



## 10 Questions: R. Michael King, Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa

In our General Manager series, we catch up with heads of hotels for some unique insight and perspective. This week, we talk to R. Michael King, managing director at Florida's [Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa](#).

**Name one thing about your hotel that you haven't told anyone else.** The history of the site where our hotel is located is most impressive. It was formerly known as La Coquille Club, a private beach club for the residents of Manalapan. Guests included members of some of the most prominent families in the country, many of whom only visited here during the winter months.

**What is the most unusual thing about your hotel?** We have had the privilege of hosting a number of VIPs, dignitaries and even two U.S. presidents, who have all stayed in the Commander-in-Chief suite. What is unusual here is that in the suite there is a collection of shoes inspired by several First Ladies of the United States. A comment or two from guests is guaranteed!

**What is your hotel's unique selling point?** Eau Palm Beach Resort and Spa is miles away from mainstream. We are not your grandmother's Palm Beach resort. Our spa, Eau Spa, is a huge draw for guests and locals alike. It's unlike any other in the U.S., or the world for that matter, with

42,000 square feet, 19 treatment rooms and a self-centered garden, we have many guests who don't want to go home.



**Why should a guest stay at your hotel rather than another hotel in the neighborhood?** Because of our thoughtful and intuitive service whereby we are anticipating our guests needs. The moment you approach the front desk to check-in, a glass of Champagne is poured and presented to you. When you arrive in your guest room, a beach bag will be found on your bed. It is the little things that make all the difference in a guest's experience, and that's what distinguishes us from others in the area.

**Which part of the hotel is your personal favorite and why?** My favorite part of the hotel is the lobby, or as many refer to it, the Living Room. It is the hub of activity, where guests come to unwind or to engage in conversation with others. Many gather on Fridays to enjoy a complimentary glass of Champagne during our General Manager's Cocktail Reception. I love seeing people from all over the globe come together and socialize.

**Do you have a favorite room?** My favorite room in the house is no. 146, it is one of our Lanai rooms on the ground floor. Being on the ground floor, you are able to walk out on to your private terrace and continue on to the pool or beach without the use of an elevator.



**Which is your favorite spot nearby?** Whenever I have a rare free moment, I enjoy spending time on the golf course. Just a mile or two north of our resort is the Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course which is open to the public. It features 9 holes on the ocean and 9 on the intracoastal waterway. The best kept secret in town is its newly remodeled clubhouse where you can sit upstairs and enjoy a cold beer while listening to the sounds of the ocean.

**If I were to come to your city for the first time and met you in the lobby asking for what to do, where would you send me?** As Palm Beach is America's first resort destination, no one can come here without visiting Worth Avenue, one of the most famous shopping streets in the U.S. Even if you are not in the market for a statement piece of jewelry, you can certainly enjoy a leisurely stroll down the historic avenue and dream about what it may have been like some hundred years ago when the avenue was first developed.

**What is the one thing you miss in other hotels?** If we are talking about beach resorts, the one thing I miss is not being able to see the ocean from the moment I walk in the front door.

**Which hotel, apart from your own, do you like particularly?** When I travel, I enjoy staying in other Preferred Hotels & Resorts such as [Montage Resorts](#).

