



Fisher Island Club Hotel

BACKGROUND

FISHER ISLAND'S RICH HISTORY

Your own private tropical island, seven minutes from South Beach, Fisher Island was named after Miami Beach founder and developer, Carl Fisher, when he purchased the island from Dana A. Dorsey, South Florida's first black millionaire, in 1919. When Fisher turned his attention to the wedge of land with coconut palms and mangroves that sat in Biscayne Bay, he promptly embarked on building deepwater docks and expanding the island to fit his grand scheme.

In the 1920's, Carl Fisher's path crossed that of William K. Vanderbilt II, an avid sportsman and frequent visitor to Miami and Key West. Fisher coveted Vanderbilt's 250-foot yacht, *Eagle*, and Vanderbilt desired Fisher's island. "My island for your boat," Fisher proposed; Vanderbilt promptly accepted, and the legendary trade became history.

In 1935, Vanderbilt began planning a \$1.5 million private retreat on Fisher Island with a Mediterranean-style mansion designed by famed architect Maurice Fatio, where he and his wife, Rosamund, enjoyed entertaining the luminaries of their time. Vanderbilt surrounded his mansion with lush landscaping, gracious guest homes, tennis courts and swimming pools.

After Vanderbilt's death in 1944, ownership passed to U.S. Steel heir Edward Moore. Moore died in 1946, and Garfield Wood, famed inventor of the hydraulic lift, purchased it. Wood, a speedboat enthusiast, kept the island a one-family retreat, but sold it to an investment group that included Key Biscayne banker Charles "BeBe" Rebozo—a friend of United States President Richard Nixon—in 1963. They allowed Garfield Wood to live in the home until his death in 1971.

A partnership comprising Island Developers Ltd., and Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company of New Jersey acquired Fisher Island in 1979 and continued its development. In 1998, Fisher Island resident and financier John J. Melk, along with real estate developers Daniel E. McLean and Daniel J. Melk, purchased the island and formed Fisher Island Holdings, LLC. In December 2004, Fisher Island Holdings was sold to a European investment group who planned to complete the island's development. In 2007, seeking to return Fisher Island to its original luster, Fisher Island Holdings, LLC and Fisher Island Club financed a \$60 million restoration project.

In March 2013, the *Rebirth of Fisher Island* is scheduled for completion, including a thoughtful restoration and renovation of the Vanderbilt mansion, hotel accommodations, golf course, tennis center, beach club and private marinas. The goal of the restoration initiative, which also includes the

island's spa and other facilities, is to bring the iconic landmark up to the demanding standards of today's discriminating resident, member and guest. Today's Fisher Island is equally exclusive and private, and represents one of the wealthiest zip codes in the U.S.

#

About Fisher Island Club Hotel

Located minutes off the coast of Miami, accessible only by auto-ferry or yacht (and via pre-approved clearance), Fisher Island Club Hotel- the ultimate private luxury escape - is nestled amongst an upscale private residential community on Florida's only private powdery sugar sand beach. With luxury unparalleled, the 15-room resort features a private full-service Beach Club, an award-winning P.B. Dye championship golf course, world-class tennis facilities, two deep-water marinas, seven restaurants, and a spa and fitness center. More information on The Resort at Fisher Island Club—a member of *Leading Hotels of the World*—is available at www.fisherislandclub.com.

Media Contacts:

Sissy DeMaria/ Suzanne Schmidt

Kreps DeMaria PR & Marketing

www.krepspr.com