

Last Grand Hotel To Be Razèd?



Tribune photo by CRYSTAL L. LAUDERDALE

DeBartolo Developers says it's looking at building condos on the 22 acres occupied by the 107-year-old Bellevue Biltmore Resort & Spa in Pinellas County.

FAMOUS GUESTS



Teddy Roosevelt, above, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Joe DiMaggio, Gene Autry, Margaret Thatcher, George H.W. Bush, Caroline Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, Lisa Marie Presley

BELLEVUE BILTMORE IN DEVELOPER'S SIGHTS

By CARLOS MONCADA
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BELLAIR — The Bellevue Biltmore Resort & Spa, one of Florida's grandest 19th century hotels that has lured such notables as the Duke of Windsor and Babe Ruth, could be demolished to make way for condominiums.

Tampa-based DeBartolo Development has spent months looking into acquiring and redeveloping the famed but faded 22-acre property, said company President Ed Kobel, confirming rumors that have circulated for weeks.

"We are exploring redevelopment options for it," Kobel said. "It's a property that is functionally obsolete. It's so old, it's so rundown that I'm not sure you could spend enough money to make it work."

DeBartolo is looking at several options for the site, including building possibly as many as 600 luxury condominiums, according to Kobel and local preservationists.

"We're still in the early stages of just brainstorming ideas," Kobel said. "If we decide to go

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Plans trouble preservationists.

TBO.com How do you feel about the Bellevue Biltmore being razed for condos?
Submit your comments.

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