southern California coastline. Chasing the surf to Baja, mainland Mexico, Tahiti and Hawaii, he began to acquire a passion for local cuisines. As his interests grew, he ventured to culinary school and began his classical cuisine experience. He worked for nine years at the prestigious Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel and then at several California Starwood properties. Eventually his career led him throughout the U.S. where he opened several Westin Hotels. When the Executive Chef position opened at the Hotel del Coronado, he jumped at the chance to return home. At The Del, Shelton was free to draw inspiration from his first love, the ocean, and from the onset his vision for the resort centered around the experience provided by the sea.

Shelton's passion for California's natural gifts and abundance manifests itself in an emphasis on fresh, local and sustainable cuisine. In 2010, he oversaw the re-concepting of Sheerwater to a fish-focused eatery where guests can choose from a wide variety of seafood including the chef's specialty: the freshest catch of the day from local fisherman. 1500 OCEAN, The Del's signature restaurant, focuses on Southland Coastal cuisine with selections from Santa Ynez to Cabo San Lucas (John's well-tread stomping grounds). Offering the freshest seasonal ingredients from local farmers and producers, this restaurant is a true picture of the diversity of the California coastline. His redesign of the Crown Room Brunch experience elevated the offering to entirely new level with lavish seafood and sushi stations, fresh weekly chef's compositions and south-of-the-border inspired dishes. Realizing that the view was the big story on the Sun Deck, the team endeavored to create the ultimate Southern California casual beachfront experience. Completely redone with contemporary communal lounge sofas and tables plus fabulous fire pits, there is truly no better spot on the planet to enjoy grilled items and tropical drinks. This summer, the Sun Deck will serve up a new family-style dinner menu including hot and cold platters of fresh Mexican cuisine, buckets of Coronitas and spectacular sunset views.

Shelton's quest to utilize sustainable ingredients led him to create the resort's spectacular new vegetable and herb garden. Located on the beach side of the resort in front of 1500 OCEAN and the spa, the garden produces more than 25 varieties of plants including beans,

strawberries, rosemary, garlic, red cabbage, golden sage, oregano, celery, mint leaves, chives, lettuce, peppers and more, which are all picked and used by the chef's nightly. So the next time you enjoy a strawberry mojito at the Sunset Bar, you can enjoy the knowledge that most of what you're consuming came from the earth a few feet in front of you.

Nowhere has Shelton left his thumbprint more than on The Del's catering events. Gone are the traditional chafing dishes, skirting and banquet-style dining. Chef Shelton focuses on providing guests with a quintessential Southern California beach experience. To maximize The Del's unique outdoor venues, the team brings the display kitchen right to the shore. New Southern-style, wood-burning pits and rotisserie smokers fill the air with the sweet smell of slow-roasted BBQ. Large aluminum ice luges display bar items and a variety of fresh seafood offerings. Simple, modern display and serving pieces (many of which are designed by the chef and created right here by The Del's facilities team), provide a contemporary ambiance in the resort's historic setting. Guests can watch the chefs at action stations, preparing the freshest food in a fun, interactive environment. Shelton's seemingly endless current of energy finds outlets in the many charity events, weddings and banquets that take place at The Del every day. It's his goal to provide each group with a unique experience that perfectly suits the theme of their event. So, don't be surprised if when you go to plan your next Polynesian Pig Roast, Chef John offers to have his team weave placemats out of some palm fronds he found down at the beach after his last paddle-out.

Shelton's rare gift of creativity, impassioned love of California and truly unique character have inspired his team to think outside of the box and to strive to provide exceptional dining experiences at every opportunity. "I feel unbelievably fortunate to live here; to be able to surf every morning and cook every afternoon. I want everyone who visits The Del to experience that same feeling that I get when I look out at the magnificent horizon," says Shelton, who seems to draw endless inspiration from his beloved Pacific.

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**BEACH VILLAGE PRESENTS A NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY  
AT THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO**

CORONADO, CA — The Hotel del Coronado has been celebrated for its legendary service and architectural splendor since it opened in 1888. Now, this world-class resort destination has been enhanced to cater to discerning travelers looking for the utmost in luxury with Beach Village.

The cottages and villas at Beach Village offer 78 secluded, beachfront guestrooms and suites under the classic red-shingled roofs that have come to epitomize The Del. With up to three bedrooms, each suite features spacious dining and living great rooms with cozy fireplaces, and gourmet kitchens boasting Sub-Zero® refrigerators, stainless steel gourmet Wolf® cooktops and built-in ovens. They offer breathtaking ocean views from expansive balconies and private terraces, some with their own soaking tub or fire pit. All of the accommodations include spa-style baths, Bose® surround-sound systems and docking stations, large flat-panel televisions, wireless Internet and more.

Guests also enjoy spa hot tubs and pools, plus access to all of The Del's exciting new amenities including the award-winning Spa at The Del, state-of-the-art Fitness Center and Southland coastal dining at 1500 OCEAN.

For the ultimate indulgence, Beach Village personal concierge service offers everything from creating complete trip itineraries to grocery shopping. Whether you want to make reservations in restaurants around town, pre-arrange attraction tickets or just need a picnic basket made for your day at the beach, your personal concierge will take care of every detail of your visit. And for those who want to go no farther than their beachfront paradise, the concierge can arrange for one of The Del's master chefs to prepare a meal in the kitchen of their cottage or villa suite.

For reservations, please call 619.522.8811 or visit us online at [www.DelBeachVillage.com](http://www.DelBeachVillage.com).

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**LEGENDARY HOTEL DEL CORONADO PRESENTS**  
**\$150 MILLION IN LUXURY ENHANCEMENTS**

Coronado, CA — The world-renowned Hotel del Coronado completed a spectacular \$150 million transformation in 2007. The more than 120-year-old resort now provides an ultra-luxe contemporary vacation experience within the unique charm of the celebrated Victorian landmark.

The cottages and villas at Beach Village offer an exclusive enclave within the iconic setting of the oceanfront resort. Located on Coronado's award-winning beach and inspired by the original hotel's coastal architectural style, the 78 guestrooms and suites at Beach Village offer dining and living spaces with fully equipped kitchens and gourmet-quality appliances, cozy fireplaces, plush 400-thread-count bedding, spa-style baths with soaking tubs and spacious ocean-view balconies and private terraces. Guests of Beach Village enjoy private pools and hot tubs, personalized concierge service and private access to the beach. Modern amenities include Bose® surround-sound systems and docking stations, large flat-panel televisions, an entertainment library with DVDs, games and books, wireless Internet and more.

The award-winning Spa at The Del features 21 treatment rooms, a spectacular outdoor relaxation terrace with vanishing edge pool, and unique ocean-inspired treatments. A state-of-the-art Fitness Center adjacent to the Spa offers personal training, weight and cardiovascular equipment and a studio for aerobics, spin classes and Pilates. Yoga and meditation on the beach are also available.

1500 OCEAN, the resort's signature restaurant, features Southland Coastal cuisine with selections from Santa Ynez to Cabo San Lucas. The restaurant's outdoor Sunset Bar – complete with fire pits, cocktails and appetizers – offers the perfect West Coast venue to watch the sun set over the Pacific.

ENO Wine Room provides a wine-tasting experience that engages all the senses with flights of wine, cheese and chocolate. Around 350 labels of wine and 50 selections of cheese from around the world paired with chocolates prepared by local chocolatiers create an amazing dining experience.

The Del also offers several upscale shops and boutiques offering everything from designer clothing and accessories at Isabel B. to authentic items of historical importance at Est. 1888. Kids of all ages will love stepping back in time in the old-fashioned Spreckels Sweets & Treats candy store and browsing the aisles at The Toy Castle.

For more information, please call 619.522.8811 or visit [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com).

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**CORONADO NAMED AMONG AMERICA'S TOP 10 BEACHES**

Coronado, CA — Soft sand under your feet, a touch of salt in the air, and the sound of pounding surf are what the best beaches in the U.S. are all about. *Los Angeles Times* announced "Dr. Beach's" annual picks for America's best beaches in May 2009, and Coronado was named No. 4. "Dr. Beach" — also known as Stephen Leatherman, director of Florida International University's Laboratory for Coastal Research — uses 50 criteria in selecting the best beaches, including water and sand quality, facilities and environmental management.

Additional beaches in the top 10 include: Hanalei Beach in Kauai, HI; Siesta Beach in Sarasota, FL; Coopers Beach in Southampton, NY; Hamoa Beach in Maui, HI; Main Beach in East Hampton, NY; Cape Hatteras in the Outer Banks, NC; Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne, FL; Coast Guard Beach in Cape Cod, MA; and Beachwalker Park in Kiawah Island, SC.

Coronado's 18 miles of expansive white sand and endless sunshine make it the perfect spot for adventures for all ages. The sprawling shoreline is great for jogging or walking along the Pacific. Coronado's generally small waves are perfect for learning to surf or boogie board. And the Coronado bike trail, which runs along Glorietta Bay and the beachfront walk, is safe, easy to navigate and beautiful year-round.

The Hotel del Coronado, the Victorian masterpiece that is the centerpiece of Coronado Island, takes full advantage of its breathtaking oceanfront location. Surfing classes and beach rentals are available year-round. Bikes for all ages, surreys and deuce coupes are also available for rent. The Recreation Department offers the Coronado on Wheels Bike Tour, a two-hour guided tour of historic Coronado. The Del's fitness instructors teach fun classes such as core strengthening, total body conditioning and yoga. And, Kidtopia camp includes bonfires, s'mores roasts, seashore scavenger hunts, sandcastle competitions, beachfront kite flying and more. With all of these great activities in a spectacular setting, it's no wonder that families return year after year to play at The Del.

For information and reservations, contact the Hotel del Coronado at 800-HOTEL DEL or [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com).

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**HOTEL DEL CORONADO PRESENTS AWARD-WINNING SPA**

Coronado, CA — In January 2007, the legendary Hotel del Coronado unveiled the spectacular Spa at The Del. The spa takes advantage of the resort's unparalleled beachfront location and encapsulates the time-honored powers of the ocean to heal and restore, relax and invigorate.

The spa, named one of the "top 20 hotel spas in the world" by *Travel + Leisure*, offers a variety of luxurious, ocean-inspired treatments, including massages, wraps and facials. Bathed in natural light, the spacious spa includes 21 treatment rooms, sanctuary areas, hydrotherapy tubs and steam rooms. The décor features calming tones with Victorian accents. A private terrace and vanishing-edge pool overlooking the magnificent Pacific offers the ultimate therapeutic retreat.

In winter 2011, the spa unveiled a refreshed menu with some new and updated treatments. The new That's S'moré Romantic Journey package includes a couples massage and s'mores on the beach. The new Get Lifted facial uses the NuFace microcurrent device to provide instant toning and stimulation. The spa's signature line of treatments includes the Shell Coronado Massage, Shell Coronado Facial, Island Sands Body Polish and Goddess of the Sea Body Wrap.

Recognizing the rejuvenating nature of the spa, collaboration began in October 2010 with the Susan G. Komen Foundation of San Diego. The spa is pleased to present "Eat, Pray, Spa: A Survivor's Soirée", a quarterly event for breast cancer survivors. The evening includes light fare and champagne, a special guest speaker, a choice of therapeutic spa treatments, and a chance to bond with fellow survivors. In addition, the Spa has added Celebration of Life, a lymphatic drainage treatment, to the menu, with \$5 of the proceeds being donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation of San Diego.

Adjacent to the spa is Yamaguchi Salon, a full-service salon by celebrity stylist and author Billy Yamaguchi that integrates the ancient philosophies of Feng Shui into modern hairdressing and beauty. Also adjacent to the spa is a state-of-the-art fitness center that has personal training, weight and cardiovascular equipment and a studio for aerobics, spin classes and Pilates. Yoga and meditation on the beach are also available.

###

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**WEDDING ROMANCE AT THE DEL**

Coronado, CA — Even before The Del opened its doors in 1888, it showed its romantic promise. In fact, the resort celebrated its first wedding in 1887, while The Del was still under construction. The bride and groom, daughter and son of two supervising engineers, exchanged vows in the Ballroom.

Since that time, The Del has enjoyed more than 120 years of legendary romance. King Edward VIII of England gave up his throne to marry the former Coronado housewife Wallis Simpson (it is rumored they may have met at The Del during Edward's 1920 visit). And, the love story *Bid Time Return* took place at The Del, which brought together Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour in the movie version *Somewhere in Time*.

Add to this romantic legacy the hotel's sun-drenched beaches, moonlit ocean views, spectacular setting, impeccable service and award-winning cuisine and it's easy to see why the Travel Channel named The Del the #1 best place to get married in the U.S. The resort offers a variety of wonderful ceremony and reception settings including the elegant Ballroom with views of the Pacific, the historic Crown Room with chandeliers designed by Wizard of Oz author L. Frank Baum, the picturesque Garden Patio and the seaside Windsor Lawn.

Whether the celebration is traditional or contemporary, festive or formal, intimate or grand-scale, the talented catering staff can create a one-of-a-kind occasion. The Spa and Yamaguchi Salon offer fabulous treatments and packages for brides, bridal parties, grooms and more. Plus, The Del features several unique dining options, perfect for rehearsal dinners or post-wedding day breakfasts.

After the celebration, The Del is the ideal setting for a honeymoon. The resort offers a bouquet of romantic amenities and services including his-and-her massages, breakfast in bed, fresh flowers, and chocolate-covered strawberries. The spectacular cottages and villas at Beach Village offer the ultimate exclusive enclave with every imaginable indulgence, from private outdoor baths and fire rings to dinner prepared in your own kitchen by The Del's master chefs.

The Hotel del Coronado has been Southern California's premier wedding and honeymoon destination for over a century. Generations of couples enjoy knowing that they have become a permanent part of The Del's romantic history, returning to celebrate anniversaries and second honeymoons.

For information, call 800.HOTEL.DEL or visit The Del's Web site at [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com).

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**KIDS RULE AT THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO**

CORONADO, CA — At the Hotel del Coronado, having fun – and lots of it – is a year-round activity for the entire family. While parents pamper themselves, children of all ages are entertained with fully supervised activities that are fun and educational. The 28-acre resort, Southern California's only beachfront hotel, is a children's paradise. There are lush gardens, a nearby marina, several pools and a full-time Recreation Department to cater to every child's whim.

In June 2009, The Del unveiled Kidtopia, the exciting new facility for children ages 4 to 12, featuring bright colors, underwater murals and separate beach-themed rooms for crafts and playtime. There's a crazy funhouse mirror and high-tech entertainment stations with computers, movie-time media and a Dance Dance Revolution game. Kidtopia offers three-hour camps and shorter programs with entertaining and educational crafts and activities. Camps, which will include either lunch or dinner, will feature scavenger hunts, sandcastle contests, beach Olympics, luaus, bonfires and much more.

Gnarly Neal offers surfing lessons year-round. Little ones will also love strolling through the Shops at The Del and stopping into The Toy Castle to check out books, dolls, stuffed animals and toys galore. H.D. Kids & Co. offers fashionable beach-inspired clothing, shoes, hats and accessories from all your kids' favorite brand names. Children of all ages won't want to miss out on MooTime Creamery, where ice cream is smooshed and smashed into their favorite flavor combinations. And Spreckels Sweets & Treats, an old-fashioned candy store, is the perfect way to make sure your child's vacation will never be forgotten.

During the summer months, the resort offers extended programs for children including comprehensive 4-hour surf camps, Bingo tournaments on the pool deck, Family S'mores Night on the beach and Flick N' Float movie night, where kids can watch a film from an inner tube. Coronado Island comes alive on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with a local main street parade, concerts in the park, spectacular fireworks display and much more. Throughout December, The Del offers an array of special ways for kids to make holiday memories away from home. Children can enjoy cookie decorating, surrey-sleigh rides and skating at The Del's oceanfront ice rink. For the ultimate treat, you can arrange for an Elf Tuck-in, where one of Santa's helpers will visit your child at bedtime, bringing them a stocking of goodies and reading them a goodnight story. And, on Easter Sunday, The Del is famous for its fun egg hunts on the oceanfront Windsor Lawn. Kids can also make a variety of arts and crafts at the wonderful Craft Eggstravaganza. The Easter Bunny himself roams throughout the hotel to take photos with hotel and brunch guests.

The Del doesn't leave out the teenagers! In addition to Vibz, the new year-round teen lounge, the resort offers biking and kayaking tours, volleyball and boogie board rentals and much more. And for those who want to relax and unwind, the Spa at The Del offers spa treatments designed specifically for those ages 13 to 17.

With all this plus easy-access to SeaWorld, the World-Famous San Diego Zoo and Legoland, it's easy to see why *Travel + Leisure Family* magazine recently named The Del one of the top 20 family resorts in the United States. For reservations, call 800.HOTEL.DEL or visit The Del's Web site at [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com). ###



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**HOTEL DEL CORONADO: A TEEN DREAM TRAVEL DESTINATION**

Coronado, CA — The Hotel del Coronado's endless white sand beaches, pools, fun dining options and nearby boathouse make it a spectacular playground for teenagers. In June 2009, The Del introduced Vibz, a new year-round hang-out for those ages 13-17. Vibz, a contemporary lounge, is the perfect escape for those looking for a break from the family. This exciting hotspot will offer billiards, foosball, darts, karaoke, computers, movie-time media, Dance Dance Revolution and, most importantly, the opportunity for teens to meet other people their own age.

The Del also offers year-round biking tours and surfing lessons, plus cabana, surfboard, boogie board and volleyball rentals. Shopaholics can indulge at the Shops at The Del, a variety of boutiques offering the latest styles and brands of sunglasses, shoes, apparel and bath and body products. Or, teens can just hang out and enjoy grilled hamburgers and hot dogs on the Sun Deck, coffee drinks at Babcock & Story Bakery or delicious ice cream from MooTime Creamery.

For those who want to relax and unwind, the Spa at The Del offers spa treatments designed specifically for teens. The Clarifying Facial cleans, detoxifies, exfoliates and hydrates and is perfect for acne-prone skin. And, the Teen Spa Sampler allows teens to choose two 25-minute treatments from a menu that includes a Swedish Massage, Express Facial, Back Facial and Salt Scrub.

During the summer, The Del also offers extended teen programming including pool parties, relay races, ping-pong tournaments and comprehensive 4-hour surf camp.

**Fun in Coronado/San Diego**

Coronado Island offers an array of magnificent shopping, dining and recreational offerings. With several surf and skate shops, plus fun San Diego apparel stores, teenagers are sure to find everything they need to take home the total Southern California experience. Orange Avenue and the Ferry Landing also feature dozens of eclectic coffee shops and eateries, perfect for hanging out. Coronado's world-class skate park features 16,000 square feet of concrete ramps, bowls, grinds and jumps including the Street Plaza (2' to 3' deep), the Clover Bowl (5' to 7' deep) and the Teardrop (8' deep). And, the Coronado Municipal Golf Course, located just across the street from The Del, features a putting green, driving range and an 18-hole course.

With year-round sunshine, endless recreation, dining and shopping options, plus attractions such as SeaWorld, the World-Famous San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park, San Diego is an ideal destination for people traveling with teens. Just across the bridge from Coronado, downtown San Diego offers hundreds of cafés, restaurants, trendy boutiques and shops in the historic Gaslamp Quarter, Seaport Village and Horton Plaza. It's all just a quick bus trip or scenic ferry ride away!

For more information about teen programs at The Del or to make reservations, please call 800. HOTEL.DEL or visit us online at [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com).

###

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**1500 OCEAN ENERGIZES THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO'S CULINARY OFFERINGS**

Coronado, CA — The Hotel del Coronado has been one of the country's most prominent beachfront resort properties since it opened in 1888. Now, The Del is pleased to offer a contemporary destination restaurant within the landmark Victorian structure. Called 1500 OCEAN, the ocean-view restaurant opened in May 2006 to rave reviews. Chef de Cuisine Aaron Martinez's menu features fresh, regional food and wine selections from Santa Ynez to Cabo San Lucas. The design celebrates the coastal setting and the regional cuisine. Glowing sunset colors, dark wood accents and warm lighting give the restaurant its own signature style, contributing to an energy level that continues past nightfall.

1500 OCEAN offers a variety of elegant indoor and outdoor settings – the 6,000-square-foot restaurant functions happily as one space, but also accommodates small and large groups. A row of three interior coastal cabanas – oversized booths with sheer draperies – provide intimate seating for groups of four. Lined with honey-colored, wood panels, each has a framed mirror, a wood ceiling and candle-niche, creating a “room within a room” sensibility. Near the bar, a larger, semi-private cabana has views into the wine room. The cabana has burnished plaster walls and a large wood table for groups of six to eight.

The interior bar is an energetic setting with a striped cork floor, seating for 16, and a feature wall of back-lit “sunset” glass. The rosy glass wall creates a warm, inviting glow after sunset, when the ocean view fades. Nearby, peacock blue, leather wingback chairs add a visual pop, offering a special setting for couples while helping to form an elegant promenade from the main entry. The entry itself has been moved from within the hotel to the beach-front terrace, giving 1500 OCEAN its own exciting story and arrival sequence.

An outdoor Sunset Bar, complete with fire pits, cocktails and appetizers, offers the perfect West Coast venue to watch the sunset over the Pacific.

Because of The Del's rich heritage, dining at the resort has always been a unique and enchanting experience. For reservations at 1500 OCEAN, call 619-522-8490 or email [deldining@hoteldel.com](mailto:deldining@hoteldel.com). For more information, visit [www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com).

###

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**SHEERWATER OFFERS MENUS WITH THE FOCUS ON FISH**

Coronado, CA —The Hotel del Coronado is pleased to present 'Sheerwater: Fish by the Sea.' The lunch and dinner menus take advantage of the restaurant's beachfront location, featuring classic bistro-style cuisine with a focus on fresh and sustainable seafood.

"We have found that when people visit The Del and get so close to the ocean, they crave seafood, and Sheerwater offers that seaside experience," says Executive Chef John Shelton. "In creating the menu, our culinary team drew inspiration from the resort's unparalleled views of the Pacific, the abundance of fresh, sustainable seafood available, and the rich produce from local and regional farms."

The menu changes frequently in order to offer dining guests the freshest selections. The presentations of the dishes are simple and straightforward in order to highlight their clean, natural flavors. Sheerwater chefs use CleanFish as one of their sources, a company specializing in top quality seafood that is safe, sustainable and delicious. Along with the many seafood items, the menu also features several meat and vegetarian options.

For lunch, Sheerwater guests enjoy a variety of options including the Chilled Seafood Platter and Salt Spring Mussels. Other starters include Smoked Salmon BLT Sliders, Lobster Bisque and BBQ Shrimp Flatbread. The daily fresh catch features grilled and baked selections such as Idaho Rainbow Trout, Farm-Raised Atlantic Salmon and Wild Pacific Sea Bass. Traditional selections include Fish & Chips, Fried Carolina Shrimp and the Crab Cake BLT. There are also several soup and salad options, as well as the White Cheddar Burger, Portobello Burger and the Surf & Turf Quesadilla.

Dinner options include starters such as Colossal Lump Crabmeat and Jumbo Prawns and perfect to share items like Pan-Fried Blue Crab Cakes and Blue Crab & Cheddar Fondue. 'The 'from the sea' entrées feature Pan-Roasted Mahi Mahi, Sautéed Maine Diver Scallops and Crab Stuffed Pacific Sand Dabs. The 'chef's signature' dishes include classic favorites like Cioppino and Shrimp Scampi and 'from the land' entrée options include Bacon Wrapped Kobe Sirloin and Herb Crusted Lamb Loin. There is also a variety of side dishes such as Roasted Wild Mushrooms and Baked Mac & Cheese. (Menu items subject to change.)

Sheerwater's wine selection represents California's finest and also includes organically produced wines. Finish with a dessert featuring temptations such as the White Peach Cobbler, Vanilla Bean with Pistachio Crust Cheesecake, Banana Carmel Fondant and decadent Crème Brulee.

Sheerwater is designed with expansive outdoor dining terraces and giant fireplaces to take advantage of the spectacular views overlooking the Pacific. Sheerwater offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and cocktails daily. To view the complete menu or for reservations, visit [www.hoteldel.com/sheerwater](http://www.hoteldel.com/sheerwater) or call 619-522-8490.

###

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**ENO — THE DEL'S WINE, CHEESE AND CHOCOLATE SENSATION**

CORONADO, CA — ENO, a wine, cheese and chocolate sensation, opened at Hotel del Coronado in February 2008. Devoted to providing the three most delectable indulgences in the culinary world — fine wine, rare cheeses and gourmet chocolate — ENO offers guests a one-of-a-kind tasting experience.

ENO's philosophy of creating an interactive and comfortable environment for every guest is reflected in its friendly and unpretentious attitude, where learning about, discovering and discussing new wines, cheeses and chocolates is strongly encouraged.

The tasting room — complete with built-in cheese and chocolate cases and a prominent glass-enclosed, floor-to-ceiling wine tower that stores more than 2,800 wine bottles — is approximately 816 square feet.

The indoor space provides seating for 30 guests and includes a marble-topped bar and high-topped communal tables etched with backlit names of wine varietals. ENO's outdoor terrace features three communal wine tables also etched with names of wine varietals, a central fire pit in each table, and accommodates 32 guests. The terrace is designed to encourage interaction and communication between guests and ENO's wine attendants.

ENO wine attendants — sommeliers in training — were each handpicked from some of the best restaurants in San Diego. They work with guests to recommend labels based on their individual tastes and preferences and offer educated suggestions on pairings of all three indulgences. The educational experience at ENO is enhanced with tasting and pairing classes offered as part of its ENO-versity program, available for hotel guests and locals alike. All wines at ENO are served in delicate Riedel stemware and can be purchased by the bottle, glass or flight.

ENO features about 60 wines by the glass arranged into tasting flights with about 350 selections by the bottle. Each flight offers tastings and consists of anything from three Pinot Noirs to three Chardonnays that may change during the course of the year. ENO also offers a sake flight that groups three sakes from different regions. A rotating selection of about 50 artisanal cheeses from all over the world (with special attention to America) is also available individually or in flights. Assembled and presented by the resident cheesemonger, cheeses are served on marble slabs and stored in a temperature-controlled cave that the staff encourages guests to view for educational tours. And charcuterie, the art of cured meats such as pates and prosciutto or salami, is also offered.

Flights arrive at the table with freshly baked breads and seasonal accoutrements such as quince paste, Spanish Marcona almonds and assorted olives or can be supplemented with a charcuterie plate. A variety of handmade, exotic chocolate confections is also available separately or in flights, featuring the exquisite craftsmanship of world-class chocolatiers including Dallmann Confections and the remarkable products of artisans including Norman Love Confections, based in Florida. ENO guests can choose to purchase any wine, cheese or chocolate they desire within the tasting room, in addition to the wine accessories, books and art that are available as part of its retail component.

No reservations required. For more information, please call 800-HOTEL-DEL or visit [www.hoteldel.com/eno-wine](http://www.hoteldel.com/eno-wine).

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Founded in 1992, KSL Resorts manages seven time-honored resorts with outstanding recreational amenities, including spa, golf, tennis and ski. Each is refined yet unpretentious, rich in legacy, and genuine in service. The KSL Resorts are:

Hotel del Coronado (San Diego, CA)  
Beach Village at The Del (San Diego, CA)  
La Costa Resort and Spa (Carlsbad, CA)  
Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa (Rancho Mirage, CA)  
Vail Mountain Lodge & Spa (Vail, CO)  
Barton Creek Resort & Spa (Austin, TX)  
The Homestead (Hot Springs, VA)

For more information, call 1-866-KSL-7727 or visit [KSLResorts.com](http://KSLResorts.com).

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Winter 2012**

**DINING AT THE DEL**

**1500 OCEAN**

1500 OCEAN, The Del's signature restaurant, opened in 2006 to rave reviews in the *Wine Spectator* and *Bon Appetit*. Chef de Cuisine Aaron Martinez works with local farmers and producers in creating the restaurant's signature Southland coastal cuisine. His seasonal menus offer the very freshest area ingredients with selections from Santa Ynez to Cabo San Lucas. A vast wine library also highlights local vintners. 1500 OCEAN's warm, contemporary interior and fantastic oceanfront terraced seating provide a unique Southern California dining experience. The outdoor Sunset Bar offers fireside cocktails and unparalleled ocean views.

**Sheerwater**

Sheerwater chefs are pleased to present a new lunch and dinner menu that takes advantage of the restaurant's beachfront location and features classic bistro-style cuisine with a focus on fresh and sustainable seafood. Whether you like your catch on ice, baked in cast iron or off the griddle, there's something for every fish fanatic. The menu also features a variety of meat and vegetarian options, plus some old favorites. Designed with expansive outdoor dining terraces and giant fireplaces overlooking the Pacific, Sheerwater offers breakfast, lunch, cocktails and dinner daily.

**ENO**

ENO is devoted to providing a one-of-a-kind tasting experience of the three most delectable indulgences in the world — fine wine, rare cheeses and gourmet chocolate. The tasting room, complete with built-in cheese and chocolate cases, stores more than 2,800 wine bottles. ENO wine attendants work with guests to recommend labels based on their individual tastes and preferences and offer educated suggestions on pairings of all three indulgences. ENO also offers tasting and pairing classes as part of its ENO-Versity program, available for hotel guests and locals alike.

**Babcock & Story Bar**

Babcock & Story, affectionately called B&S, was named after The Del's visionary founders Elisha Babcock and H.L. Story, two mid-western businessmen who dreamed of building a resort hotel that would be the "talk of the Western world."

Babcock & Story Bar is designed to take advantage of the spectacular seaside setting. The original 46-foot handcrafted mahogany bar, which was brought by ship from Philadelphia around Cape Horn in 1888, is the centerpiece for the bar. B&S Bar offers signature margaritas, blended tropical drinks, California premier wines, espressos and light fare.

**Crown Room**

Over the past century, the Crown Room has enjoyed a distinguished social history. *Wizard of Oz* author L. Frank Baum is credited with designing the crown chandeliers that adorn the ceiling. In 1920, an enormous banquet was held here for England's Prince of Wales, and in 1927 Charles Lindbergh was honored with his own celebration after his successful transatlantic flight. The Crown Room was also the scene for the first state dinner held outside of the White House.

Today, the Crown Room's tradition of elegance continues as it plays host to a spectacular Sunday Brunch. Guests enjoy seven distinct stations creating a progressive dining experience

featuring seasonal chef's compositions with fresh local ingredients. Stations include lavish carvings, seafood, Bloody Mary, dessert and much more. The Crown Room is also the site for many holiday celebrations and special events.

###

## THE HOLLYWOOD CONNECTION

### Hollywood Comes to Call

Coronado's close proximity to Los Angeles has made the Hotel del Coronado a popular celebrity destination for over one hundred years. Not only have Hollywood's elite retreated here for vacations, they've also made movies here.

The first movie made at The Del was ***Knights of Pythias Camp***, filmed in 1901 by the Edison Moving Picture Company. Hollywood was still a rural community at that point, but in a very few years, it would emerge – and remain - the filmmaking capital of the world.

Southern California's near-perfect climate was ideal for the fledgling industry since, at that time, all filming had to be done outside, using daylight (even "interior" scenes were created out-of-doors). Endless days of California sunshine – without heat or humidity – were perfectly suited for the filmmaking requirements of the early 1900s.

### Cinema and Celebrities

The hotel has attracted Hollywood royalty since it opened its doors in 1888, including some of the world's greatest producers and directors such as **Frank Capra**, **Hal Roach**, **Daryl Zanuck**, and **Stephen Spielberg**. But, it has always been the movie stars themselves that have attracted the most attention.

### 1888

**Lillie Langtry** (1853-1929), a stage actress, may have been The Del's very first big name entertainer. During her 1888 visit, Langtry said of The Del, "Its immensity astonishes me and its perfect beauty delights me. It is in every way so different from any hotel I have ever seen. It has a new surprise wherever I turn. It is so fresh and nice, it gives such a feeling of pleasing repose, and altogether it has a delightful influence on one."

### 1901

***Knights of Pythias Camp*** and ***Tent City***, the first two movies made in Coronado, were shot at The Del and thought to have been documentaries about the hotel.

### 1915

In 1915, the movie ***Pearl of the Pacific*** was filmed at The Del.

Also in 1915, **Siegemund Lubin** – a motion picture giant in his day – established Lubin Studios in Coronado. Hotel owner John D. Spreckels – known for his dedication to community – offered Lubin a \$1 a year lease for an extensive piece of property on the San Diego Bay. Lubin, in turn, invested \$10,000 to build a studio, stage, film plant, storage facilities, repair shops, dressing rooms, and garages (all surrounded by a dramatic castle-like wall). The studio made as many as twenty movies in Coronado, including ***The Power of Salim Bey*** and ***Billy Joins the Navy***.

### 1920s/1930s

By 1920, Hollywood was well established as the movie metropolis. Even with the worldwide Depression (which lasted from 1929 to 1941), Hollywood never faltered; in fact, historians agree that it was the only industry in America unaffected by financial collapse. And movie-going - an inexpensive diversion for millions of Americans trapped by the Depression – became the country's favorite pastime.

The Hotel del Coronado, in turn, held a special attraction for Tinseltown's party-goers, thanks to its close proximity to Mexico, which offered horse-racing and liquor (Prohibition made liquor illegal in the U.S. from 1920 to 1933). As an added incentive, crooner **Bing Crosby** and other Hollywood investors, opened nearby **Del Mar Racetrack** in 1938.

Not surprisingly, with all it had to offer, celebrities at The Del became commonplace, including superstars like **Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Al Jolson, Greta Garbo, Gloria Swanson, Rudolph Valentino, Mae West, Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland, Rita Hayworth, Helen Hayes, Ruby Keeler, Stan Laurel, Fred MacMurray, Ray Milland, Dick Powell, Anthony Quinn, George Raft, Ginger Rogers, Edward G. Robinson, Will Rogers, and James Stewart.**

In 1924, ***My Husband's Wives*** was filmed at The Del, starring **Bryant Washburn** and **Lois Wilson**. Another movie shot in the 1920s was ***The Flying Fleet*** (1929) with **Ramon Novarro** and **Anita Page**. In 1935, Coronado actor **Johnny Downs** was featured in the movie ***Coronado***, which also starred **Jack Haley** and **Andy Devine**. ***Yours for the Asking*** (sometimes titled ***Moon Over Miami***), with **Dolores Costello, George Raft, Ida Lupino, Edward Kennedy, and John Barrymore** was filmed at The Del in 1936. And, in 1939, the movie ***Dive Bomber***, starring **Errol Flynn, Fred MacMurray, and Alexis Smith**, included shots of the hotel.

#### World War II and the 1940s

Throughout World War II, the hotel was San Diego's premier watering hole for the military personnel stationed in the area. One guest – the wife of a Navy officer herself – remembers seeing actor **Robert Montgomery** at The Del. "He walked through the lobby in Navy uniform. He was very popular in those days and gorgeous!"

But, not all celebrities at The Del were in the armed forces. During the war years, the hotel also played host to **Bette Davis, Gary Cooper, Kirk Douglas, Judy Garland, Maureen O'Hara, Mickey Rooney, Lana Turner, and Rudy Vallee.**

After the war, celebrity sightings included **George Sanders, Humphrey Bogart, and Lauren Bacall**. And, in 1946, America's premier dance instructor, **Arthur Murray**, established a dance studio at The Del.

#### 1950s/1960s

Movie stars – and now, television stars - flocked to The Del throughout the 1950s and 1960s, with visits from **Doris Day, Joan Crawford, Walt Disney, Groucho and Harpo Marx, Walter Pidgeon, Donna Reed, Dinah Shore, and Loretta Young**, just to name a few.

Movies made at The Del during this period included ***Cry for Happy***, with **Glenn Ford** and **Donald O'Connor**, and ***The Easy Way*** with **Jane Fonda** and **Lana Turner**.

The hotel was also instrumental in helping to launch the careers of some television giants. In fact, **Lucille Ball** and **Desi Arnaz** retreated to The Del in 1950 to polish their comedy routine under the direction of “**Pepito the Spanish Clown**,” a renowned vaudeville performer. They stayed at The Del for a couple of weeks, where they also developed their “**Ricky and Lucy**” personas (he the serious Cuban bandleader; she his zany star-struck wife). They then took their show on the road, eventually landing their own television program shortly after their stay. In fact, during one episode of *I Love Lucy*, “**Lucy and Ricky**” stayed at The Del with their friends, “**Fred and Ethel Mertz**.”

**Liberace**, the undisputed king of keys and candelabras, was playing piano at The Del when he was discovered in 1950. On one fateful night, Liberace’s audience was so small the hotel told him he could cancel his performance if he wanted to. Liberace declined – and lucky for him he did. In the audience that night was a television producer, who recognized that Liberace’s ability to connect with a small audience would be perfect for the intimacy and the immediacy of the “small screen.” And the rest (as they say) is Hollywood history!

#### 1958 *Some Like it Hot*

Hollywood history was again made at The Del in 1958, when ***Some Like It Hot*** was shot here, starring **Marilyn Monroe**, **Jack Lemmon**, and **Tony Curtis**. Although the stars were well known at the time, and the movie received rave reviews, few could have predicted the film’s staying power. Now fifty years later, the movie was recently heralded by the American Film Institute as the best comedy of all time. It is also the Marilyn Monroe movie most shown on television today.

This extraordinary film has never lost its luster; on the contrary, as the years go by, it becomes more and more popular and more and more revered. The film’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1984 brought **Lemmon**, **Curtis**, and famed director **Billy Wilder** back to The Del for a special celebration.

#### 1970s/1980s

The Del has always had the ability to attract Hollywood “royalty,” as well as its newest superstars. In the 1970s and 1980s, The Del played host to mega-celebrities such as **Cary Grant**, **Katherine Hepburn**, and **Burt Lancaster**, as well as **Goldie Hawn**, **Sylvester Stallone**, and **Renee Russo**.

A variety of movies were filmed at the hotel in the 1970s, including the cult classic, ***The Stunt Man***. Starring **Peter O’Toole** and **Barbara Hershey**, this feature film is scheduled for re-release in 2001. During the filming in 1977, the hotel’s exterior was altered and then “blown up” as part of the story line.

Other movies from the 1970s and 1980s include ***Wicked, Wicked, \$*** with **Goldie Hawn**, ***K-9*** starring **Jim Belushi**, and **Steve Martin’s *My Blue Heaven***.

Many, many television shows and made-for-TV movies were also filmed at The Del during the 1970s and 1980s, including ***Loving Couples*** with **Shirley MacLaine**, **Susan Sarandon**, and **James Coburn**; ***Space*** with **James Garner**, **Michael York**, **Blair Brown**, **Beau Bridges**, **Harry Hamlin**, and **Bruce Dern**; ***Ghost Story*** with **Sebastian Cabot**, **Gena Rowland**, and **Karen Black**; ***The Girl, the Gold Watch, and Everything***; ***Captains and Kings*** with **Henry Fonda**, **Ray Bolger**, and **Patty Duke**; ***Rich Man, Poor Man*** with **Nick Nolte**, **Dorothy McGuire**, **Ed Asner**, and **Susan Blakely**; ***Hunter, Hart to Hart, Simon & Simon***; and ***Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous***.

### 1988 Centennial Celebration

In 1988, the hotel celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and some of America's biggest stars showed up for the festivities including **Mary Martin**, **Donald O'Connor**, **Frank Sinatra**, and **John Wayne**, as well as some of the **original munchkins** from *The Wizard of Oz*.

### 1990 to Present

The hotel continues to be a favorite spot for movie and television filming. In 1995, the movie *Mr. Wrong* was filmed at the hotel, starring **Ellen DeGeneres**. Television shows/movies have included *Ladies on Sweet Street* with **Helen Hayes**, *Baywatch* (this two-part episode focused on the hotel's very real ghost), *Garth Brooks Live*, and *Silk Stalkings*. The hotel continues to be a popular subject for television programs such as the *Today Show*, *Historic Hotels, America's Castles, California and the Dream Seekers, Weddings of a Lifetime*, and *True Mysteries*.

Additional celebrity sightings in the recent past include **Jason Alexander**, **Kim Basinger**, **Kevin Costner**, **Richard Dreyfus**, **Jodie Foster**, **Whoopie Goldberg**, **Cuba Gooding, Jr.**, **Kelsey Grammar**; **Gene Hackman**, **George Harrison**, **Charlton Heston**, **Dustin Hoffman**, **Harvey Keitel**, **Larry King**, **David Letterman**, **Heather Locklear**, **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**, **Michelle Pfeiffer**, **Brad Pitt**, **Madonna**, **Demi Moore**, **Jack Nicholson**, **Gregory Peck**, **Sharon Stone**, **Barbara Streisand**, **Bruce Willis**, and **Oprah Winfrey**.

### Del Hollywood Trivia

During **Will Rogers'** visit in 1927 (he was here to honor aviator Charles Lindbergh after Lindbergh's successful transatlantic flight), Lindbergh, who had munched on sandwiches during the long trip, was chided by Rogers for being the only man in history to take sandwiches to Paris.

Beautiful **Anita Page**, who starred in *The Flying Fleet* in 1929, fell in love with a Navy officer during her stay, and they eventually married and settled in Coronado.

**George Raft**, who visited the hotel in the 1930s, was also featured in the 1958 movie *Some Like It Hot*, although none of his scenes were shot at The Del.

Baseball great **Joe DiMaggio** and new wife, actress **Dorothy Arnold**, spent their honeymoon at The Del in 1939. Years later DiMaggio would wed **Marilyn Monroe**, who had also had a Del connection.

One Coronadan – as a young teenager during World War II – remembers seeing women sitting around the hotel's pool, all with black eyes. She eventually found out that they were **Hollywood celebrities** recovering from facelift surgery. The young girl's father was deathly afraid of polio, and he did not allow her to go into any movie theaters. Consequently, she didn't know any of the celebrities.

Actress **Kay Williams** divorced from Adolph Spreckels, son of hotel owner John D. Spreckels, eventually married **Clark Gable**, and she was married to him at the time of his death.

###

**\*\*Photos Available**

## **SOME LIKE IT HOT FILMED AT THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO**

Regarded by critics as one of the finest American movies ever made, *Some Like It Hot* continues to delight audiences 50 years after it debuted in 1959; in fact, the American Film Institute named it No. 1 on their list of the 100 best comedies of all time.

Filmed in 1958, the United Artists movie was shot on location at the Hotel del Coronado, Southern California's landmark Pacific resort. The Del's iconic Victorian architecture made it the perfect backdrop for the film's 1929 setting, along with acting icons Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis.

Says author and scholar Laurence Maslon, who released *Some Like It Hot: The Official 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Companion* in September 2009 during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Hotel del Coronado (published by Collins Design, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers in the US and Anova Books in the UK), "There have been a lot of movies shot on a lot of locations, but only a few marriages of celluloid and place can be considered truly legendary. Chief among those magical moments is the sight of Marilyn Monroe cavorting on the beautiful beach at the footsteps of the Hotel del Coronado."

### **Plot**

The Prohibition-era story follows the exploits of Lemmon and Curtis, out-of-work Chicago musicians who accidentally witness a gangland slaying. Making a run for their lives, the men disguise themselves as women and join an all-girl band traveling by train to Florida. Here, a ukulele-strumming singer, played by Monroe, catches the eyes of both men, but it is Curtis' character who assumes still another identity – an unlucky-in-love millionaire – to successfully woo and win Monroe.

Lemmon's cross-dressed character, meanwhile, is vigorously pursued by a bona fide millionaire, played by Joe E. Brown. The hilarious gender-shifting romantic romp is played out at California's famed Hotel del Coronado, which director Billy Wilder found to be the perfect substitute for Florida in the Roaring Twenties.

### **Sunshine ... California-Style**

At least one Floridian was less than happy about Wilder's decision to shoot the movie in San Diego. Miami Mayor Robert King High reportedly said it was "a sacrilege" to let Southern California play the role of Florida's "Sunshine State." This sour criticism was ably met by Coronado's mayor, who wired back, "Some like it hot, but not as hot as Miami in September." The mayor's rebuttal also referenced Florida's gnats, mosquitoes and hurricanes, none of which plagued the temperate island of Coronado.

### **An "Uproariously Improbable Set"**

Like all American resorts, the Hotel del Coronado had endured some tough years during the Depression and World War II, but it was this period of benign neglect that helped preserve the resort, making it the perfect setting for Wilder's 1929 story, which he co-wrote with I.A. Diamond. Said Wilder, "We looked far and wide, but this was the only place we could find that hadn't changed in thirty years. People who have never see this beautiful hotel will never believe we didn't make these scenes on a movie lot. It's like the past come to life."

Although at least one critic didn't believe the hotel was real, describing The Del as "an uproariously improbable set." The hotel's 1888 Queen Anne Revival-style architecture does

tend toward the fanciful, with rambling white clapboard, lazy verandas and red-turreted roofs, which an earlier writer had characterized as a cross between an ornate wedding cake and a well-trimmed ship.

Although only exterior scenes were filmed at hotel, the interior scenes *do* look very Del-like (right down to the placement of the lobby elevator and stairs). This probably explains why so many *Some Like It Hot* devotees – even after seeing the Hotel del Coronado for themselves – absolutely refuse to believe that the movie’s interior scenes were *not* filmed at The Del.

### **Only at The Del: The Stars Align**

During filming, Marilyn Monroe was accompanied by her husband, esteemed playwright Arthur Miller (he made two special trips from the East Coast to join her at The Del). Also in Monroe’s entourage was acting coach Paula Strasberg, along with Monroe’s secretary and press agent. Coronado police officers were assigned to guard Monroe throughout her stay.

Meanwhile, Tony Curtis’ wife, Janet Leigh, was also on hand (Leigh was pregnant with their second child, Jamie Lee Curtis, at the time). Jack Lemmon’s future wife, Felicia Farr, also joined the troupe.

By almost everyone’s account, Monroe was very difficult to work with throughout the film’s production – her tardiness and inability to remember lines have become legendary. Interestingly, however, quite a few reports confirm that Monroe was “on her mettle” during the entire Coronado portion of filming.

In fact, in his book *Conversations with Wilder* (1999), writer/director Cameron Crowe addressed Billy Wilder about this aspect of the film, saying, “I grew up in San Diego [and] the legend is that the hotel was the most magical part of the filming ... that Marilyn felt relaxed there.”

To which, Wilder replied, “Yeah, that was fun. We had a good time there. Marilyn remembered her lines ... everything was going according to schedule.” Added Crowe: “Marilyn seems fully engaged in those scenes.”

According to another source, Wilder speculated that Monroe was inspired at The Del, where adoring spectators were plentiful because she preferred a live audience. Wilder later told Crowe that the Coronado fans were “screaming and yelling,” and then added that when he wanted the crowd to quiet down, he had her say, “‘Shhh’ ... they listened to her.” In the end, Wilder probably characterized Monroe the best, calling her “a calendar girl with warmth, with charm.”

And a last bit of Del trivia: During her stay, a hotel chef reported that Marilyn fancied his cold soufflé vanilla pudding with egg-white decoration, which she requested daily.

### **Favored by the Fans, Overlooked by the Oscars**

The movie was a box office success, grossing over \$8 million initially and earning several million more over the next few years – somewhere between \$10 and \$15 million.

Monroe’s financial deal – she received between \$100,000 and \$300,000, as well as 10 percent of the film’s gross profits – was a very lucrative arrangement in its day, and *Some Like It Hot* turned out to be her most profitable venture.

The movie was also a critical success. *Variety* called it the biggest hit of 1959; Monroe received a Golden Globe for her performance, as did Jack Lemmon. The film itself also won a Golden Globe for “best comedy.”

In spite of its financial success and public accolades, the film received only one minor Academy Award for “Best Black and White Costume Design.” Today it is thought that *Some Like It Hot* was just too risqué for 1959, when the big winner that year was *Ben-Hur* (also in the running for various Academy Awards were the likes of *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Room at the Top*, *Pillow Talk* and *Porgy and Bess*).

The *Some Like It Hot* story line is racy, and Monroe’s costumes are incredibly revealing, even by today’s standards (though, according to Wilder, Marilyn was not interested in fashion ... as long as the costumes revealed “something,” she was satisfied). Ahead of its time perhaps, present-day reviewers marvel that the movie still comes across as such a wholesome film; this was Monroe’s forte: she was sexy, but childlike.

Although this is the Monroe film most shown on television today, the actress reportedly never liked her performance.

### **Fun Film Facts**

Writers Wilder and co-author I.A Diamond were inspired by another cross-dressing comedy, the 1932 German musical *Fanfare of Love*, and they deliberately set the story in the past because, as Diamond put it, “When all the costumes look peculiar to us, a guy in drag looks no more peculiar than anybody else.”

Much like *The Del* itself – which was designed as it was being built – the last 15 minutes of *Some Like It Hot* was being written and rewritten as it was being filmed.

The film was shot in black and white because Wilder thought that male actors in female make-up would look too ridiculous in color. The black-and-white format – which also suited the period style of the film – did not appeal at all to Monroe, who contractually insisted that all her films be shot in color. Wilder was able to convince her that the 1920s setting would look more authentic in black-and-white. Interestingly, Wilder (who chose to make many of his movies in black and white) later said that *Some Like It Hot* was the one movie that would have benefited from color.

Although Wilder hired one of the world’s most famous female impersonators to teach Lemmon and Curtis how to walk in high heels, Lemmon refused the help – he didn’t want his character to be that adept as a woman.

Monroe’s character, “Sugar Kane,” is supposed to be 25 years old, although Monroe was 32 when the movie was made.

After *Some Like It Hot*, Monroe and Curtis never worked with Billy Wilder again, but Jack Lemmon remained one of the director’s favorite actors, and they made six more films together.

### **What to Look For**

At one of the previews, the first shot of Lemmon and Curtis dressed as women was such a crowd-pleaser that Wilder added in every other shot he had for that scene (and, if you look carefully, you’ll be able to see them walking by the same railroad car again and again). In addition, Wilder deliberately didn’t show the characters as they transformed themselves from

men to women because he knew the comic impact would be greater if audiences were introduced to “the ladies” all at once.

Monroe was displeased at her initial entrance – also at the train station – and Wilder and Diamond concurred. They rewrote the scene so that Monroe's entrance was punctuated by steam blasts from the train.

The film clearly shows The Del's two original front entrances. When the resort opened in 1888, the hotel offered a combined men's and women's entrance and a separate “unaccompanied” women's entrance, which afforded lone women travelers a discreet way to check in. Though the two entrances survived past the 1958 filming of *Some Like It Hot*, only one remains today.

In the scene where Curtis and Monroe run out to the yacht, it is supposed to be night, but it's obviously not dark; Monroe's frequent tardiness made it impossible to shoot the scene at night.

In the role of gangster Spats Colombo, George Raft parodies the gangster role he played in the 1932 film *Scarface*, in which his character repeatedly flipped a coin. In *Some Like It Hot*, Spats Colombo is very irritated when he sees someone else flipping a coin, demanding, “Where did you pick up that cheap trick?” Raft – who didn't accompany the cast to Coronado – was at The Del in 1936, during the filming of *Yours for the Asking*.

When Lemmon's female character is telling Curtis' male character about his engagement to a *real* millionaire, he punctuates every line with a flourish of maracas. Wilder anticipated the scene being so successfully funny that he wanted to allow “space” for the audience laughter, and the maracas were added to provide the appropriate pauses.

There were two scenes that supposedly gave Monroe the most trouble: The scene where she knocks on the door and says, “It's me, Sugar” required 47 takes; another scene, where Monroe had to rummage through a dresser drawer for a bottle of bourbon, proved even more challenging, requiring 59 takes. In fact, Wilder claimed that after he put the cue inside one of the dresser drawers, Monroe couldn't remember which drawer it was in.

The last line – uttered by Joe E. Brown when he says to Jack Lemmon, “Nobody's perfect” – was never intended to remain the last line, but Wilder and Diamond couldn't come up with anything they liked better, so it stayed. Ironically, it has become a classic last line.

In some publicity photos, including the film's poster, Monroe just doesn't look like herself. That's because a body double was used for several publicity shots; it was Sandra Warren, an actress who appeared as one of Sweet Sue's Society Syncopaters. Her body was uncannily like Monroe's, although Monroe face was ultimately superimposed.

###

## PRESIDENTIAL VISITORS AT THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO

### *Presidents*

**President Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893):** Eleven presidents have visited the Hotel del Coronado, starting with President Benjamin Harrison, who was touring the country by train and had breakfast at The Del on April 23, 1891 (supposedly he greeted San Diego well-wishers in his dressing robe and slippers from the back of his rail car). This was the first time an in-office president had visited San Diego. The breakfast at The Del was sponsored by a delegation of California politicians, hosted by Governor Henry H. Markham; Baja California Governor Luis E. Torres was also in attendance. When Harrison left Coronado, he received a send-off at the ferry slip, serenaded by the Coronado Band, which a local newspaper reported could “vie with any band in the country in discoursing good music.”

**William H. Taft (1909-1913):** President William Taft had a sister living in Coronado, whom he visited in April 1900, before becoming president. In 1915, after his presidency, Taft stayed at The Del – all 6 feet and 300 pounds of him – probably to attend the Panama-California Exposition.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt (1932-1945):** President Franklin Roosevelt stayed at the Hotel del Coronado on October 1, 1935, for San Diego’s California Pacific International Exposition. During his stay, Roosevelt flew the presidential flag, which made the hotel the official White House for the period he was in residence. The next day, Roosevelt gave a speech to 50,000 gathered in San Diego. Regarding his Hotel del Coronado visit, a local newspaper reported, “the chief executive enjoyed an inspiring view of the broad Pacific, where a goodly part of the United States fleet rode at anchor, the lights from the warships shedding their glow over the temporary White House.” Roosevelt had close ties to Coronado because his son John was stationed here during World War II, and both President and Mrs. Roosevelt were frequent guests at The Del.

**Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969):** President Lyndon Johnson attended President Nixon’s 1970 state dinner for Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz.

**Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974):** President Richard Nixon hosted a state dinner in the hotel’s historic Crown Room for Mexican President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz on September 3, 1970. Among the 1,000 people in attendance were former President and Mrs. Lyndon Johnson and Governor and Mrs. Ronald Reagan. Aside from political luminaries, the dinner was also attended by Hollywood celebrities such as Frank Sinatra and John Wayne.

**Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977):** President Gerald Ford attended an economic conference at The Del in April 1975. He made other visits to the hotel in 1980, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

**Jimmy Carter (1977-1981):** When President Jimmy Carter attended the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades convention, a reception was given in his honor at The Del on October 11, 1979. Carter also stayed here in October 1989 in conjunction with the Habitat for Humanity project.

**Ronald Reagan (1981-1989):** In 1970, then California Governor Ronald Reagan attended President Nixon’s state dinner. Reagan returned to The Del on October 8, 1982, when he hosted talks with Mexican president-elect Miguel de la Madrid in a private suite, which has since become known as the “Summit Suite.” The hotel’s “Governor’s Suite” is also named in Reagan’s

honor, who, along with his family, were frequent guests at The Del before and during his presidency.

**George H. Bush (1989-1993):** An avid tennis player, President George Bush stayed at the Hotel del Coronado both before and during his presidency.

**Bill Clinton (1993-2001):** Although President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first president to land at Coronado's North Island Naval Air Station, President Clinton (aboard *Airforce One*) used the airfield many times for numerous visits to the Hotel del Coronado during his presidency.

**George W. Bush (2001-2009):** President George W. Bush was at the Hotel del Coronado with his wife, Laura, on August 29 and 30, 2005 to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-Day. This was Bush's first visit as President of the United States. He was the 11<sup>th</sup> president to visit The Del. During his stay, President Bush addressed the military stationed at Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado before returning to the White House. Mrs. Bush previously visited the hotel in March 2001.

#### ***Vice Presidents, Presidential Mates and Offspring***

The first vice presidential guest was **Adlai Ewing Stevenson** (who served during Grover Cleveland's second presidency). Stevenson visited The Del in 1893 and had his hair cut in the hotel's barbershop. Vincent Surr, a bootblack, who during Stevenson's visit "was occupied by the lower extremities of a senator or two," had only vague memories of Mr. Stevenson. "My recollections of the great man are rather mixed and consist principally of a figure swathed in a barber's sheet, from which some kind of a head emerged." Surr had a clearer view of Stevenson's private secretary or valet, "What made him a conspicuous figure was his remarkable likeness to Uncle Sam, as depicted in the comic papers." More than 50 years later, **Adlai Ewing Stevenson II** (grandson of the first Adlai Ewing Stevenson) visited The Del in 1952.

Other vice presidential visitors include **Spiro Agnew, Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale, Dan Quayle** and **Joe Biden**. **Tipper Gore**, wife of Al Gore, has also visited The Del.

In addition to the family members referenced above, presidential offspring also include **Julie Nixon, David Eisenhower, Steve Ford, Ulysses S. Grant Jr., Robert Todd Lincoln** and **James Roosevelt**.

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## GHOSTLY GOINGS-ON AT THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO

The venerable Hotel del Coronado, San Diego's landmark Pacific resort, has been experiencing paranormal activity for as long as anyone can remember — and with good reason. With more than 120 years of history behind her, it's no surprise that this Victorian masterpiece has had its share of ghostly guests.

### **Kate Morgan, The Del's Resident Ghost**

Though supernatural stories abound, most have to do with Kate Morgan, a beautiful young woman who checked into the hotel in 1892 — and never checked out. After spending five lonely and lovesick days waiting for a man who never arrived, Kate was found dead on an exterior staircase leading to the beach. Kate had a gunshot wound to her head, which the San Diego County Coroner later determined was self-inflicted (some skepticism still surrounds this finding).

Today, Kate's spirit seems to have remained at The Del, where she tends to occupy her former guestroom. But her beautiful vision — and ghostly pranks — can be experienced throughout the rambling resort and grounds.

According to Christine Donovan, The Del's historian and author of the book *Beautiful Stranger: The Ghost of Kate Morgan and the Hotel del Coronado*, Kate is a relatively harmless ghost. "She generally limits her activity to fleeting appearances and inexplicable antics," says Donovan. "Guests in Kate's room report everything from breezes that come from nowhere to having to deal with a television set that turns on and off by itself."

But, more dramatic tales have also been told. Such as the time a young couple — away for a romantic Valentine weekend — experienced a string of supernatural occurrences, culminating in their covers being ripped off in the middle of the night by a ghostly apparition.

Kate's presence isn't limited to her own guestroom; another room also records a lot of paranormal activity, and Kate has also been seen walking down the hallways, through the garden and along the beach.

### **Latest Ghost Sightings**

One of the most "active" areas of the Hotel del Coronado is the resort's gift shop, *Established 1888*. Originally located in the lower lobby level, this specialty store — which showcases the hotel's vintage history — has a hard time keeping glassware from "flying" off shelves or pictures from falling off walls.

When *Established 1888* relocated (now adjoining the lobby), it was thought that the ghostly pranks would cease, but this has not been the case. Instead, the new space is as active as the store's former residence. Because memorabilia related to Marilyn Monroe's 1958 hotel filming of *Some Like It Hot* seems to be the most prone to tumbling, some long-time shop employees speculate that The Del's resident ghost doesn't like sharing the spotlight with Hollywood's biggest star.

Donovan, who keeps files on guests' paranormal experiences, received this one from a visiting business executive. "At about 2am, I was awakened by exceedingly cold temperatures and the ceiling fan working at high speed. The fan remained on for about 30 seconds and then stopped. Later, I awoke to find that all of the bed pillows had been stacked pyramid style on top of my computer."

This gentleman took his first paranormal experience in stride: “I learned that ceiling fans have a mind of their own and pillows are best placed on a computer,” ultimately concluding that Kate Morgan “is a great addition to your housekeeping staff.”

Other paranormal encounters are more subtle, for instance, when one visitor heard “soft rustling footsteps go past the bed,” along with a “very strong flower scent which came on fast and then dissipated as quickly as it appeared.”

One of Donovan’s odder stories was recently received from a British psychic who reported a circa-1912 vision involving men “not unlike miners” who were busily engaged in a tunnel near the hotel (there actually is a tunnel that connects the hotel’s remote infrastructure to the hotel itself, but it is not related to mining and was built well before 1912).

Guests also send Donovan mysterious photos taken at the hotel, some of which feature inexplicable transparent “globes” of light, sometimes with multiple patterns that arch across an entire image.

### **Beautiful Stranger**

In October 2002, The Del released a book titled *Beautiful Stranger – The Ghost of Kate Morgan and the Hotel del Coronado*. Researched and published by the Hotel del Coronado Heritage Department, the book reflects the most accurate report of the legendary story to date. Look for the book in The Del’s Signature Shop or online at [www.delshop.com](http://www.delshop.com).

### **RE-CREATED PHOTOS AVAILABLE**

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Founded in 1992, KSL Resorts manages seven time-honored resorts with outstanding recreational amenities, including spa, golf, tennis and ski. Each is refined yet unpretentious, rich in legacy, and genuine in service. The KSL Resorts are:

Hotel del Coronado (San Diego, CA)  
Beach Village at The Del (San Diego, CA)  
La Costa Resort and Spa (Carlsbad, CA)  
Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa (Rancho Mirage, CA)  
Vail Mountain Lodge & Spa (Vail, CO)  
Barton Creek Resort & Spa (Austin, TX)  
The Homestead (Hot Springs, VA)

For more information, call 1-866-KSL-7727 or visit [KSLResorts.com](http://KSLResorts.com).

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO

Coronado, CA — When the Hotel del Coronado first opened its doors in 1888, the United States of America looked far different than it does today. At that time, California was separated from the rest of the country by vast unsettled territories.

The 1848 discovery of gold in northern California had propelled settlement to the West Coast, but even forty years later, much of America's interior was still unsettled. Imagine what it must have been like for the hotel's early guests to leave the comforts and culture of the east and travel through the vast remoteness of the west to reach The Del.

In the early days, most guests traveled to The Del by train, and a trip from the east took seven days. Wealthy travelers journeyed in relative luxury, the wealthiest of who had their own private rail cars that were hitched up to trains back east and unhitched when they reached The Del. To accommodate private rail cars, the hotel had a spur track on property.

Not only was the hotel part of the movement west, it was part of a way of life, which was epitomized by America's luxurious railroad resorts. These were the watering holes for the rich, the famous, the privileged and the few. In fact, the hotel's early patrons very likely spent their days traveling by train from one fabulous resort to another. At one time, the Hotel del Coronado was one of many such resorts; today, it is one of the few that has not only survived, but still flourishes as a wonderful world-class hotel.

The Del was conceived and built by two mid-western businessmen, who became acquainted after moving to San Diego in the mid 1880s. In 1885, Elisha Babcock and Hampton Story bought the entire undeveloped peninsula of Coronado. They then subdivided the land, sold off the lots, recouped their money, and proceeded to build what they envisioned would be the "talk of the Western world."

Promoted as a fishing and hunting resort, the waters that surrounded The Del were rich with marine life; the nearby scrub was filled with quail, rabbit, and other small game (and the hotel's chef was happy to cook a guest's catch of the day). But, in addition to these pursuits, the hotel offered more refined amenities including billiards (separate facilities for men and women), bowling, croquet, swimming, boating, bicycling, archery, golf, and fine dining. There were also special rooms set aside for smoking, reading, writing, cards, chess, and music.

The Del also showcased a lot of modern technology: it was lighted by electricity (at that time, it was one of the largest buildings in the country to have electric lights); there were telephones (but not in the guests' rooms), and there were elevators. There was a fire alarm system and state-of-the-art fire fighting equipment (although it is not known to have ever been used). There were also numerous bathrooms, all equipped with something very rare: water pressure. The hotel was outfitted in fine china and linen from Europe. Furnishings came from the east, as did many of the original employees.

The Hotel del Coronado became a mecca for sophisticated eastern travelers, who had grown a little bored with the resorts on that side of the country, and who looked for exciting alternatives to European travel.

In 1906, polo was added, and in 1913, the hotel opened its own school for the children of long-term guests, many of whom would stay at The Del for months at a time. The early 1900s also brought the addition of "Tent City," which was developed by The Del for America's new

emerging social segment: the middle class. Tent City – which lasted until 1939 – was located on hotel property just south of The Del and offered modest tent and bungalow accommodations at reasonable rates.

The hotel's heyday continued into the 1920s, although by then, the clientele had shifted. There had been a war, and federal income tax had been instituted. No longer were there so many people who could pack up their families, their belongings, and their servants, and while away a season at The Del.

Times had changed. Now, women bobbed their hair, rolled up their skirts, rolled down their hose, took up smoking, and took off in rumble seats – and the men took off after them. The Roaring Twenties was truly the party decade at The Del, with lots of Hollywood coming to call, including people like Charlie Chaplin. But, he wasn't the only luminary. Even England's Prince of Wales visited The Del during the twenties, as did Lindbergh, who was honored at the hotel after his historic 1927 solo transatlantic flight.

During the Depression, the hotel suffered some, but not as much as many other turn-of-the-century resorts, which could not survive such hard times. Fortunately, the strong military economy in San Diego helped keep The Del afloat. In fact, the hotel continued to draw guests all through the Thirties, despite the Depression.

When World War II began, Coronado – like so many other areas on the West Coast – panicked, and so did the hotel's guests. Visitors wanted to get off Coronado and out of California as quickly as possible, but Coronado was still serviced by ferries only, so getting out fast was practically impossible.

During the war, blackout laws went into effect as Coronado's military base swelled with new recruits. Part of The Del was used by the Navy for housing and the hotel became a magnet for military men and their sweethearts. Couples danced at The Del, romanced at The Del, partied at The Del, married at The Del, honeymooned at The Del, and eventually returned after the war to celebrate at The Del.

Meanwhile, all across America, more and more nineteenth century resorts were being abandoned or destroyed. Like The Del, most were used by the military during the war, and some were even taken over entirely – for hospitals, for housing, for internment centers, even for reasons never disclosed. Afterwards, many of these hotels could not rebound.

The post-war years were no more generous. After World War II, Americans turned away from the past and tradition. They were interested in the future and whatever was new: televisions and TV dinners, suburbia and shiny new automobiles. And, with the automobiles came fast food restaurants, drive-in movies, and ... motels.

Still, The Del prevailed, thanks to a series of owners during the fifties and sixties who wanted to keep her going. During some of those leaner years, the hotel took in "resident guests." These were people who lived at The Del from one year to the next, and their rent usually included all meals.

Although the "Grand Lady by the Sea" may have been a little bit worse for wear at this time, she was still able to cast her magic spell far and wide. In 1958, director Billy Wilder chose The Del for the filming of *Some Like It Hot*, starring another timeless American legend, Marilyn Monroe.

Fortunately, by the late Sixties and into the Seventies, Americans had a change of heart, as they became more interested in history and more interested in saving their history. During this period, The Del was brought back to her former glory and has enjoyed good years ever since. In fact, since that time, every president since Lyndon Johnson has visited the hotel.

In 1998, The Del established its own Heritage Department, committed to safeguarding and sharing the hotel's wonderful history. Today, The Del is proud to have a permanent place in the nation's history and honored to serve a new generation of travelers.

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## FACTS ABOUT CORONADO, CALIFORNIA

- LOCATION:** The seaside community of Coronado is located on a 5.3 square mile peninsula that forms the western boundary of San Diego Bay. Coronado is connected to the city of San Diego by a 2.3-mile bridge and is 120 miles south of Los Angeles, 14 miles from the San Diego International Airport, and 16 miles north of Tijuana (Mexican border).
- TRANSPORTATION:** San Diego International Airport (Lindbergh Field) is currently served by: Aeromexico, Alaska, Alaska Commuter, America West, America West Express, American, American Eagle, Continental, Continental Express, Delta, Delta Connection, Frontier, Frontier JetExpress, Hawaiian, JetBlue, Northwest, Northwest AirlinK, Southwest, Sun Country, United, United Express and US Airways. Landing fields throughout the county serve private aircraft.
- BY TRAIN:** Amtrak passenger trains provide service to and from Los Angeles with a stop in San Diego across the bay from Coronado. For information call (800) USA-RAIL or, in San Diego, (619) 239-9021.
- BY BUS:** San Diego Transit Corporation buses serve the Coronado area with Greyhound and Trailways providing bus service throughout California.
- BY CAR:** An excellent freeway system makes travel by car easy throughout the county. Taxi, rental cars and tours are readily available.
- TROLLEY AND WATER TAXI:** Coronado is serviced by the Coronado Ferry Company, the Coronado Shuttle, Old Town Trolley and San Diego Water Taxi.
- ACCOMMODATIONS:** There are approximately 2,000 hotel, motel and inn guestrooms in Coronado and over 45,000 guestrooms in San Diego.
- RESTAURANTS:** Coronado offers over 50 restaurants, featuring a variety of cuisine, from quaint alfresco dining to the finest gourmet.
- ATTRACTIONS:** Besides the historic Hotel del Coronado, visitor attractions include the Ferry Landing Marketplace, Silver Strand State Beach, Coronado Museum of History and Art, and tours of the Naval Air Station at North Island. The greater San Diego area's major attractions are the World Famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World, Legoland and the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Other leading attractions include: Old Town; Balboa Park; Cabrillo National Monument; Stephen Birch Aquarium-

Museum at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; and Seaport Village.

**ARTS & CULTURE:**

Lamb's Players Theater, one of Southern California's most respected performing arts companies, offers five shows in its historic Coronado theater every year. The Tony Award-winning Old Globe Theater, San Diego Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse and the Starlight Musical Theater are among San Diego's theatrical offerings. The San Diego Opera and the San Diego Symphony entertain with a season of international artists. San Diego has approximately 90 museums including 16 located in Balboa Park.

**RECREATION  
ACTIVITIES:**

Coronado's recreational opportunities include: 28 miles of beach on bay and ocean; a dedicated 15-mile bike path; tennis; boating; fishing; yachting; and an 18-hole championship golf course.

San Diego offers over 70 golf courses and miles of beach and ocean. Recreational activities include: scuba diving; swimming; snorkeling; water skiing; windsurfing; hiking; hang-gliding; hot-air ballooning; and whale watching (seasonal).

**SPORTS EVENTS:**

San Diego sports events include the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club's horse racing season and the San Diego International Marathon. San Diego professional teams include the Padres (baseball), the Chargers (NFL football), the Gulls (hockey) and the Sockers (indoor soccer).

**CLIMATE:**

Coronado enjoys one of North America's most enviable climates with an average daytime temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit and sunny skies.

**ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION:**

For more information about Coronado and the San Diego area, contact:

SAN DIEGO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU  
2215 India Street  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 232-3101

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