Disney’s Contemporary Resort: Stunning Architecture, Modern Elegance

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. - With a name that befits its architecture, Disney’s Contemporary Resort offers Walt Disney World Resort guests the convenience of staying “next door” to Magic Kingdom in the comfort of one of Disney’s deluxe resorts.

Rising 14 stories from the shores of Bay Lake and Seven Seas Lagoon with its familiar A-frame design, the resort is a 655-room modernistic marvel complete with a 90,000-square-foot convention center, three full-service restaurants, tennis center, marina and three swimming pools. The Walt Disney World monorail makes a stop *inside* the resort thanks to the monorail beam that extends through the center of the A-frame.

One of two Disney resort hotels that opened with Magic Kingdom in 1971, Disney’s Contemporary Resort was built on a 55-acre site adjacent to Magic Kingdom. Living up to its modern style, the hotel was constructed by methods that were ahead of their time.

While the hotel’s steel skeleton was being constructed at the site, individual rooms were being built and finished at Walt Disney World on an “assembly line” with workers completing 15 units per day. As each room passed through the specially constructed building, the electrical, mechanical and plumbing facilities were added piece by piece.

Once furnished, the nine-ton guestrooms were trucked to the site, lifted by crane and slid into the steel structure — much like an oversized set of dresser drawers. The entire structure was then covered by specially designed, sun-resistant glass.

High atop the resort on the 15th floor sits one of the jewels in the Walt Disney World crown — California Grill. Since opening in 1995, the award-winning restaurant has earned a reputation as one of the best in America with extraordinary cuisine and outstanding wines, and the view is stupendous. Chef Brian Piasecki keeps the focus on creative, fresh, seasonal dishes and top-of-the-line sushi.

Through the years, Disney’s Contemporary Resort has been updated and renovated. In 1991, the convention center was constructed and quickly became a favorite meeting location for groups at Walt Disney World Resort. In 2008, The Wave… of American Flavors opened, an upscale restaurant featuring bold American cooking with flavors from around the world. In 2009, Bay Lake Tower opened its doors with Disney Vacation Club Villas ranging from studios, and one- and two-bedroom villas to the luxurious three-bedroom Grand Villas.

The hotel also is known for recreation. Swimming pools, tennis courts, beach volleyball, the fitness center and arcade are popular guest favorites, and the full-service marina offers boat rentals, bass fishing excursions, parasailing, Sea-Doos, wakeboarding and water skiing.

Reservations for Disney’s Contemporary Resort can be made by contacting 407/W-DISNEY (934-3463) or a travel agent. Rates vary depending on season and room type. Additional information is also available at www.disneyworld.com.

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