

## Historic Hotels of the Rockies: Hotel Updates

Rocky Mountain States, USA (Summer 2009) – Renovations and recognitions are recent news items for members of the Historic Hotels of the Rockies (HHR). These vintage gems are unveiling meticulous restorations, receiving prestigious awards, celebrating milestones, and announcing culinary events.

**The New Sheridan Hotel** (est. 1895) has revealed its complete makeover, with Nina Campbell designs creating a new look for each individual room and suite. This transformation brings a new look to the main street of notorious Telluride, Colorado, and a new level of luxury to the landmark building's distinctive character. The Chop House Restaurant has been expanded and there is a new coffee/espresso shop in the lobby. There are two new hot tubs on the roof for a memorable après ski experience.

**The Plaza Hotel** (est. 1882) in Las Vegas, New Mexico recently restored and expanded with the purchase of the adjacent Charles Ilfeld commercial building. This addition creates thirty-five more rooms, a grand ballroom for up to three hundred people, and various other salons for convention and banquet events.

**The Riverside Hotel** (est. 1903) in Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, has finished a refurbishing of the sixteen room accommodation that includes new paint, new lighting, new heating and plumbing and new electricity.

**The Hotel Colorado** (est. 1893) in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, reports that the renovation of the bell tower in this neo-Italian design is complete. New features are king bed, air conditioning, and a balcony above the city lights to allow a dazzling view of the night sky. More room renovations are planned.

Train fans rejoice! The **Izaak Walton Inn** (est. 1939) in Essex, Montana will soon be able to offer a fully renovated locomotive as a lodging option. The Great Northern 441 (originally built in 1968) is decked out with four hundred year old hardwood floors, custom cabinetry, and even a fireplace. Photos and floor plans are available on the hotel's website, and this luxury accommodation should be ready for rental starting in October of this year.

This year **The Strater Hotel** (est. 1887) in Durango, Colorado has been recognized with several awards. Upon completion of an energy efficient upgrade to the hot water system, the hotel received the 2008 Governor's Award for the Best Historic Restoration. Noting culinary excellence, Mahogany Grille's Executive Chef Dave Cuntz was selected to be an exhibitor at the 27th Annual Food and Wine Classic in Aspen, Colorado where he served his famous Pepper Steak Herbert at the Grand Tasting. Mahogany Grille was also the recipient of the 2008 and 2009 Wine Spectator Award.

Happy Birthday to the Peikers at **Castle Marne** (est. 1889) in Denver, Colorado! The current innkeepers celebrate twenty years of ownership at this striking one hundred and twenty year old, award-winning landmark, but it has been in the family for three generations. This luxurious stone mansion offers Victorian elegance with all the modern day conveniences, and is close to major attractions such as the Denver Botanical Gardens, the Denver Zoo, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Congratulations to James and Cheryl Gagnon of the **Grand Union Hotel** (est. 1882) in Fort Benton, Montana, as they celebrate ten years of being open since their restoration (official reopening was November 1, 1999.) The party starts on Halloween, and anniversary specials will continue for the following week.

Save the date - for Fine Wine and Dine at **Nagle Warren Mansion** (est. 1888) in Cheyenne, Wyoming on October 22, 2009. It's the annual Harvest Festival dinner, where fine wines will be perfectly paired with the freshest local meats and produce, served in comfortable elegance and enhanced by classical guitar background music. Contact the hotel for lodging and dinner packages.

Historic Hotels of the Rockies welcomes the newest member, **The Pollard Hotel**, a 38 room historic hotel established in 1893 in Red Lodge, Montana. This local landmark was restored and reopened in 1994 and now offers guests year round outdoor activities that include downhill and cross-country skiing locally, and snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park. Summer activities include hiking, horseback riding, and exploring scenic Beartooth Highway.

**Historic Hotels of the Rockies** welcomes new members to this history-rich consortium. For more information go online at [www.historic-hotels.com](http://www.historic-hotels.com).

#### **About Historic Hotels of the Rockies**

An eclectic collection of vintage properties, the Historic Hotels of the Rockies resurrect the glory days of the late 1800's and early 1900's. For detailed information on each hotel, go to [www.historic-hotels.com](http://www.historic-hotels.com).

For a press kit and press releases, go to [www.historic-hotels.com/press\\_room/hotel\\_news\\_mainview2](http://www.historic-hotels.com/press_room/hotel_news_mainview2)

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