



EVERY YEAR, VISITORS FLOCK TO THE GRAND HOTEL IN POINT CLEAR TO BASK IN SPIRITED HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AND FIND THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AMONG THE DAZZLING LIGHT DISPLAYS.

When Martha Freeman sees the Christmas lights in the huge oaks just outside The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, she knows she's come home.

"It's just magical," she says of the beautiful lights and decorations that the hotel showcases for its guests every year. "We know we can relax and recharge."

It's a much-anticipated sight for Freeman, of Decatur, and cousin Nancy Beadle, of Atlanta, who

have traveled to The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa every year between Christmas Day and New Year's Day for more than 20 years. "We started going to The Grand because a friend told me her family had been going each year for a long time and loved it," she says. "Before we went for the first time, we told ourselves we would go somewhere different every year—well, we have yet to do that. We love it here."

Grand Holiday

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EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, FESTIVE BEAUTY
DRAWS THE EYE. INSIDE THE HOTEL AND
THROUGHOUT THE GROUNDS ARE CHRISTMAS
DISPLAYS OF SPARKLE AND LIGHT THAT KINDLE THE
HOLIDAY SPIRIT AND DRAW VISITORS BACK YEAR
AFTER YEAR TO MARK THE KICKOFF
OF THE SPECIAL SEASON.



FAMILIES COMPRISE A LARGE PORTION OF THE GUESTS WHO VISIT THE GRAND DURING THE HOLIDAYS, AND THEY ARE IN FOR TREATS OF ALL KINDS IN ADDITION TO A TRADITION THAT IS GUARANTEED TO BECOME ONE FOR THE MEMORY BOOKS.



The iconic Grand Hotel, opened in 1847, is the destination for many families, couples, and friends who make it a part of their holiday tradition. It all begins on Thanksgiving Day, when The Grand serves more than 1,500 meals to guests and locals. That evening, the lighting of the lobby's massive Christmas tree signals the holiday season. And then the day after, guests wake up to a transformed resort with twinkling lights, wreaths, poinsettias, and much more. Each building has its own decorated Christmas tree,

and chefs create a beautiful display of gingerbread houses, another well-loved Grand tradition.

"We step it up a notch at Christmas," says Scott Tripoli, general manager. "About 90 percent of our guests during Christmas are families, and they come here for the tradition and for the natural beauty. We want to make it feel like home. The Grand is like nothing else, and the Christmas season is no exception."

The Grand features many seasonal events during the holiday season, with

something for all ages, including a scavenger hunt, day camp fun, movie nights, ornament and T-shirt making, afternoon tea, an eggnog reception, a bonfire with s'mores, family bingo, karaoke, and reindeer and elf tuck-ins. Children can enjoy breakfast with Santa beginning the Saturday after Thanksgiving and every Saturday leading up to Christmas Day, and Santa is available for photo sessions. And yes, there is a big red mailbox that makes it easy and fun to mail letters to Santa. There also is a candlelit Christmas Eve dinner



buffet as well as a Christmas Day buffet.

The Grand also holds a New Year's Eve dancing and live entertainment event that promises a great experience, with special room packages.

Even more special, The Grand just finished a three-year transformation of its 405 guest rooms, meeting spaces, spa, golf courses, pier, pools, and grounds. The hotel added new cabanas and a splash pad and has made it even easier to enjoy views of Mobile Bay. A new recreation lawn has games to enjoy, and there are new fire pits at Bucky's Lounge and the courtyard.

New restaurants include Southern Roots, with modern Southern food and

farm-to-table fare, and a signature bar, 1847, located within the restaurant. The Local Market is open, and Bayside Grill offers additional dining choices with more food grown on-site.

In August, The Grand officially joined Marriott International's Autograph Collection Hotels, luxury hotels that are independently owned and operated.

Some things have not changed—such as the daily patriotic military salute and cannon firing, a tradition that many guests look forward to. "I am always so glad to be here every year," Freeman says. "It is a wonderful place for all stages of life."

