

= The Beverly Hills Hotel =

The Beverly Hills Hotel , also called The Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows , is located on Sunset Boulevard in Beverly Hills , California . One of the world 's most iconic and best @-@ known hotels , it is closely associated with Hollywood film stars , rock stars and celebrities . The hotel has 208 guest rooms and suites , and 23 bungalows , each designed in the peachy pink and green colors which are a trademark of the hotel .

The Beverly Hills Hotel was established in May 1912 , before the city 's existence . The original owners were Margaret J. Anderson , a wealthy widow , and her son , Stanley S. Anderson , who had been managing the Hollywood Hotel . The original hotel was designed by Pasadena architect Elmer Grey , in the Mediterranean Revival style . From 1928 to 1932 , the hotel was owned by the Van Noy Railway News and Hotel Company . In 1941 , Hernando Courtright , the vice president of the Bank of America , purchased the hotel with friends including Irene Dunne , Loretta Young and Harry Warner . Courtright established the Polo Lounge , which was for many years the premier dining spot in Los Angeles , hosting luminaries such as the Rat Pack , Humphrey Bogart and Marlene Dietrich . Courtright paid for a significant renovation in the late forties , during which the hotel was first painted its famous pink color in 1948 , to match that period 's country club style . The following year , architect Paul Williams added the Crescent Wing .

The strict resident owner of The Beverly Hills Hotel from 1954 until his death in 1979 was former Detroit real estate magnate Ben L. Silberstein . In 1986 , Marvin Davis bought the Hotel from Silberstein 's sons @-@ in @-@ law Burt Slatkin and Ivan F. Boesky . On December 30 , 1992 , the hotel closed for a complete restoration , reopening in 1995 . Since 1996 it has been run as part of the prestigious Dorchester Collection . In 2012 the hotel was named the first historic landmark in Beverly Hills , and two new Presidential Bungalows were added .

= = History = =

= = = Early history = = =

In early 1911 , Margaret J. Anderson , a wealthy widow , and her son , Stanley S. Anderson , who had been managing the Hollywood Hotel , ordered the construction of the Beverly Hills Hotel , in close proximity to the Burton Green mansion . Burton Green , an oil tycoon and real estate developer , President of the Rodeo Land and Water Company , had purchased land in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains , which had once been owned by the Mexican government . He had begun building mansions on the land , including his own residence , investing some \$ 500 @,@ 000 , but was having difficulty selling them . He hired Anderson to build a hotel , which he named Beverly Farms , after his home in Massachusetts , believing that it would attract people to the area , billing it as " halfway between Los Angeles and the sea " . The Hollywood film industry was taking off at the time and investors were looking to develop the area . A May 11 , 1911 edition of The Los Angeles Times announced the news that a " huge Mission @-@ style hotel " was to be built by Anderson , with the motto that " her guests were entitled to the best of everything regardless of cost " .

The hotel opened May 12 , 1912 , before the city 's existence . Margaret and Stanley took up residence within the hotel grounds . By 1914 , Hollywood directors , actors and actresses such as Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks , Charlie Chaplin , Gloria Swanson , Buster Keaton , Rudolph Valentino and Will Rogers had purchased homes in the area , " transforming bean fields surrounding The Beverly Hills Hotel into prime real estate " . The city of Beverly Hills was established . The first five bungalows of the hotel were built in 1915 . In 1919 , Douglas Fairbanks bought a lodge above the hotel , and expanded it with his wife Mary Pickford , which became known as " Pickfair . " According to one publication , a star would know they would finally " made it " when they received a dinner invitation from " Pickfair " . Gloria Swanson resided in one of the bungalows of the hotel during her divorce .

In 1915 , the Andersons donated a portion of the hotel 's original grounds to the community of

Beverly Hills . It was used to create the community 's first public park . Originally known as Sunset Park , it is now Will Rogers Memorial Park . An early tradition was the annual Easter Egg hunt , put on for the children of the guests and employees . Silent film star Harold Lloyd was an early hotel patron , and in 1921 he decided to film a scene at the hotel for A Sailor @-@ Made Man . From 1928 to 1932 , the hotel was owned by the Van Noy Railway News and Hotel Company . Van Noy had to close the hotel during the Great Depression years , although he leased the bungalows out as properties . With Bank of America funding , the hotel reopened in 1932 .

= = = The glamour years = = =

During the 1930s , The Beverly Hills Hotel became increasingly popular with Hollywood film stars . Fred Astaire took a shine to the hotel , and enjoyed reading the Daily Variety and the Hollywood Reporter by the pool . Cesar Romero and Carole Lombard were pictured together at the hotel in 1937 . In 1938 , the Sand and Pool Club was established at the hotel . It proved extremely popular , with white sand imported from Arizona , which made the pool area look like a beach . The following year , it began hosting fashion shows sponsored by local department stores such as Bullock 's Wilshire . In 1940 , one of the hotel 's long @-@ time patrons , Marlene Dietrich , was instrumental in bringing about a change in policy in the Polo Lounge , which had made it compulsory for women to don skirts which she refused to wear .

In 1941 , Hernando Courtright , the vice president of the Bank of America , purchased the hotel with friends . Irene Dunne , Loretta Young and Harry Warner also became owners of the hotel as a result of their investment with Courtright . Courtright established the Polo Lounge " in honor of a celebrity band of polo players who toasted victories at the restaurant after matches in the bean fields " . In 1942 , Howard Hughes bought up half a dozen of the bungalows and lived there on several occasions throughout the decades . The hotel accommodated his eccentricities , including his request for " roast beef sandwiches delivered to a nook in a tree " . The Beverly Hills Hotel underwent significant renovation in the late forties when the porte cochere was expanded and painted in stripes . In 1947 Courtright opened the Crystal Room and the Lanai Restaurant , later called The Coterie . The building was first painted its famous pink color in 1948 to match the country club style of the period , and it became known as " The Pink Palace " . The following year , architect Paul Williams added the Crescent Wing . The Fountain Coffee Shop also opened at this time .

In 1954 , Detroit real estate magnate Ben L. Silberstein bought the hotel for \$ 5 @.@ 5 million . Courtright later became hotelier at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel . The reputation of the Beverly Hills Hotel , as a leading luxury hotel with glamorous patrons , took off during the 1950s and attracted eminent guests such as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor , Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon , King Albert of Belgium , the Crown Prince of Monaco and Grace Kelly , John Wayne and Henry Fonda . Elizabeth Taylor , one of the hotel 's best known guests , would stay with her numerous husbands in the bungalows , and spent six of her eight honeymoons there . Her father owned an art gallery on the ground floor of the hotel . The Polo Lounge became associated with Frank Sinatra , Dean Martin and the Rat Pack , where they held heavy drinking bouts . In 1956 , the pool of the hotel and cabana club was a filming location for Designing Women , starring Gregory Peck and Lauren Bacall . Marilyn Monroe and Yves Montand stayed at the hotel during the production of George Cukor 's Let 's Make Love . Monroe 's favorite bungalow was No. 7 . George Hamilton and Rex Harrison enjoyed sunbathing at the hotel ; Harrison would sunbathe in the nude in Cabana One , and answer the door wearing " just a handkerchief over his private parts " .

In 1963 , the comedy picture Who 's Been Sleeping in My Bed ? , starring Dean Martin , Elizabeth Montgomery , Jill St. John and Carol Burnett , was shot at the hotel . In the 1970s , John Lennon and Yoko Ono hid out in one of the bungalows for a week . Richard M. Nixon 's chief of staff , H.R. Haldeman , and presidential aide John Ehrlichman were eating breakfast in the Polo Lounge when they were informed of the Watergate in 1972 . In January , 1976 , Peter Finch died of a sudden heart attack while sitting in the hotel lobby . Two months later , he was posthumously awarded the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Howard Beale in the film Network . His co @-@ star Faye Dunaway stayed at the hotel after winning the Academy Award for Best Actress for the same

film ; in one memorable photograph she was seated by the hotel pool lounging back in a chair surrounded by newspapers and her Oscar trophy . The exterior of the hotel was featured on the album cover art of The Eagles 's LP " Hotel California " that same year . Two years later , California Suite was filmed at the hotel .

= = = Later history = = =

Owner Ben Silberstein died in 1979 , and passed the hotel to his two daughters , Muriel Slatkin and Seema Boesky , wife of stock trader Ivan Boesky . In 1986 , Marvin Davis bought the hotel from Silberstein 's sons @-@ in @-@ law Burt Slatkin and Ivan Boesky . Boesky had bought the outstanding 5 % of stock for a reported fortune and decided to sell , despite Slatkin 's desire to keep the hotel . Less than a year later , Davis sold the hotel to the Sultan of Brunei , Hassanal Bolkiah , for \$ 110 million .

On December 30 , 1992 , the hotel closed for a complete restoration , said to be in the region of \$ 100 ? 125 million . The project lasted two and a half years with the hotel reopening on June 3 , 1995 , with upgrades to furniture and fittings . The hotel is now managed and owned by the Dorchester Collection , organized in 1996 to manage the hotel interests of the Brunei Investment Agency . The west coast regional director for the Dorchester Collection oversees The Beverly Hills Hotel as well as the Hotel Bel @-@ Air . In 2012 , the hotel celebrated its 100 @-@ year anniversary and began to remodel its lobby , with the Polo Lounge , pool cabanas and Cabana Cafe , and guest @-@ rooms and suites to be renovated by 2014 . The hotel was also named the first historic landmark in Beverly Hills in September 2012 .

= = = Controversy and boycott = = =

The Sultan of Brunei 's stake in the ownership of the hotel drew controversy in April 2014 when he initiated the first phase of a three @-@ phase plan to adapt Brunei 's legal system to include aspects of Sharia law implicating his approval of the persecution of homosexuals in the complex legal system there (a two part system involving separate courts and legislation for Islamic and non @-@ Islamic citizens) . In protest , a United States national LGBT advocacy organization , the Gill Action Fund , canceled its reservation to hold a conference of major donors at the Beverly Hills Hotel and demanded a refund of its deposit . The hotel management responded by issuing a statement asserting that it does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation . Fashion designers Brian Atwood and Peter Som subsequently called for wider protests , urging the fashion industry to boycott all of the hotels owned by the Dorchester Collection .

Meanwhile , the boycott had attracted support from Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Group , as well as numerous Hollywood executives and stars , including Jay Leno and Ellen DeGeneres . In addition , a string of organizations joined the boycott , cancelling reservations to hold conferences and other high @-@ profile events at the establishment ; travel industry firms likewise signed on to a boycott of all Dorchester Collection hotels . Others , including Russell Crowe and Kim Kardashian , have spoken out against the boycott . Crowe stated that despite his disapproval of the new laws in Brunei , it is unfair to punish the hardworking employees of the hotel . Similarly , Kardashian published a blog post voicing her criticism of the boycott and expressing her sympathies for the hotel workers . HR Magazine said that the protests are " misguided " and will not affect the government policy of Brunei when the Dorchester Collection 's annual revenue is \$ 300 million while the BIA has over \$ 30 billion in assets from oil and gas .

By May 2014 , the Beverly Hills City Council passed a resolution urging the Sultan of Brunei to sell the Beverly Hills Hotel . Lili Bosse , the mayor of Beverly Hills at the time , welcomed the resolution and added that she had made a " personal decision " not to return to the hotel until the situation had been solved . The decision was lauded by Rabbi Laura Geller of Temple Emanuel , where Bosse is a congregant . By then the Jewish Journal reported that " more than \$ 2 million worth of events have been canceled at the Beverly Hills Hotel by dozens of groups . " Dorchester Collection Chief Executive Officer Christopher Cowdray then responded to the controversy by asking the public to

consider the issue at hand in a broader perspective , citing the fact that many brands are backed by foreign investors . Sharia law exists alongside other normative systems and has been adopted by many other Muslim countries , including Saudi Arabia which has major investments in the American hospitality industry , including the Four Seasons and Fairmont hotel chains . Adweek declared that " the bad press and protests have tarnished the glamorous image of the Beverly Hills Hotel , one of the most famous hotels in the world " and added that " such extreme brand damage will be difficult to repair " .

= = Architecture = =

= = = Exterior = = =

Judith Kirkwood of Orange Coast Magazine has stated that " The Beverly Hills Hotel is such an icon that my friend , Gretchen , and I wondered if it was a mirage when the taxi pulled up in the porte cochere and deposited us on a red carpet , but realized that it was " more like a peachy pink dream dusted with gold ? and green and white striped accents " . The original main building of The Beverly Hills Hotel was designed by Pasadena architect Elmer Grey , in the Mediterranean Revival style . Built on a prominence above the main road below , it resembled a white colonial palatial mansion or mission , with verandas and arches fitted with wicker furniture , and at the time was set in the countryside . High above the main entrance are three domes ; two flanking the center which are smaller and lower in height , with flags hoisted on them . A trolley @-@ stop pavilion was situated on the western side . The iconic signage and the addition were designed by architect Paul Williams .

The extensive gardens , covering 12 acres (4 @. @ 9 ha) , were designed by landscape architect Wilbur David Cook . They contain bougainvillea , banana plants , hibiscus and other tropical flora . Svend Petersen , the Danish @-@ American pool manager at the hotel for forty @-@ two years , became a Hotel Ambassador in 2002 . He had notably opened up the pool after hours for The Beatles and taught Faye Dunaway to swim a 1940s freestyle crawl for her appearance in the film Mommie Dearest .

= = = Interior = = =

The Sunroom of the hotel , containing Californian craftsman furniture , provides vistas of the Pacific Ocean . A room , known as the Crystal Room , was allocated for small private dinner parties . The principal dining room could accommodate up to 500 people . The Children 's dining room , which became the El Jardin Restaurant , is now the iconic Polo Lounge . The Polo Lounge was seen as the premier power dining spot in all of Los Angeles . The lounge was renovated in 1974 , and given a softer design with table lamps and flowers . It is fashioned in peachy pink with dark green booths , each featuring a plug @-@ in phone . The photograph behind the bar depicts Will Rogers and Darryl F. Zanuck , two lounge regulars , playing polo . The menu offers a classic Neil McCarthy salad , named after the polo @-@ playing millionaire . The hotel has its own bakery and herb garden , makes its own vinegar and smokes meats . The chef in 2003 was Katsuo Sugiura , who cooked " oak @-@ grilled food with an Asian flair " . In 2007 , one large suite was converted into the Bar Nineteen12 . The fireplace in the hotel 's lobby has a fire going every day of the year .

A new wing was added to the east side of the main building in the late 1940s . The " Crescent Wing , " as it became known , features mature plantings on the balconies .

= = = = Rooms and bungalows = = = =

As of 2012 , rooms cost from \$ 550 up to \$ 15 @, @ 380 for a night in one of the presidential bungalows . A typical room as of August 2015 is \$ 1 @, @ 045 a night . Each of the rooms has their own balcony and is designed in the Beverly Hills Hotel colors of peachy pinks and greens , apricots

and yellows . Several of the more expensive rooms have private patios , Jacuzzis and their own kitchens .

Five bungalows were originally added to the gardens in 1915 to provide for families who could return each year with their own staff . As of 2015 , the hotel has 23 bungalows set out across the gardens . Bungalows 14 @-@ 21 are known as " Bachelor 's Row " , due to their association with film stars and their affairs , including Warren Beatty and Orson Welles . In 1990 , a private pool and Jacuzzi were added to Bungalow No. 5 to accommodate businessman Walter Annenberg . No.5 had been a favorite of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton who had " a standing room service order for two bottles of vodka at breakfast , and two more at lunch " . Taylor also liked No.3 , where she stayed during her marriage to Eddie Fisher . Marilyn Monroe favored No. 1 and No. 7 . No.1 , the most secluded of the bungalows , features an interior described by CNN as " creamy , lush and traditional , decorated in the manner of one 's wealthy grandparents " . No. 7 has become known as " the " Norma Jean " . Dietrich ordered a 7 feet (2 @. @ 1 m) by 8 feet (2 @. @ 4 m) bed added to No. 10 , the bungalow where John Lennon and Yoko Ono stayed in the 1970s . In 2011 two Presidential Bungalows were established , replacing the tennis courts , with each containing three bedrooms and a private swimming pool and shower .

Howard Hughes permanently kept a bungalow at the hotel , however it was a secret whether he was on the premises or not . Often the only person who knew Hughes was at the Beverly Hills was the hotel 's chef . Hughes would awaken him in the middle of the night to prepare food for him . It has been alleged that several of the bungalows are haunted . Guests have reported hearing what is believed to be Harpo Marx playing the harp , and seeing an apparition of Sergei Rachmaninoff .

= = Gallery = =