



THE COMMONWEALTH

**HISTORIC HOTELS  
of AMERICA**

National Trust *for* Historic Preservation®

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE COMMONWEALTH INDUCTED INTO  
HISTORIC HOTELS OF AMERICA®**

**Richmond, February 1, 2024** – The Commonwealth in Richmond, VA, is pleased to announce it has been inducted into Historic Hotels of America®, the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for recognizing, celebrating, and promoting the finest historic hotels in the United States.

The Commonwealth is one of more than 300 hotels and resorts throughout the country that is recognized by Historic Hotels of America for preserving and maintaining its historic integrity, architecture, and ambiance.

“Historic Hotels of America is delighted to induct The Commonwealth, a Classical Revival style hotel built in 1913,” said Lawrence Horwitz, Executive Vice President of Historic Hotels of America and Historic Hotels Worldwide. “We commend The Commonwealth, SMI Hotel Group, and the hotel’s leadership team for their careful historic preservation work, stewardship and vision that will allow future generations of travelers to experience this unique historic destination.”

To be selected for membership in Historic Hotels of America, a hotel must be at least 50 years old; has been designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark or listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and recognized as having historic significance.

“I am very excited that The Commonwealth has been inducted to Historic Hotels of America,” expressed Christina Norton, the hotel’s General Manager. “Historic landmarks such as The Commonwealth contribute to the authenticity of Richmond, a city that embraces its artistic and creative side while maintaining a deep love for its historic roots. We honor both; for example, we preserved the over century-old stone consoles, wrought iron balustrades, and decorative friezes that embellish our building façade, while commissioning local muralists and tattoo artists to

decorate our guestroom corridors and entrance doors of our 59 suites. We are very proud to share the history of our hotel with today's travelers, and look forward to doing so in partnership with Historic Hotels of America."

The Commonwealth is rich in history and architectural integrity. Originally opening as the Hotel Rueger on November 5, 1913, it was heralded as "one of the finest hotels in the South" by the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Designed by acclaimed architect Charles M. Robinson, the building featured 136 bedrooms, of which about 80% had private baths, and "modern elevators." The dining room could seat 200 guests, and there were eight private dining rooms which accommodated 8-36 guests. Furthermore, a basement level grill room was available for businessmen, as well as a roof garden above the 10th floor. The location was selected directly across from the Virginia State Capitol, and one block from what was then the city's financial epicenter at 9th and Main Streets. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Richmond's Main Street Banking Historic District.

#### **About Historic Hotels of America®**

Historic Hotels of America® is the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for recognizing, celebrating, and promoting the finest historic hotels in the United States of America. The National Trust for Historic Preservation was chartered by U.S. Congress in 1949 and is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is leading the movement to save places where our history happened. To be nominated and selected for membership in this prestigious program, a hotel must be at least 50 years old; designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark or listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and recognized as having historical significance. Of the more than 300 historic hotels inducted into Historic Hotels of America from 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, all historic hotels faithfully preserve their sense of authenticity, sense of place, and architectural integrity. For more information, please visit [HistoricHotels.org](https://www.historichotels.org).

#### **About SMI Hotel Group**

Founded in 1997, Richmond, VA based SMI Hotel Group is an owner and operator of award-winning upscale, full-service hotels in Virginia and Texas. Privately owned, the company strives to deliver memorable hospitality experiences that exceed the expectations of every guest that stays, meets or dines in their properties. More information can be found at [smi-hotelgroup.com](https://smi-hotelgroup.com), and get connected on [Facebook](#) or follow on X [@smihotelgoup](#).

<https://www.historichotels.org/us/hotels-resorts/the-commonwealth/>

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