

## Vermont's Iconic Resort Becomes The Equinox, a Luxury Collection Golf Resort & Spa

2008-08-18

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Nestled in the Green Mountains of Southern Vermont, the Newly Renovated Equinox, a Luxury Collection Golf Resort & Spa, Manchester Village, Features a 13,000 Square Foot Luxury Spa, Championship Golf Course, Interiors by Geoffrey Bradfield and World-Class Dining at Chop House and Falcon Bar

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. (NYSE: HOT) today announced the introduction of The Equinox, a Luxury Collection Golf Resort & Spa, Manchester Village to The Luxury Collection Hotels & Resorts, a glittering ensemble of more than 69 of the world's finest hotels and resorts in more than 26 countries in bustling cities and spectacular destinations around the world. Owned by HEI Hotels & Resorts, the iconic 195-room resort, which has served as one of the country's most historically significant destinations since 1769, recently underwent a \$20 million restoration that includes new luxury amenities, accommodations, restaurants and cocktail lounges. The sophisticated transformation is a blend of indigenous New England charm and contemporary luxury that will uphold the resort's legacy as a classic American destination.

'The Luxury Collection is a portal to the world's most enriching and desirable destinations, where nothing less than an exceptional level of service, perfect location and indigenous personal offerings will do,' said Phil McAveety, Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer, Starwood Hotels & Resorts. 'Celebrated for its distinct American heritage, pristine natural surrounding and indigenous New England offerings, The Equinox adds another jewel to The Luxury Collection's glittering ensemble.'

Historically a meeting place for the fathers of the American Revolution, The Equinox has hosted American presidents including Taft, Grant, Harrison and Teddy Roosevelt among other innumerable noted historical figures. Renowned designer Geoffrey Bradfield, hailed by Architectural Digest as the 'Dean of American Design,' paid homage to the centuries-old history and natural beauty of the resort's pristine surroundings when approaching the redesign of this legendary resort. Bradfield created a daring, graceful and opulent new look for The Equinox, inspired by the whimsical designs of 20th century Swiss sculptor, Diego Giacometti, who is most recognized for his furnishings and fixtures work featured in the legendary Picasso Museum in Paris, France.

The restored accommodations at The Equinox feature classic high ceilings, a muted color palette of slate blue, chocolate brown and beige and are accented with custom-made, hand-carved wardrobes. One wall of each guest room features a large black and white photograph of The Equinox in the early 1900's. Custom-made beds, marble vanities, dramatic floor length drapery and plush leather armchairs add the finishing touches in the resort's new deluxe accommodations. Additional accommodations include the Orvis Inn, the elegantly restored former home of Orvis founder Charles Orvis, the recently acquired 1811 House, the former summer home of Abraham Lincoln's granddaughter and the Townhouses, perfect for extended stay accommodations.

Designed to reflect a refined hunter's lodge, Chop House further establishes the resort as a preeminent dining destination in Vermont. Chop House joins the resort's current trio of restaurants including The Dormy Grill, The Marsh Tavern and the Colonnade. The new lobby, with roundabout-sofa seating and adjacent outdoor deck with fire pits, is the new social hub of the resort. The lobby's Falcon Bar offers an extensive collection of single malt scotches and a comprehensive wine list, as well as a menu of locally-sourced chocolate from New England's Knipschildt chocolatier and a selection of the finest Vermont cheeses. The Equinox also boasts over 18,000 square feet of flexible, state-of-the-art meeting and special event space. The landmark resort's lush outdoor gardens are the ideal romantic setting for a New England destination wedding.

The Equinox offers guests a variety of distinguished adventure sport options in a picturesque setting, including programs sponsored by the British School of Falconry, Orvis Fly Fishing and The Land Rover Driving Experience School. The Golf Club at The Equinox, managed by Troon Golf, is widely recognized as one of America's best golf courses. Originally built in 1927 by Walter Travis and restored in 1992 by Rees Jones, the 18-hole championship-quality course delivers a challenging game of golf in the shadows of the Green and Taconic Mountains.

Continuing to deliver unique and authentic experiences that capture the natural energy and healing atmosphere of the area, The Spa at The Equinox offers guests the chance to awaken the senses and reconnect with nature. The Spa offers a variety of treatments that incorporate indigenous products to the surrounding Vermont region, including maple sugar, wildflowers and mineral clay. The 13,000 square foot full-service resort spa reflects the pristine beauty of Vermont in both its choice of treatments and in its nature-inspired interiors.

The Equinox, a Luxury Collection Golf Resort & Spa Resort, Manchester Village is located at 3567 Main Street Route 7A in Manchester Village, VT, a four-hour drive of New York and Boston.

This article comes from Hotel News Resource

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