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## Getaway: Check in any time you like

Whether haunting the halls or stocked in the famous bar, New Orleans' Monteleone Hotel is full of spirits.

*by Cheré Coen*

Maurice Bergere, his parents and an au pair took a sojourn to New Orleans in the 1930s, staying in Room 1462 at The Monteleone Hotel on Royal Street. Since Maurice was suffering from a head cold, he remained behind in bed while his parents visited the opera.

On the way back to the hotel, the Bergeres were killed. Alone in the world and suffering from grief, Maurice's sickness developed into scarlet fever and the young boy died at the Monteleone. Yet today, some say he still lives in Room 1462.

Down the hall in another 14th floor room, a young boy was doing what most boys do and most parents chide them for —jumping up and down on the bed. Kids take note; this child fell off the side, went through the window and plunged to his death on Royal Street.

Folks who work at The Monteleone and those who visit swear they hear children throughout the halls of the 14th floor. Some believe Maurice and the precocious child from the 1960s play together.

Or maybe they visit the five other spirits nearby in Room 1467.

"We had several psychics visit, and one of the physics passed out on the bed," Andrea Thornton explained of Room 1467. "They felt so much spiritual energy in that room that when they called them out, five people showed up."

Thornton is in charge of the hotel's sales and marketing and realized there were ghosts in The Monteleone several years ago from comments left behind by guests.

"We got a few comment cards that everything was great, including the ghosts," Thornton recalled with a laugh.

Which is why The Monteleone offers a Haunted Murder Mystery Weekend over Halloween. The first night guests are invited to a cocktail party where the "murder" takes place. At breakfast the next morning they receive a clue, then another at lunch. On Saturday night a plot twist happens and the murderer is revealed during Sunday brunch. The weekend stay includes room and all meals, Thornton said, and costumes are encouraged.

Will guests see ghosts? Some people have, Thornton said, including "Red," the former employee who served the hotel as an engineer in the boiler room below the café. Part of his job was making sure the lobby doors were locked at night.

Today, staff lock the café doors only to find them open later, and people have spotted an ethereal

man in a 1920s uniform with red hair in the Carousel Bar.

But what most people witness are the mischievous actions of Maurice and his friend.

“As far as seeing things, it’s the little children,” Thornton said. “Not so much people as things moved around, misplaced.”

The visiting psychics felt strong energy in the café and in the part of the hotel that was once a neighboring building called the Hotel Victor. Psychics picked up soldiers and nurses in that area and Thornton found out that the Hotel Victor was used as a Civil War hospital for Union soldiers.

Psychics also found strong sensations on the roof, where supposedly the spirit haunting Room 1467 jumped to her death. When the psychics visited the room they found a woman dressed in cotillion attire, a formal black and white gown, engaged to be married. Through channeling her energy they realized her fiance pushed her off the roof, Thornton said, adding that she believes the spirit has since moved on since their intervention.

But for hotel residents hoping to experience a haunting presence in Room 1467, have no fear. There are still four others.

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