

ROOM SERVICE

THE ROUND TABLE OF CULTURE

Raise a Glass!

THIS YEAR THE **HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT** CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY. A LOOK BACK AND FORWARD AT THE FABLED SPANISH COLONIAL FORTRESS OF FUN AND REFINEMENT FRONTED BY THE STAR-STUDDED WALK OF FAME.

Seventy-eight years ago, on May 19, 1929, the Hollywood Roosevelt hosted the first Academy Awards, then a private dinner (and not a full-blown hoo-hah telecast to one billion people), with 250 attendees tuxed-and-gowned into the tony "Blossom Room" (pictured here). The Oscar ceremony was a brief affair, with Douglas Fairbanks and Al Jolson helping dole out 13 statuettes. Both the Oscars, and the hotel, have come a long way since, but both are still immersed in catering to celebrity culture. The Roosevelt was founded by such Hollywood stalwarts as Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, and Louis B. Mayer as an Atlantic Coast-vibed hospice for East Coast filmmakers to hole up in while "selling out" to Tinseltown. And luminaries from Charlie Chaplin and Will Rogers to Clark Gable and Carole Lombard have drank and slept there. Today, it's more likely you'll see the celebrity starlets of the day teetering around the David Hockney-enhanced swimming pool, including Mischa Barton, Kirsten Dunst, Chloe Sevigny, Lindsay Lohan, and Christina Ricci, as well as Pamela Anderson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mickey Rourke, Vincent Gallo, Bruce Willis, Jake Gyllenhaal, Steve Coogan, and Adrien Brody. Then, the hot room was the Cinegrill. Now, it's Teddy's. And yes, Courtney Love, who had a few "situations" at the Roosevelt (such as passing out and being taken away in an ambulance in 2005), would have fit in during *any* of the hotel's bold-faced decades. God bless her. She, and the hotel, go on. — *Ned Merrill*





It All Happend Here:

1. When **Clark Gable** and **Carole Lombard** stayed in the penthouse, it cost them \$5 a night. It now costs about \$3,500 per evening. 2. **Errol Flynn** made his famous gin recipe in the back room of the hotel's barber shop during Prohibition. 3. **Shirley Temple** took her first tap-dancing lesson on the hotel's tile stairway with instruction by **Bill "Bojangles" Robinson**. 4. A pale **Marilyn Monroe** posed on the diving board for her first ad (for a suntan lotion). 5. The hotel is reportedly haunted by both the ghosts of **Montgomery Clift** (who has been seen in suite 928) and **Monroe**, whose image has appeared in a full-length mirror which hangs next to the elevator on a lower level. 6. Among the many films that the Roosevelt has made cameos in (most notably *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, in which **Michelle Pfeiffer** performed atop a grand piano), it can now be seen in the opening credits of **James Wood's** "Shark."

Factsheet courtesy of www.seeing-stars.com