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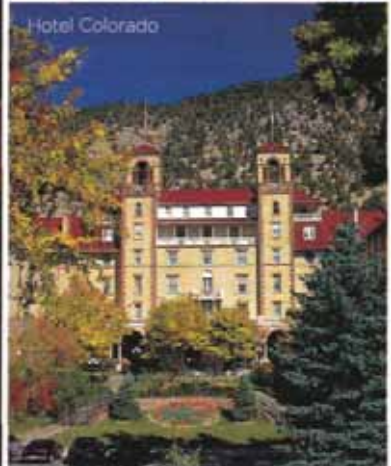
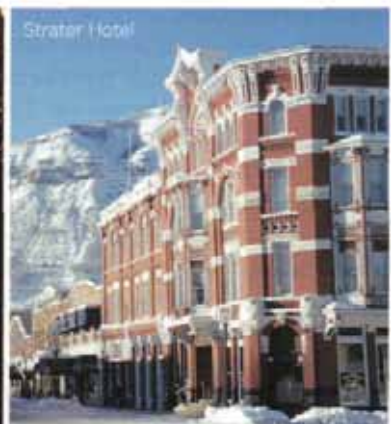
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ENVELOPED IN HISTORY

Book your next gathering at one of Colorado's venerable 1800s hotels that are rich in charm, location, amenities and tales about influential guests. BY SHELLY STEIG

FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, these seven historic hotels have hosted presidents, queens, luminaries and all sorts of folks. The properties are at the heart of their communities in or near vibrant downtowns, making it easy for event attendees to explore shops, restaurants and attractions. Plus, you won't want to miss the top-notch restaurants, bars and spas on-site.



PHOTOS COURTESY: HOTEL JEROME; HOTEL COLORADO; THE OXFORD HOTEL; STRATER HOTEL.

Beaumont Hotel & Spa, Ouray

The beautiful Beaumont Hotel in Ouray was built at the height of gold fever in 1886 to be the flagship hotel of the San Juan Mountains. The Beaumont hosted celebrities through the years such as Sarah Bernhard and Herbert Hoover.

After a parking dispute in 1968, the property was painted pink and shuttered for 35 years. Fortunately the King family painstakingly restored the Beaumont back to its original glory. The 12-room property, which has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973 and recently sold, reopened in 2003 and garnered kudos such as the Inaugural Preserve America Presidential Award.

For elegant seated affairs, book the 75-person capacity Grand Ballroom, an opulent space with a vaulted wood ceiling and arched Gothic windows hold original stained glass. The ballroom features an orchestra balcony that can be used by a presenter or emcee. A separate conference room seats 10.

The Brown Palace Hotel & Spa, Denver

From the time it opened in 1892, the Brown Palace has hosted dignitaries and luminaries in its luxurious guest rooms. Some of these guests have left their mark more than others. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was practicing his golf stroke in what is now the Eisenhower Suite, when the wayward ball left a dent in the original fireplace mantel. After a renovation, the dented mantel piece was framed and hung in the suite.

Every president but one since Theodore Roosevelt has stayed at The Brown Palace. The 241-room hotel has been the site of presidential campaign headquarters, an officer's club during World War II and the temporary Oval Office of President Bill Clinton during the Denver Summit of the Eight.

The legendary hotel offers 13,000 square feet of meeting space for groups from eight to 800. The 5,800-square-foot Grand Ballroom is adorned with imported African mahogany paneling and Czechoslovakian crystal chandeliers and can be divided into two 2,900-square-foot rooms.

The Brown Palace's other meeting facilities include 12 breakout rooms, one of which is

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New Sheridan Hotel

an executive boardroom that adjoins a one-bedroom suite. Don't miss seeing the lobby during the holidays or taking time for tea.

Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs

Built in 1893, the Hotel Colorado was the playground for the elite who came to Glenwood Springs to "take the cure" in the town's mineral waters. Through its years of operation the hotel even hosted outlaws such as Chicago gangster Al Capone.

Legend claims that the Hotel Colorado was also the birthplace of many children's most cherished toy. Theodore Roosevelt was a frequent visitor who used the hotel as his hunting base. After he returned empty-handed from a hunt in 1901, maids pieced together a fabric alternative, creating the beloved Teddy bear.

The 130-room Hotel Colorado features more than 10,000 square feet of meeting space that can accommodate 700-plus people. An additional six meeting rooms can accommodate another 350 conferees.

Hotel Jerome, Aspen

Investors who built Hotel Jerome in 1889 at the height of the silver boom had high hopes it would rival London's premier property The Savoy. In those days, guests paid \$3 to \$4 a night. During the period from 1918 to 1941, many prominent locals lived at the hotel when rates dropped to \$10 a month and included meals.

With more than \$6 million in refurbishments to date, the prominent hotel's mine camp, Victorian style has been preserved and interior décor reproduced to match the time period. A charter member of the Historic Hotels of America and on the National Register of Historic Places, the 94-room Hotel Jerome also offers five distinctively different meeting rooms that range from 480 to 3,450 square feet and can accommodate from 10 to 500 guests.

"When coming to Hotel Jerome you are experiencing the history for yourself and creating memories and history of your own," says Kevin Siegrist, direc-

PHOTO COURTESY: THE NEW SHERIDAN HOTEL.



tor of catering and grand events. "Our grand events rooms would have hosted some of the most well-known people of our time ranging from Hunter Thompson to John Wayne."

New Sheridan Hotel, Telluride

In 1891, Telluride was only four years old but had already earned a reputation for rowdiness. Hoping to tame the town with a sophisticated landmark, gold and silver investors built the Sheridan Hotel. The original wood structure burned down just three years later, was rebuilt in brick on the lot next door and appropriately named the New Sheridan.

In 2008, the 26-room Victorian hotel on Telluride's main street underwent a \$9 million remodel that blended the old with modern amenities such as heated tile floors, iPod docking stations, luxurious bathrooms and LCD flat-screen televisions. The hotel also offers a meeting space in the 650-square-foot American Room.

"Meeting in a historic hotel is an entirely different experience than meeting in an ordinary hotel," says New Sheridan General Manager Ray Farnsworth. "The history and architecture and grandeur combine to make a unique experience."

The Oxford Hotel, Denver

When Denver's first hotel opened down the street from busy Union Station in 1891, the Rocky Mountain News raved that the Oxford sported the latest in gadgets and technology as well as Gilded Age opulence. Through years of operation, the hotel has acquired an extensive Western art collection—many of which were tradeoffs for unpaid fees.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the 80-room Oxford also boasts a spacious fitness center, upscale spa and

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1890

1891

1892

Battle of Wounded Knee

The Oxford Hotel opens

The Denver Post starts publishing & the Brown Palace Hotel launches

EARLY 1900S “NEWBIES” JUST AS GRAND

The Broadmoor and The Stanley Hotel are the relative newcomers amongst these historic properties and were constructed more on the edges of their respective towns.

The Stanley Hotel, Estes Park

This must-see property was opened in 1909 by the co-inventor of the Stanley Steam Car who moved to Colorado to recover from tuberculosis. The resort is six miles from the gates of Rocky Mountain National Park and is also within a few miles of the charming hamlet of Estes Park. Mountains frame the property making it seem more like a picture postcard than the setting of Stephen King’s novel-turned-horror-movie, “The Shining.” With its classic elegance and sweeping front porch, The Stanley is anything but horrifying.



The Stanley Hotel

Nestled on 35 acres within view of the Continental Divide and Longs Peak, the resort features 140 rooms, including a Presidential Cottage with five bedrooms. The Stanley also offers 16,000 square feet of meeting space that can host 10 to 300 attendees. Eight banquet and conference rooms are also available. Sales Manager Brian Randolph notes, “Many of our meeting rooms are highlighted by the original architecture. These spaces offer a warm inviting feeling. Not the sterile meeting space that some have grown accustomed to.”

The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs

This sprawling resort is an Italian Renaissance masterpiece that opened in 1918 thanks to Spencer Penrose, a gold and copper magnate who also happened to be an anti-prohibitionist. When Penrose invited top-tier hoteliers and members of the press to show off his property in 1920, he also asked them to bring “five bottles of their favorite cologne”—code for illegal alcohol. Bottle Alley, just outside the Tavern restaurant, showcases Prohibition-era bottles. Look closely and you can see that Penrose sometimes penned where the alcohol was consumed and by whom.

Currently at 3,000 acres and 744 guest rooms, The Broadmoor is the only property to ever win Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Awards for 51 consecutive years. It has also held AAA Five Diamond status longer than any other hotel. Its restaurants and spas are as impressive as the hotel’s incredible 185,000 square feet of meeting facilities.

“All organizations want to provide their meeting attendees an experience that lives on past the dates of the event. A resort that has and displays its history adds to the experience and provides the attendees a unique emotional takeaway,” emphasizes John Washko, vice president of sales and marketing.

lobby with a wood-burning fireplace. Guestrooms are lavishly decorated and furnished with period pieces.

The boutique property also offers 10,000 square feet of function space. A restored carriage house next to the hotel houses 8,600 square feet of this space. The Oxford’s Grand Ballroom and Oxford Theatre have theatre-style capacities of up to 240 and 150. The Grand Ballroom also showcases the piano of the scandalous and showy silver baroness, Baby Doe Tabor.

Strater Hotel, Durango

Novelist Louis L’Amour always requested room 222 at Strater Hotel. The room was above the Diamond Belle Saloon, where honky-tonk music played late into the night. The wrangling music got his creative juices flowing so much that L’Amour penned most of his Sackett series novels at the Strater.

The hotel was built by a Cleveland pharmacist named Henry Strater. The young entrepreneur lied about his age to borrow money for the construction. After spending \$70,000 and supervising the placement of 376,000 native red bricks and hand-carved sandstone cornices and sills, Strater swung wide the doors in 1887.

The 93-room hotel has undergone extensive renovations, which included amassing the largest collection of American Victorian-era walnut furniture in the world. The Strater has 8,000 square feet of meeting space including intimate rooms such as the Office Spiritorium seating 24 and larger areas such as the 3,000-square-foot Henry Strater Theatre that accommodates 140 seated, 256 theater-style and 300 standing.

Blend the past with the present and create a new future by scheduling your next event at one of these celebrated hotels that have stood the test of time. 🏰

