

ADVERTISEMENT

TravelAgent

UNITING BUYERS AND SELLERS THROUGH MULTIMEDIA INTELLIGENCE

www.travelagentcentral.com



TRUMP® HOTEL COLLECTION
LAUNCHES ITS OWN
GDS CODE:TW

Classic **FLORIDA** **RETREATS**

Casa Monica

In 1887, Henry Flagler sold a parcel of St. Augustine land to Bostonian architect Franklin W. Smith who used it to build the **Casa Monica Hotel** (www.casamonica.com).

The hotel opened on January 1, 1888, with only three guests registered, and was sold back to Flagler a few months later. He renamed the property the Hotel Cordova, and under that name it became a hot spot in St. Augustine. The Hotel Cordova closed its doors in 1932 and was purchased 30 years later, in 1962, by St. Johns County to be turned into a county courthouse. (Not-so-fun fact: In 1964, the lobby of the then-vacant hotel was used to house police dogs which were used

against civil rights demonstrators during the mass campaign led by Martin Luther King and Robert Hayling that cleared the way for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.) In 1997, the structure was purchased by The Kessler Collection, which reopened the property under its original name on December 10, 1999.

Notable guests over the years include Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the King and Queen of Spain. Fun fact: The Casa Monica once had its own travel agency when Ask Mr. Foster had its headquarters in the hotel.

Some of the historical elements that guests at the hotel can see are the antique fountain in the lobby, Flagler's original Moroccan-themed design work, pictures (to compare then-and-now), and artwork that celebrates the history of St. Augustine. Some modern high-tech touches include Wi-Fi in all public areas and guest rooms, a dedi-