



Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C. Announces Completion of Inspired Suites and Guest Room Restoration

Historic Luxury Hotel Unveils Restoration of Its 335 Accommodations, Including 14 Signature Suites Honoring Pioneering Women & Iconic Figures Who Shaped America



July 7, 2025 (Washington, D.C.): [Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C.](#), part of [IHG Hotels & Resorts](#)’ luxury and lifestyle portfolio, is pleased to unveil a reimagined collection of 335 restored accommodations, including 69 suites and 14 distinctive signature suites. Led by Parker-Torres Design, the project draws inspiration from the hotel’s rich legacy as a backdrop to several pivotal moments in American history.

A landmark since 1818, this restoration honors the legacy of Willard InterContinental while introducing a refreshed and immersive guest experience where history comes alive. The restored signature suites pay tribute to historic figures, several of whom are pioneering women whose legacies continue to inspire. Many of these individuals were not only guests but also witnessed or participated in defining moments within the hotel that helped shape the nation’s cultural narrative.

Each signature suite reflects the spirit of its namesake, with design elements and custom murals inspired by their stories and contributions. Drawing on the idea of “Theatrical Potential,” a phrase coined by Mark Twain to describe the hotel’s ambiance in the early 1900s, the enhanced aesthetic emphasizes drama, depth, and individuality. Guests will find crystal chandeliers, intricate crown moldings, jewel tones, elegant draperies, hardwood flooring, and custom wool rugs preserving the hotel’s historic character, all complemented by refined modern accents. These include commissioned abstract paintings, custom furnishings that juxtapose timeless, stately pieces, and updated technology.

Guest rooms have been thoughtfully reimagined through a pied-à-terre concept, offering luxurious retreats that retain the comfort and familiarity of a private residence in the heart of Washington, D.C. Architectural details and elevated finishes are paired with a fresh neutral palette accented by soft blue tones, creating a serene and welcoming atmosphere.

“Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C. is an American institution that has stood at the forefront of history for more than 200 years. It is our hope that this thoughtful, years-long restoration pays homage to



the extraordinary individuals who have shaped the nation, whose spirits echo through our halls and continue to shape the modern-day guest experience,” said Markus Platzer, General Manager of Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C. “We look forward to delivering extraordinary experiences for the next 200 years and beyond.”

“Drawing inspiration from the hotel’s illustrious past, marked by visits from world leaders, dignitaries, and U.S. presidents, the newly reimagined spaces pay homage to Willard’s enduring role in American history. The design blends timeless elegance with modern luxury, offering guests a refined experience steeped in tradition and sophistication,” said Jessica Puliti, Senior Lead Designer, and Miriam Torres, Principal, of Parker Torres Design.

Oval Suites

Building on this thematic design approach, the six restored Oval Suites predominantly honor pioneering female figures, with standout suites including **Eleanor Roosevelt, Julia Ward Howe, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Frederick Douglass** and **John Adams**. Each of these suites features a mural as its focal point, unified by floral themes that capture the essence of these extraordinary women.

For example, the Eleanor Roosevelt Suite honors the "First Lady of the World" with a mural inspired by her love of gardening and the 1943 White House Victory Garden, incorporating her favorite flower, the iris. The Julia Ward Howe Suite commemorates her stay at Willard in 1861, during which she wrote *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Its mural pays tribute to her first volume of poetry, *Passion-Flowers*. The Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Suite features a mural of black roses, symbolizing the students of Bethune-Cookman College—the institution she founded in 1904 to empower African Americans through education. She affectionately referred to her students as her “Black Roses.”

Specialty Suites

Continuing the theme of celebrating remarkable legacies, the four reintroduced specialty suites pay tribute to individuals whose contributions have shaped culture, society, and the rich history of Willard InterContinental. Suites such as **Helen Hayes, Jenny Lind, Martin Luther King Jr.,** and **Henry Augustus Willard** reflect their namesakes through curated design elements, each celebrating their lasting national impact.

The Helen Hayes Suite is a nod to the "First Lady of American Theater" with a mural that praises her lifelong dedication to the arts. Drawing on the hotel’s history as a home for theatrical legends, the suite connects Hayes' Broadway legacy to the artistic spirit that permeates Willard InterContinental. Similarly, the bi-level Jenny Lind Suite, a favorite for weddings and bridal occasions, now welcomes its guests with voluminous draperies and embroidered details reminiscent of the Swedish Nightingale’s storied opera gown. The Martin Luther King Jr. Suite features a mural of Georgia peaches, symbolizing the home state of Dr. King. His profound connection to Willard includes finalizing his "I Have a Dream" speech in the hotel lobby before delivering it in 1963. The Henry Augustus Willard Suite commemorates the hotel’s founder, with a mural that reflects the origins of Willard and honors the vision of the man who established one of Washington, D.C.’s most legendary institutions.



Presidential Suites

Homing in on its legacy as the “Residence of Presidents” and located just moments from the White House, Willard InterContinental has thoughtfully restored its four presidential suites, designed to welcome future presidents while honoring those who came before. The reimagined suites blend classic elegance with contemporary luxury, showcasing presidential portraits that enrich intimate vignettes alongside rich materials like silk draperies, quartzite stone, wood floors, and wool rugs. The presidential suites include the **Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and Theodore Roosevelt Suites.**

Incredible Occasions

As the first and largest international luxury hotel brand, **InterContinental Hotels & Resorts** has long been the setting for some of the most meaningful moments in guests’ lives, marking a wide array of milestones, relationships, and achievements. **Incredible Occasions** invites guests to enjoy celebrations of all sizes, from the most intimate to the grandest, with meticulously tailored programming. The introduction of these new signature suites provides particularly inspired settings, blending legacy, modernity, and setting the stage for truly memorable moments. Completely customizable, Willard InterContinental has unveiled a selection of exclusive experiences that can be tailored to enhance any occasion, bringing guests together in a way that reflect the host’s character and personality. Highlights include an *Incredible Mint Julep Masterclass*, celebrating the hotel’s signature beverage, and an *Incredible Tea Experience*, honoring its storied tradition of Afternoon Tea dating back to the 1920s. More offerings can be found here: washington.intercontinental.com/meetings-events/willard-incredible-occasions/.

More information on Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C. is available at washington.intercontinental.com/.

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About Willard InterContinental Washington, D.C.

A celebrated historic hotel, Willard InterContinental Washington D.C., has been the focal point for elegant dinners, meetings, and social events for over 200 years. An iconic institution, Willard has hosted almost every U.S. president since Franklin Pierce in 1853. Located in the heart of our nation’s capital, one block from The White House, Willard InterContinental offers 335 spacious and elegantly appointed rooms that exude a unique blend of contemporary luxury and historic charm.



For more information, visit washington.intercontinental.com, and connect with us on Facebook facebook.com/willardhotel, and Instagram instagram.com/willard_intercontinentaldc.

About InterContinental Hotels & Resorts:

InterContinental Hotels & Resorts is the world's first and largest luxury hotel brand with 227 hotels, representing 73,784 rooms spanning 68 countries around the world. Founded by Pan American Airways Founder, Juan Trippe in 1946, InterContinental is guided by the belief in the power of travel to expand the mind and connect cultures.

Opening doors to a 'world of fascination', InterContinental is reimagining the luxury travel experience with the modern luxury traveller at its heart. Striking a harmonious balance between freedom and familiarity, InterContinental focuses on satisfying a guests' yearning for knowledge and culturally rich experiences, building on its heritage as a beacon of approachable luxury travel.

For more information and to book, visit intercontinental.com, and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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