

Ocean House, the icon of Watch Hill



Watch Hill, Rhode Island | Some places full of history are reserved for an elite clientele. We dream of pushing the door, but we know that our wallet would not support the bill. And if we found the pretext to enter? Come on, let's get on his 36 and get a cocktail on the terrace of the Ocean House, the icon of Watch Hill!



Ocean House seen from the beach.

PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN HOUSE

After passing some pretty villas with manicured gardens, the large Victorian facade, with its columned porches, its multi-paned windows and its architectural fittings finally appears, perched on the heights of Watch Hill, in the historic district of this small town picturesque overlooking Little Narragansett Bay. It's hard not to be impressed by this beautiful Victorian-style building that is yellow in the sun.

We took great care to choose his clothes, we wonder what a welcome we will be reserved. Especially if you have not rented one of the rooms whose prices vary between \$ 400 and \$ 10,000 per night and that we are only there for a site visit!

No fear, in fact the home is as sunny as the building.

We recognize the special touch of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux chain of which this establishment is a member.



PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN HOUSE

We would like to spend a few days relaxing in this place.

Saved from the demolition

Built just after the American Civil War, this hotel is the last Victorian waterfront on the continent. Not only has he seen many celebrities go by, but he is one himself!

For a long time, as it was only open three months a year during the summer, it was never thought proper to install heating, air conditioning or ventilation.

In 2003, as its structure was no longer in compliance with the new building and security codes, it had to be closed down. In 2005, as it fell into ruins, residents of the neighborhood, Charles and Deborah Royce, invested \$ 146 million to restore its former glory!

Many historic architectural elements spared from the original building have been restored and reintegrated into the new building, including the reception counter, the main stone beach lobby fireplace, the decorative oak elevator cabin, the iconic signboard. , mahogany railings, Victorian fixtures, not to mention 5000 artifacts and furniture. On the walls, many paintings from the private collection of Royce, a real art gallery!

Great care was taken to place the 247 windows in exactly the same place as those of yesteryear, even though the 159 rooms offered at that time gave way to 49 absolutely spectacular rooms and 18 suites. If we added different sections, like his Spa OH! Art Deco style, however, has been able to recreate the elegant atmosphere of the time, even to adorn the guests' pillows with monograms in their name.

Overlooking a private beach facing the ocean, the hotel offers fine dining in the Coast Dining Room, as well as terraces where you can indulge in a light meal overlooking the ocean to give yourself the illusion for a short time that we are part of this elite.

► Info: oceanhouseri.com and visitrhodeisland.com

A FAMOUS VOICE



PHOTO COURTESY

Taylor Swift Summer Cottage



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift owns the neighboring house of the Ocean House. This is a beautiful all-white house, also located at the top of Watch Hill and offering a view over 200 meters of beach and the bay. She seems to be holding legendary parties with her famous friends in this house that would have cost US \$ 17 million.