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A BRIEF HISTORY OF MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE

“There is nothing in the world exactly like Lake Mohonk,” scribed a writer from The New York Times in 1882. “It is famous, yet it has the kind of fame that people and places had before newspapers were known.”

NEW PALTZ, NY – One of the great 19th century mountain resorts in the United States, the historic Mohonk Mountain House has been a unique destination for generations. Founded in 1869 by Albert Smiley with the purchase of 280 acres and a ten-room inn, the resort was named a National Historic Landmark in 1986. This designation was unique in that it encompassed not only the Mountain House but also 83 other Mohonk buildings of historic significance and the surrounding 7,800 acres of developed and undeveloped land. A member of Historic Hotels of America since 1991, Mohonk Mountain House received an award from the United Nations Environment Programme in 1994 recognizing 125 years of environmental stewardship.

Throughout its 150 years of operation, Mohonk Mountain House has hosted an array of guests who have played important roles in American history. Five former Presidents of the United States have stayed at the resort, including Rutherford B. Hayes, Chester Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and William Jefferson Clinton. Naturalist John Burroughs came “to savor and interpret the wonders of nature,” and legendary philanthropist and industrialist Andrew Carnegie’s photograph still hangs on the wall with a hand-written inscription to founder Albert Smiley.

From 1895 through 1916, Albert Smiley hosted the annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, for which he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1912. These meetings were the forerunners of The Hague Conferences, providing a context for the League of Nations and later the United Nations.

Now in the fourth and fifth generation of family leadership, Mohonk Mountain House remains committed to providing opportunities for “recreation and renewal in a beautiful, natural setting.” Built in 2005, the eco-friendly Spa at Mohonk Mountain House has garnered outstanding recognition as the #1 Resort Spa in the U.S. by the readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* and as the #6 Spa in the World by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine. The resort continues to receive high marks on the *Condé Nast Traveler* Gold List and has been recognized as one of the top Family Resorts in the U.S by *Travel + Leisure*. Mohonk Mountain House maintains its 19th-century charm while providing 21st century amenities. As a result, this remarkable resort continues to remain “the same, only better.”

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About Mohonk Mountain House

Mohonk Mountain House is a National Historic Landmark resort and Historic Hotel of America located in New York's Hudson Valley, just 90 miles north of New York City. Owned and operated by the Smiley Family since 1869, the resort has been a sought-after family destination for generations. Mohonk's culinary program, led by Executive Chef Jim Palmeri, was profiled in 2017 by the *New York Times* for its commitment to using local Hudson Valley ingredients. Throughout Mohonk's storied history, it has been recognized by publications including *Condé Nast Traveler* (Gold List and Readers' Choice Awards), *Travel + Leisure* (World's Best Awards), and *USA Today's 10Best* (Best Historic Hotel, Best Family Resort). A champion of the environment and the Hudson Valley community, Mohonk maintains over 85 miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing and offers earth-friendly activities and programs that preserve the land and educate guests about the surrounding environment. Mohonk also offers exquisite gardens, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, an ice-skating pavilion, horseback riding and horse-drawn carriage rides, and a glacial-formed lake that is ideal for boating, fishing, and swimming. The award-winning spa features a menu of nature-inspired treatments, an outdoor heated mineral pool, an indoor heated pool, a comprehensive fitness center, and yoga/motion studio.

Overnight rates at Mohonk Mountain House include historic accommodations, three meals, afternoon tea and cookies, and many resort activities. For additional information, please call 855.274.4020 or visit Mohonk.com. Connect with Mohonk: [Facebook.com/Mohonk](https://www.facebook.com/Mohonk) or [Instagram @MohonkMountainHouse](https://www.instagram.com/MohonkMountainHouse).

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