

HOW TO CROWDSHAPE 38 SECURITY SERIES: PART 2 44 L.A.'S PLANNER WUNDERKIND 58 CELEBS & CVBS 62 ARTSY HOTELS 68

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# collaborate

CORPORATE MEETINGS INTELLIGENCE



## Go Local

"One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things."

-Henry Miller, American Writer

## LOCAL POINT

## CHA-CHA CHARLESTON

Two luxury hotels will open in Charleston, South Carolina, by the end of 2015: **The Spectator** (rendering shown right) coming in July, and **Grand Bohemian Hotel Charleston, Autograph Collection**, debuting in September. Inspired by the 1920s era, the boutique Spectator will have 41 guest rooms and a speakeasy-style bar. Meeting space will be available next door at the hotel's sister property, French Quarter Inn. The 50-room Grand Bohemian Hotel Charleston will have about 1,500 square feet of meeting space, as well as a farm-to-table restaurant and bar.



## IN THE WORKS

> A new Four Seasons property will open in Casablanca, Morocco, in late 2015 as part of a mixed-use development with shopping, dining and entertainment. The oceanfront **Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca** will have 183 guest rooms, a ballroom and function rooms opening to terraces.

> **Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve** in Bali, Indonesia, will open this fall. The property's 60 villas and suites will overlook rolling hills along the Ayung River and have 24-hour butler service. Meeting spaces will accommodate groups of up to 60 people, and Mediterranean-European fare will be served riverfront at on-site restaurant Kubu, inspired by Indonesian bamboo huts.

> A \$43 million renovation is planned for **New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge**. By September, 44,500 square feet of meeting space will be updated, and in 2016, upgrades to the hotel's 667 guest rooms will be completed.

> China will have three new Ritz properties by the end of 2015. **The Ritz-Carlton, Macau** opened in May, and **The Ritz-Carlton, Nanjing** and **The Ritz-Carlton, Mission Hills** in Haikou, Hainan Island, will open later this year. The Mission Hills hotel will be the brand's first golf resort in China.

> Cleveland Metroparks Zoo opens an on-site event center in June. **Stillwater Place** will have 10,000 square feet of meeting space and a year-round outdoor patio with views of the zoo.

> **W Bellevue** in Washington state is expected to open in spring 2017. It will have 245 guest rooms, 11,000 square feet of meeting space, an on-site library, three restaurants and bars, and an outdoor terrace.

> After its opening last year, **Whitney Peak Hotel** in Reno, Nevada, will undergo a \$5 million expansion that will double its number of guest rooms and triple its meeting space. Whitney Peak added guest rooms in May, bringing its total count to 310, and will have more than 25,000 square feet of meeting space by fall.

> **The William Vale** in Brooklyn is slated to open in January 2016. The hotel will have 183 guest rooms, 20,000 square feet of public green space, event spaces for up to 250 people and a 60-ft.-long rooftop pool—the longest in the city.

## IN THE NEWS

> The 463-suite, LEED Gold-certified **Conrad New York** added a new eight-person boardroom, the Vesey Suite, bringing the hotel's total meeting space to more than 30,000 square feet.

> Luxury fitness company Equinox will enter the hotel market by 2018 with the opening of its first **Equinox Hotel** in Manhattan. The hotel will focus on wellness and include a 60,000-sq.-ft. fitness center. A Los Angeles property is slated for 2019.

> In April, **Grande Lakes Orlando** (comprised of The Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott) added an on-site nano-brewery (a smaller version of a microbrewery) and farm-to-table restaurant. Both spaces can be booked for private events.

> **Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa** in Destin, Florida, completed an expansion in May that brought its total indoor meeting space to 40,000 square feet. The upgrade added a 7,500-sq.-ft. ballroom and expanded the on-site spa, Serenity by the Sea, by 3,000 square feet. The Hilton also has 20,000 square feet of outdoor meeting space.

> **Kentucky International Convention Center** in Louisville will close for two years beginning in August 2016 to undergo a major renovation that will add at least 200,000 square feet of exhibit space and a 40,000-sq.-ft. ballroom to the 300,000-sq.-ft. facility. The center is expected to reopen in 2018.

> A multimillion-dollar renovation of 15,000 square feet of meeting space and the pool deck area was completed in April at **The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation** in Greensboro, Georgia. The hotel has 251 guest rooms and more than 18,000 square feet of meeting space, as well as a newly expanded, 27,600-sq.-ft. spa and fitness center.

> **Starwood Hotels and Resorts** will bring three Aloft brand hotels to Mexico by the end of 2017: Aloft Coatzacoalcos, Aloft Poza Rica and Aloft Tijuana. Also in the works is Sheraton Chihuahua Soberano Hotel, expected to debut in November.

> **Tribute Portfolio**, unveiled in April, is Starwood Hotels and Resorts' 10th brand and second collection of independent hotels. It will be comprised of four-star luxury hotels, with the first being Royal Palm South Beach Miami. One hundred hotels are expected to be under the Tribute Portfolio name by 2020.

> In February, **Wyndham Hotel Group** acquired Dolce Hotels and Resorts for \$57 million, which will add 24 properties with a combined 5,500 guest rooms to the Wyndham name. The move is part of Wyndham's attempt to expand its brand by nearly 40 percent.