

The Arizona Biltmore

Warren McArthur, Jr., and brother Charles, along with John McEntee Bowman, the entrepreneur behind the Biltmore Hotel chain, opened the Arizona Biltmore on February 23, 1929. The Arizona Biltmore's architect of record is Albert Chase McArthur, yet its authorship is often mistakenly attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright, owing to Wright's on-site consulting.

In 1930, the MacArthur's lost control of the property to one of their primary investors, William Wrigley Jr., who became full owner. The nearby Wrigley Mansion was built in 1931 and now operates as a private club. In 1940, the Catalina pool and the Cowboy Bunkhouse areas opened; these would become favorite areas of Hollywood celebrities. Marilyn Monroe was seen around the pool area, and Martha Raye was photographed playing chess around the Cowboy house.

In 1962, the hotel's first air conditioners were put into service, and in 1969, their grand ballroom, was inaugurated.

In 1970, the hotel was sold the Talley family. In 1973, a large fire erupted on June 21, destroying interiors of large parts of the 3rd and 4th floors and tremendous water damage on the 2nd and ground floors. It was announced by the new owners that this famed hotel would be rebuilt in 90 days and opened on schedule for its regular winter season the last week of September 1973. The re-building included new custom designed carpets throughout the hotel, new furniture for guest rooms and public areas, new restaurant kitchen equipment, and renovated public interiors throughout the hotel. A spa was opened in 1998. The hotel has changed hands several times over the years, but it is currently owned by the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. Hilton operates it as a member of the Waldorf-Astoria Collection. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona_Biltmore_Hotel]

