



PHOTOS: THE BREAKERS PALM BEACH

The prestigious Florida Gold Coast resort, The Breakers Palm Beach, has been doing \$25 million per year upgrades for 10 years, and the changes are remarkable.

# It's not your grandfather's Breakers anymore

Upgrades — to the tune of \$250M — have recreated this luxurious resort

The renowned Florida resort, The Breakers Palm Beach, is proving it is always the right time to think young. It recently completed a 10-year, \$250-million renovation and expansion and unveiled several new features in 2014.

It is hard to imagine what got better, since this classic has been at the pinnacle of the Atlantic Gold Coast scene for more than 100 years and prides itself on its upkeep. This year, the hotel has modernized as well, introducing new spa features, updated accommodations and a cool, loungey take on food and drinks.

The Breakers was founded in 1896 by Florida pioneer Henry Flagler as a getaway for high society, many of whom who would travel south with generations of family members and entourages of servants. Listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, it still is owned by Flagler's descendants, independent of a chain brand.



ROCHELLE LASH  
CHECKING IN

The Breakers, an award-winning AAA Five Diamond resort, is the epitome of grandeur — an Italian Renaissance-style palace with splendid interiors and a huge roster of indoor and outdoor facilities and activities.

The size of a small village, the elite 540-room resort commands a huge slice of landscaped oceanfront property with a private beach and beach club, four swimming pools, 36 holes of championship golf, 10 Har-Tru tennis courts, a luxurious spa and water sports. It has nine distinctive restaurants and nine bars, ranging from informal beach chic to sophisticated gourmet cuisine.

The leisure possibilities go on. The family entertainment centre is an all-day recreation area with an arcade, a toddler and children's playroom, arts and crafts sessions, a video

game room, a playground and bicycle and tricycle rentals. The Shops at The Breakers is a charming courtyard of exclusive boutiques, including Guerlain and Lilly Pulitzer, as well as Absolutely Suitable, a signature shop for swimwear, and Coconut Crew for kids.

Among the hotel's 2014 features are:

■ Twenty-five newly built beach bungalows that are private day havens for families, couples or groups of friends. Each luxe hideaway is like a hotel room with a full bathroom, living and dining spaces, Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs. Call ahead and you can ask for the refrigerator to be stocked with anything from baby formula to Champagne.

■ The new HMF lounge, named for Henry Morrison Flagler, is a modern take on a retro Palm Beach cocktail party. HMF gets cocktail-creative with the Chanel No. 6 which is vodka and Chambord; the Railcar 91, a mix of cognac and citrus; and the herbal GT, which is gin spiked with rosemary. The food side features pasta with lobster or duck sausage, sushi and Japanese grilled delicacies, and food truck fun such as Waygu beef sliders, Korean short ribs and duck

## IF YOU GO

### The Breakers Palm Beach

888-Breakers (888-273-2537), 561-655-6611 or visit thebreakers.com. Rooms start at \$389 U.S. per night. Until Dec. 17, the Everyday Extra Promotion includes children's meals, buffet breakfast, fitness classes, tennis, Wi-Fi.



Waygu beef sliders from the all-new HMF lounge at The Breakers, one of the hotel's contemporary additions.

empanadas.

■ The makeover of the Flagler Steakhouse is designed to appeal to a new generation of steak-lovers. It still has that clubby comfort, but it now is a cool, modern vision in red, white and blue, with a revamped jazz playlist and climate-controlled outdoor dining, as an option. The expanded menu goes beyond the Flagler's luscious veal chops and filet mignon, expanding to blue crab dumplings, oysters, kale and fig salad and roasted Chilean sea bass with lemon pesto. All boosted by specialty cocktails and a wine list developed by a master sommelier.

■ The Spa at The Breakers has appointed a new wellness

coach, Ashley Pearson, who focuses on yoga and Pilates integrated with stress management and nutrition. The Spa is an exceptional beach-front pavilion with women's, men's and children's services, fitness classes and sig-

nature treatments such as the Tammy Fender Holistic Facial, developed by a Palm Beach esthetician, and the Personal Retreat, a massage that patrons customize to attain physical or mental relaxation.

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