

GOLDEN OLDIES

THESE HISTORIC
PROPERTIES GET
BETTER WITH AGE.

By Michael J. Solender



Hotel Du Pont

Grandeur, glamour and grace are always in style—especially when it comes to event spaces and accommodations for groups craving sophisticated settings of a bygone era. Here are several favored U.S. properties that have only gotten better with age.

HOTEL DU PONT *Wilmington, Delaware*

The stately grand dame of Delaware's largest city is a downtown touchstone where the iconic 12-story, 217-room Italian Renaissance building has enchanted guests since 1913.

Public areas dazzle with ornate handcarved wood; mosaic, parquet and terrazzo floors; and fine imported crystal chandeliers. Fresh-cut flowers bring pops of color throughout the hotel, and small touches, such as overnight complimentary shoeshine, turndown treats and pet-friendly rooms delight the weariest travelers. Celebrity guests have included

John F. Kennedy, Amelia Earhart, Prince Rainier III of Monaco and, more recently, Cardi B, Reese Witherspoon, Jeff Gordon and Whoopi Goldberg.

"We're a unique, independent property with a true soul," says Merella Merulla, director of sales and marketing at Hotel du Pont. "We set ourselves apart by offering a great experience in a luxurious environment, marrying history and contemporary touches with an attentive staff."

Accolades: Hotel du Pont enjoys both AAA Four Diamond and Forbes Four-Star awards and is a charter member of Historic Hotels Worldwide, a



The Ottesaga Resort Hotel

member organization dedicated to promoting heritage and cultural travel to prestigious historic treasures.

Location: It is 25 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport and blocks from Amtrak at Wilmington Station. Minutes off Interstate 95, the property is convenient to New York City, Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Boston.

Meeting Space: 25,000 square feet, including two conference centers and ornate ballrooms. The Gold Ballroom can accommodate 250 guests seated. Seventy-five to 100 is a sweet spot.

F&B: Custom multicourse menus, sublime pastry towers and an extensive wine collection are primed to deliver memorable meals. Executive pastry chef Leah Steinberger leads groups in a fun teambuilding macaron baking class complete with mimosas.

THE OTESAGA RESORT HOTEL

Cooperstown, New York

More than \$80 million has been spent over the past decade on renovations, allowing this 110-year-old, 132-room resort to shine and treat visiting groups to top-rated golf, canoeing, croquet, tennis, biking, hiking and fine dining.

Attendees find 30,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, including 14 meeting rooms, a 2,600-sq.-ft. ballroom and dedicated support to accommodate groups of up to 300. Excursions to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum are always a home run.

HISTORIC HOTEL BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Built in 1922 to accommodate clients of Bethlehem Steel Corp., Hotel Bethlehem has a colorful history of fabled guests from the Prohibition era to modern times.

The property has 125 rooms, more than 19,000 square feet of meeting space and an adjacent 5,000-sq.-ft. off-site executive conference center one block away. Less than two hours from both New York City and Philadelphia, Hotel Bethlehem is outside of Allentown in the heart of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley and minutes from Lehigh University and Moravian College.



Historic Hotel Bethlehem

WOODSTOCK INN & RESORT

Woodstock, Vermont

South-central Vermont's Woodstock Inn traces its roots back to a fabled tavern built in 1793. The public house bloomed into a hotel and eventually grew into the original Woodstock Inn in 1892, impressing guests with its grand architecture and 400-foot veranda. Today's inn retains historic charm with lush public spaces, true Vermont styling in 142 guest rooms and smart service. Planners find 10,000 square feet of flexible space and group activities like falconry, fly-fishing, golf and skiing in this four-season resort.



Woodstock Inn & Resort