



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COMMEMORATIVE LIVE OAKS GRACE SEA ISLAND
WITH HISTORY, TRADITION AND SHADE**

SEA ISLAND, GA – The planting of **live oaks**-- the state tree of Georgia and the southern symbol for strength-- has become a meaningful way to commemorate special guests and visitors to The Cloister since President Calvin Coolidge visited the resort in 1928:

President Calvin Coolidge

December 1928

President Calvin Coolidge planted the first commemorative oak during the Christmas holidays shortly after The Cloister opened its doors. President and Mrs. Coolidge were visiting Sea Island Company founder Howard Coffin at his home on Sapelo Island.

President Dwight Eisenhower

May 1946

This oak was planted after President Eisenhower was elected, in honor of the visit he and Mrs. Eisenhower made to Sea Island in 1946.

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and Prince Bernhard

April 1952

Queen Juliana and her husband Prince Bernhard spent Easter weekend on Sea Island and added an oak to the grounds. During their visit, the royal couple were the honored guests at an oyster roast hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Jones, Sr., at Altama Plantation.

President Gerald Ford

December 9, 1979

After his term of office, President Ford planted a commemorative oak while visiting as a guest of honor at a meeting and golf tournament at Sea Island.

President Jimmy Carter

July 28, 1981

President Carter assembled his first cabinet at The Cloister shortly after being elected in 1976. Accompanied by Mrs. Carter, he returned to plant an oak in July 1981.

President George H.W. Bush

September 29, 1991

President Bush planted a commemorative oak while he and Mrs. Bush were vacationing in 1991 at The Cloister, site of their 1945 honeymoon. They also visited in January 1995, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. During that visit, President Bush played the opening round at Ocean Forest Golf Club. The former president returned in August 2001 to open the 38th Walker Cup Match at Ocean Forest.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher**April 1994**

The former British prime minister has been called the most enthusiastic planter at Sea Island. Most honorees sprinkle a ceremonial shovel full of dirt; Mrs. Thatcher went around the tree shoveling the dirt, despite the fact she wore a pink suit. Her security guard was heard to say that Mrs. Thatcher would have packed down the dirt had she been wearing her gardening shoes.

President George W. Bush**June 7, 2004**

President Bush hosted the G8 Summit, the most significant annual gathering of the eight leaders of the free world, on Sea Island from June 8-10, 2004. In the tradition of his father, he planted a commemorative oak close to his father's.

Prime Minister Tony Blair**June 11, 2004**

The British Prime Minister and his wife planted a commemorative oak during their visit for the G8 Summit.

The Sea Island Summit First Ladies**November 16, 2004**

The Sea Island Gardening Group planted an oak to commemorate the visit to Sea Island by five of the First Ladies whose husbands participated in the G8 Summit. Those Ladies included Laura Bush of the United States, Cherie Blair of the United Kingdom, Bernadette Chirac of France, Sheila Martin of Canada, and Ludmilla Putin of the Russian Federation.

President Clinton Oak**August 2, 2012**

President Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States, planted this oak during a visit to Sea Island.

Additional live oaks on the grounds of The Cloister honor Georgia founder James Oglethorpe, the 50th anniversary of The Cloister, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Jones, Sr., and the Sea Island Employees in celebration of the 2000 Millennium.

All trees are live oaks, except the tree honoring James Oglethorpe, which is an English oak grown from an acorn at his estate in England.

For additional information or to make reservations, call 855-231-6761 or visit the web site at www.seaisland.com.

About Sea Island

Since 1928, Sea Island has been known as an exceptional destination appealing to those who appreciate gracious service and heartfelt hospitality. With four Forbes Five-Star experiences – The Cloister at Sea Island, The Lodge at Sea Island, The Spa at Sea Island, and the Georgian Room restaurant – Sea Island entices families, outdoor enthusiasts, and those simply wanting to refresh. It is the only resort in the world to have received four Forbes Five-Star awards for 13 consecutive years. As the only U.S. resort to host a G-8 Summit of world leaders, Sea Island provides exceptional settings and service for conferences and executive retreats.

Located on the southeastern coast of Georgia, Sea Island features five miles of private beach, a Beach Club, tennis center, Yacht Club, Shooting School, and children's programs, as well as three championship golf courses, including Seaside and Plantation, home of the PGA TOUR's RSM Classic. Located on St. Simons Island, The Inn at Sea Island offers casual accommodations with access to many Sea Island amenities. Broadfield, a Sea Island Sporting Club and Lodge, offers seasonal hunting and fishing opportunities.

Sea Island continues to add to its legendary offerings including a bowling alley and pub at the Beach Club and refreshed rooms in The Cloister. Recent enhancements at The Lodge include seven cottages, an oceanfront pool, pool house, an 18-hole putting course, a 17,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Golf Performance Center, and complete redesign of one of the golf courses by PGA TOUR player and local resident Davis Love III and his brother, Mark Love, of Love Golf Design.

Those seeking adventures in the spirit of the American west may choose to visit The Broadmoor, the other member of the Sea Island family. Opened in 1918 and situated at the gateway to the Colorado Rocky Mountains in Colorado Springs, The Broadmoor is the longest consecutive winner of the Forbes Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond awards. Like Sea Island, the resort offers guests a unique way to experience one of the country's most beautiful settings, and is known for its history, tradition, and service excellence.

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