



# THE CHANLER

AT CLIFF WALK



## THE HISTORY

A cliffside mansion overlooking the Atlantic, The Chanler at Cliff Walk is a legacy of Newport Gilded Age. Built in 1865 as a summer home for New York Congressman John Winthrop Chanler and his wife Margaret Astor Ward, it was the first mansion to be built on the famed Cliff Walk and has hosted numerous dignitaries including the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and President Theodore Roosevelt. History is manifest in the hotel's twenty rooms - each reflecting a different sophisticated historic theme and appointed with authentic furnishings, art and décor.

The mansion took on many roles throughout the years, first dubbed "Cliff Lawn" in the 1870s, later a historical museum and at one point a school for girls. The first owners of the mansion Congressman John Winthrop and his wife Margaret Astor Ward invested a huge sum of \$30,000, considering the time period, and three long years of construction to built and perfect "Cliff Lawn."

An article in the Newport Mercury newspaper dated January 4, 1873, refers to the Chanler mansion's location atop the cliffs as "One of the finest on the island," and that remains true today.

The property was not a hotel until the 1940s and featured thirty rooms at that time. Then, in 1956, the hotel was auctioned off and sold at a price of \$40,000 (with factored-in mortgages and interest, the sales price was \$65,000). Almost 150 years after it was built, the property finally became what it is today, "The Chanler at Cliff Walk."

In 2000, Detroit businessman John Shufelt bought the mansion and decided to

historically restore the mansion and highlight the history of the property. The three-year restoration and renovation was led by Shufelt's wife, Jeanie, a seasoned veteran in New England restoration, who had remodeled "La Farge Perry House Bed & Breakfast" in 1996. With Jeanie's expertise, coupled with

Restoration Architect, Richard Rice Long, the team collaborated and produced the now regal European boutique hotel, where each of the rooms cost an estimated \$1 million to produce.

The décor of The Chanler is a mix of casual elegance and opulent refinement. "The master plan," explains the Shufelts, "was to provide a unique experience in each of the rooms, ranging from contemporary New England casual to timeless European sophistication." Each of the 14 rooms in the mansion's main building are decorated and named for an historical period based on the furniture design and architecture of that time. The guest rooms are individually themed from Gothic to English Tudor to Greek Revival. The rooms are extraordinarily exquisite with a myriad of historic furnishings, antiques, décor and fixtures. The hotel is a history lesson in itself, as some of the furniture from the original Chanler Museum is sprinkled throughout the mansion.

Named to Conde Nast Traveler's Gold List in 2010, The Chanler was voted #4 Hotel in the U.S. and in the top 100 in the world by the magazine's readers.

# # #

Contact:  
Sarah Evans, J Public Relations  
Phone: 646.414.2482  
Email: [sarah@jpublicrelations.com](mailto:sarah@jpublicrelations.com)