



Investigation Summary Report

Hotel Del Coronado San Diego, CA



HISTORY

Rising from water's edge on the quaint island of Coronado in San Diego , the Hotel del Coronado is considered one of America 's most beautiful beach resorts.

A classic historic hotel, The Del was built in 1888 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977. Today, The Del offers travelers contemporary luxury in an enchanting Victorian atmosphere. Add to this, the resort's beachfront location, and it's no wonder USA Today calls The Del "one of the top ten resorts in the world."

The Del offers a quintessential Southern California resort experience. For those seeking a romantic retreat, the resort's magical architecture and island setting are perfect. In fact, the
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Travel Channel rated The Del the number one wedding destination in America . The Del is also a wonderful family vacation destination, featuring abundant recreation, as well as, seasonal teen and children's programs. And, for getting down to business, meeting and incentive planners can work with over 65,000 feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and exhibition space.

The history behind this hotel is endless. It was made famous for its legions of celebrated guests and by its role in the 1959 movie "Some Like it Hot" starring Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis. In the late 1800's, Elisha Babcock and H.L. Story, dreamed of opening a resort hotel that would "become the talk of the Western world." To build it, they imported lumber and labor from San Francisco and built an electrical powerplant and a kiln to fire bricks on the site. They even had a mahogany bar built in Pennsylvania, then transported by ship around the tip of South America. Even back then, the hotel cost the astronomical sum of \$1 million to construct and furnish.

In 1891 Benjamin Harrison became the first of many US Presidents to stay at the Del. Charles Lindbergh was honored at the Del after his legendary solo trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. L. Frank Baum, the author of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz", is said to have based his vision of the Emerald City on the hotel's turreted design. And many think that Edward (then Prince of Wales) first met Wallis Spencer Simpson, the divorcee for whom he gave up the English throne, at the Del when he visited in 1920. Other Presidents that have stayed were have been Richard Nixon, Theodore Roosevelt, Bill Clinton, and Ronald Regan to name a few.

The most famous of its haunted stories concerns a woman named Kate Morgan, who checked into the hotel in November 1892. The story goes that Morgan, who was pregnant at the time, had been anticipating the arrival of her husband, but he never showed up. Her body was found along the hotel beachfront, with a gunshot wound in the head. The coroner's inquest ruled that her death was a suicide, but rumors have long been circulated to the contrary.

Kate's spirit is said to haunt room 3312 of the hotel, but there have been reports of ghostly occurrences in room 3502 as well. Hotel guests and employees report having heard strange, unexplained noises and observed curtains billowing when windows are closed.



