

TRAVEL

Life's grander at Michigan's summer retreat

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As a child, I thought a trip to Mackinac Island was a requisite for Michigan residency... sort of like knowing how to point out where you live with the palm of your right hand.

For those who have childhood memories of the island, they no doubt are special ones. Renting and riding bikes around the island with my brother is a particularly fond one for me, as was the climb up to Fort Mackinac for a panoramic view of the Straits of Mackinac.

But probably the most incredible sight was — and still is — the Grand Hotel. Seeing its 660-foot porch come closer and closer into view from the ferry boat is one of those moments — as an adult or child — you never forget.

Truman slept here

And the guest list of patrons who have stayed at the Grand Hotel reads as a Who's Who of the 20th century: Mark Twain, John F. Kennedy, Barbara Walters, Madonna, the Four Tops, Al Kalino, Arnold Palmer and Jack Benny are just a few of the famous folks who've stayed in the hotel.

And, of course, there's the hotel's Hollywood connection. *This Time for Keeps*, a 1949 movie starring Jimmy Durante and Esther Williams, and *Somebody in Time*, the 1980 movie starring Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour and Christopher Plummer, were both filmed at the Grand Hotel.

Built in 1887, the majestic venue recently added 42 guest rooms and a 3,600-square-foot Grand Pavilion — the largest addition since its opening.

Opening day

The Millennium Wing, as it is called, opens on Thursday, May 3. And though all rooms are filled for opening weekend, Ken Hayward, vice president of sales and marketing, says plenty of rooms are available throughout the season, which comes to an end Nov. 4.

After two years of construction, the Millennium Wing is, as Dan Musser III, president of Grand Hotel, said, "The most significant enhancement to the hotel in its entire history."

Musser is the third generation of his family to own the hotel, which was bought by W. Stewart Woodfill, a desk clerk and Musser's great-uncle, in 1919.

If you're going

■ The Grand Hotel follows the long-time tradition of including a full breakfast and five-course dinner in its room rate.

■ Children are welcome, and special children's activities include a children's dinner table, a picnic and hiking outing, story hour, game room, lawn games, biking, swimming, tennis and movies.

■ There are 11 restaurants and bars on the Grand Hotel grounds with dining options available for every appetite.

■ No motorized vehicles are allowed on the island. Horse and carriage, along with walking and bicycles are the only modes of transportation on the island.

■ Rooms are still available throughout the 2001 season. For more information, call Grand Hotel at (800) 33-GRAND or visit the Web site at www.grandhotel.com

Rooms with a view

The rooms have been designed along two themes — "Great Lakes" and "Summer Garden."

Grand Hotel decorator Carleton Varney designed the "Summer Garden" rooms to feature lavender, pink and soft lemon floral wallpaper and drapery fabric. The "Great Lakes" rooms have a forest wall covering of white birch trees with green leaves on a soft pale blue sky background.

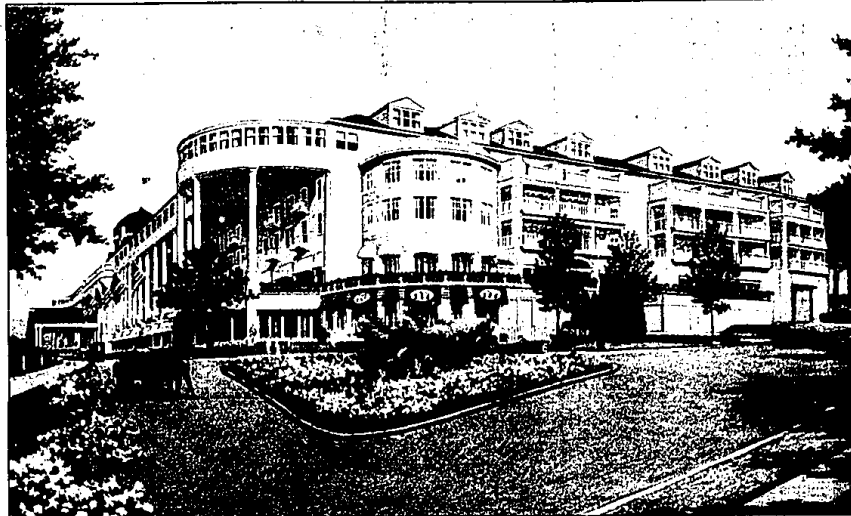
Varney is an internationally renowned designer who has decorated the White House, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, and the Governor's Mansion in West Virginia.

In addition to a four-diamond rating from the Automobile Association of America, the Grand Hotel is also listed as one of the best places to stay in the world by *Condé Nast Traveler* and was named one of the top 25 hotels in the world by *Gourmet Magazine*.

Most recently, the Grand Hotel joined National Trust Historic Hotels of America, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Seasonal selections

For the 2001 season, the Grand Hotel is offering many weekend packages, including



Grander than grand: The Millennium Wing, which opens on the east end of the Grand Hotel on May 3, features 42 new guest rooms and an expanded dining room.

Tea for Two in May, June, September and October, when guests can enjoy a round of golf at The Jewel and partake of the legendary afternoon tea in the Grand Hotel's parlor.

Memorial Day weekend offers benefits to AAA members and a reception on Saturday and Sunday. The Mackinac Island Lilac Festival is June 8-17, and guests will be treated to a tour of the gardens and lilac trees, some of which are more than 200 years old.

The Grand Hotel Arts Weekend, June 29 through July 1, features entertainment and instruction conducted by faculty from the Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters.

Wine lovers will enjoy June 22-24, the Summer Connoisseurs' Weekend. Participants will sample vintages from the hotel's own wine list, which was given an award for excellence by *Wine Spectator*.

The Grand Hotel's 114th birthday will be celebrated July 1 and 2 on 8-11. And from July 3-6, there will be an old-fashioned Mackinac Fourth of July

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celebration.

Recreation is the focus for the Games & Gardens week, Aug. 26-30. And Labor Day weekend will be ushered in with the sounds of jazz.

Carleton Varney's Antique &

Design Fall Festival is Sept. 28-30 and will feature displays of antiques by 40 top dealers from across the United States.

For those with a clue, Murder Mystery Weekend is Oct. 5-7, and those who like to hoof it a

bit will enjoy the Big Band Dance Extravaganza Oct. 19-21.

Capping the season is the perennial favorite, *Somebody in Time* weekend Nov. 2-4. Members of the east and crew of the movie participate in panel discussion and lectures, and they tour sites where scenes were filmed.

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1 Mary Chapin Carpenter
w/ Lunasa
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9 Carrot Top
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10 Aaron Carter
w/ A' Teens and Leslie Carter
\$28.50 pav / \$12 lawn

11 Widespread Panic
\$25 pav & lawn

19 Scholastic's The Magic School Bus - Live!
2pm
\$12.50 pav / \$8 lawn

23 Dan Fogelberg
A Solo Acoustic Evening
\$29.50 pav / \$18.50 lawn

24 Trisha Yearwood
\$34.50 pav / \$15.50 lawn

JULY, CONT.

25 Buena Vista Social Club
Orquesta Ibrahim Ferrer
Ruben Gonzalez, Jesus Aguiar, Ramon Gualtra Mirabel
\$45 pav / \$20 lawn

AUGUST

1 The Russian American Kids Circus
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15 Landis & Company's World of Magic
2pm
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17 Trinity Irish Dance Company
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