



The Journal



2023 Major events recap below



The Alfond Inn at Rollins College FL celebrated the completion of its \$40 million expansion



Alfond Inn, Winter Park, FL 2023

Winter Park, FL, Dec 1st, 2023. The Alfond Inn at Rollins College celebrated the completion of its \$40 million expansion with a November 15 press event that featured tours of a new 4-story wing. The expansion broadens the boutique hotel's offerings with upgrades that include: A 30,000-square-foot wellness spa with seven treatment rooms. A 2,000-square-foot fitness center, A 1,650-square-foot flexible event space and a 700-square-foot meeting room, Pool deck with private cabanas, A cafe offering coffee and lite bites. 71 new guest rooms that bring the hotel total to 183.

History; The city of Winter Park, FL was discovered by Mr. Loring Chase, a Chicago businessman who at the urging of his doctor, wintered in the warm climate of Florida. While there, he toured the central part of the state and saw the land that would become Winter Park. Though lightly populated at the time,

Mr. Chase saw its potential and with a boyhood friend, Oliver Chapman, purchased 600 acres of land for \$13,000.

With the establishment of Rollins College in 1885 and the convenience of easy transportation with a railway running through the heart of town, the community thrived. From the start, Park Avenue was the pulse of The commercial center and Rollins developed its campus along the shore of Lake Virginia. The small town,



Alfond Inn, 1887

which was marketed throughout the Northeast by Chase and Chapman, quickly gained popularity as an arts and literary colony. Early in the 20th century northern investors sparked a Florida land boom that spurred the community to invest in brick streets, new schools and growing subdivisions.

From Depression to Development: Growth came to a sudden halt in the late 1920s and remained stagnant through the Great Depression. The late 1930s brought a rebound in economic development to Winter Park and growth since the 1950s has altered the landscape of the town considerably as it has continued to meet the needs of rising popularity. Despite the change, the community does retain a number of buildings from its early years.

Today Winter Park retains its reputation for art and literature and visitors can enjoy many great reflections of this past with visits to the Rollins Museum of Art, the Polasek Museum and the Morse Museum of American Art. Strolling down the brick walks of Park Avenue and beyond also recall the community's rich historic roots.



Oscartek custom cases and counters as an integral part of the remodel

News from the builder Balfour Beatty: Balfour Beatty has completed the \$36 million expansion and renovation of The Alford Inn at Rollins on behalf of Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. The hotel's five-story, 81,000-square-foot addition is a vital development to the area's social venue spaces, which complements the award-winning Alford Inn, the centerpiece of the community and premier space for socializing, local events, meetings and weddings. The building expansion adjacent to the existing luxury hotel includes 71 new guest rooms, a communal café in the lobby, a spa with an amenity deck, a second swimming pool and an additional 2,400-square-foot meeting, boardroom and event space. The hotel's new wing features a four-story atrium and leverages natural light to provide continuity and a seamless transition from the existing space to new areas. The 112 existing guestrooms were renovated and modernized.

The boutique hotel is owned and operated by Rollins College, which directs net operating income to fund student scholarships. Since 2013, the hotel has funded millions of dollars in scholarships to Rollins College students and the expansion extends the hotel's capacity to do so in the future. In addition, the AAA four-diamond hotel is home to The Alford Collection of Contemporary Art, which displays art from the Rollins Museum of Art throughout the hotel. The expansion project also provides new public spaces where additional artwork can be displayed.

“Building successful hospitality projects such as the renovation and expansion of The Alford Inn rests on the expertise of our teammates and quality industry partners,” John Harris, Balfour Beatty executive vice president, said in a statement. “Balfour Beatty’s hospitality experts delivered another marquee project that will serve as an essential asset for Rollins College, our Central Florida community and the many guests who visit our region.”

Balfour Beatty leveraged the latest technologies and lean construction methods to deliver the project while The Alford Inn at Rollins was opened and operating. The project team used collaborative construction management software to unify and streamline access to project information; Building Information Modeling technology to coordinate project details and sequence the work; and pull planning to maximize value and minimize waste.

Baker Barrios Architects was the project architect, and the interior design was a collaboration between Baskverill and Sheedy/DeLaRosa Interiors. The project team was led by Olympia Development. Managed by Olympia Hotel Management, The Alford Inn at Rollins is located 15 minutes from downtown Orlando and 30 minutes from Walt Disney World and Orlando International Airport.

2023 Major events:

It's 2023, and like any other year, it's definitely going to be one to remember!

We're currently in week 48, celebrating the 334th day of the year. But there's still so much to look forward to as we eagerly await what the future has in store for us!

We're still working on 2023, but here are some highlights from the year so far! We'll also delve into fascinating facts about the number 2023 and explore the captivating world of the Chinese zodiac for this year. So, grab a comfy seat and join us as we dive into the incredible journey that is 2023!

Here are some unforgettable events that have happened in the world in 2023 so far.

JAN 1

Croatia replaced its national currency, the kuna, with the euro.

OTD in 2023: Croatia replaced its national currency

JAN 10

The UK's Prince Harry published Spare, his tell-all memoir on his upbringing with the Royal Family.

JAN 20

Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the Moon, married Anca Faur on his 93rd birthday.

JAN 24

The Doomsday Clock was set at 90 seconds to midnight after new escalations in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Doomsday Clock represents how close the world is to a major catastrophe or all-out nuclear war. This adjustment brought the clock the closest it had ever been to midnight since its creation in 1947.

FEB 1

Legendary rock singer Ozzy Osbourne announced his retirement from touring.

The 74-year-old had faced health complications for years, including a spine injury and a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. After a number of canceled shows, he made the hard decision to quit touring to take care of his health.

FEB 6

Turkey and Syria were struck by a catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake that killed 59,259 people.

OTD in 2023: Turkey and Syria were struck by a catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake that killed 59

Over the next three weeks, the region was hit with over 10,000 aftershocks. It was the deadliest earthquake in Turkey since 526 AD and Syria since 1822.

The Armenian-Turkish land border opened for the first time in 35 years.

The border was opened briefly to allow a convoy of vehicles carrying aid to disaster-struck areas of Turkey affected by the 2023 Turkey-Syria Earthquake. The last time the border opened was in 1988 when Turkey sent aid to Armenia after another devastating earthquake.

FEB 28

The FBI publicly confirmed that they believed COVID-19 originated in a lab in Wuhan, China.

MAR 9

The US record industry reported that for the first time since 1987, sales of vinyl records exceeded CD sales.

MAR 14

OpenAI released GPT-4, an upgraded version of their popular artificial intelligence chatbot.

MAR 17

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The warrant was issued for the crime of forcefully deporting children from Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine into Russia. A warrant for the same crime was also issued against Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights.

MAR 31

Italy banned the use of OpenAI's ChatGPT over data security concerns.

OTD in 2023: Italy banned the use of OpenAI's ChatGPT over data security concerns.

Instead of responding to the concerns raised by Italy's data privacy regulators, OpenAI simply pulled the plug for Italian users.

ChatGPT was restored the following month with changes that allowed users to prevent the chatbot from using their data.

APR 3

NASA announced the astronauts for the first trip to the moon in over 50 years.

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Commander Reid Wiseman, mission specialist Jeremy Hansen, flight engineer Christina Koch, and pilot Victor J. Glover were chosen for Artemis II, a fly-by mission to the moon.

APR 4

Finland officially joined Nato, becoming the 31st member of the security alliance.

APR 20

SpaceX's Starship rocket exploded four minutes into its first full flight test.

The Starship rocket, the most powerful rocket ever built, is set to one day carry human colonists to Mars. Despite the explosion, SpaceX's engineers celebrated the launch, as it provided invaluable data.

APR 29

Legendary country musician Willie Nelson held a two-day music concert for his 90th birthday party.

MAY 1

Geoffrey Hinton, the "Godfather of AI," resigned from Google amidst growing concerns over AI.

The so-called godfather, who gained his nickname for his pioneering work in the AI field, resigned to help spread the word about the dangers of the emerging technology.

MAY 2

The Writers Guild of America went on strike after a labor dispute.

The strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) was the largest stoppage interruption to US film

and TV production since the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Guild members headed to picket lines demanding increased wages and better job security.

MAY 4

Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher was posthumously awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

MAY 25

The FDA gave Elon Musk the go-ahead to trial his Neuralink brain implants on humans.

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JUN 8

Former US President Donald Trump was formally accused of mishandling classified documents.

JUN 16

The rules for the Grammy Awards were updated to restrict AI-generated songs.

The new rules clarified that songs that are fully generated by AI will not be considered for awards. Songs that are only partly written by AI and have “meaningful” human contributions are still allowed.

JUN 18

OceanGate’s Titan submersible imploded during an expedition to the wreck of the Titanic.

OTD in 2023: OceanGate’s Titan submersible imploded during an expedition to the wreck of the Titanic.

All contact with the submersible was lost just one hour and forty-five minutes after Titan dove below the surface. Four days later, Titan’s wreckage was found about 1,600 feet (500 meters) from the Titanic. All five of the expedition’s participants, including Oceangate CEO Paul-Henri Nargeolet, perished.

JUN 30

Harrison returned to our screens for “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny.”

The fifth and final installment of the Indiana Jones film series also starred John Rhys-Davies, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and Antonio Banderas. It’s the only film in the series that Steven Spielberg didn’t direct.

JUL 8

Elton John ended his touring career with a final concert in Stockholm, Sweden.

OTD in 2023: Elton John ended his touring career with a final concert in Stockholm

JUL 21

Greta Gerwig’s Barbie and Christopher Nolan’s Oppenheimer opened in cinemas.

Many people flocked to cinemas to watch both films back-to-back, morphing the two films into a five-hour marathon delightfully coined as “Barbenheimer.”

JUL 22

Good Vibes Festival was canceled after The 1975’s lead singer kissed his bandmate on stage in protest of Malaysia’s anti-LGBTQIA+ laws.

Malaysia is a Muslim-majority country where homosexual activity is criminalized. Matty Healy, an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, kissed bassist Ross MacDonald to make a point and criticized the government’s stance on the matter.

JUL 26

Niger President Mohamed Bazoum was removed from office by a military coup.

This made the fifth coup in Niger since it gained independence from France in 1960. The coup was condemned by many of the world's foremost institutions and political bodies, including the World Bank, the United Nations, and the African Union.

AUG 10

Two rival driverless taxi companies were given approval to operate 24/7 in San Francisco, California.

The two companies, Cruise and Waymo, had been testing their services in the city for a year before they were given full approval.

AUG 19

Russia's Luna 25 lunar lander mission crash-landed on the Moon.

The mission was Roscosmos' (Russia's space agency) first attempt to send a spacecraft to the moon. The last Russian attempts occurred in the 70s under the Soviet space program.

AUG 23

India became the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon.

OTD in 2023: India became the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon.

India followed in the footsteps of Russia, China, and the US with the touchdown of its Chandrayaan-3 Moon Lander. India's Moon landing is quite different from all other landings, though, as it was the first to land on the Moon's unexplored south pole.

AUG 24

Donald Trump became the first former US President to have their mug shot taken.

Trump surrendered to the Fulton County jail for 13 felony charges related to his attempts to interfere in the 2020 Presidential election.

This was the fourth time in six months that Trump turned himself in due to criminal charges being laid against him.

SEP 12

Kim Jong-Un arrived in Russia by armored train to hold talks with President Vladimir Putin regarding potential military cooperation.

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SEP 13

"UFO expert" Jaime Maussan presented the bodies of two alleged aliens before the Mexican Congress.

Maussan had made several debunked claims in the past, and on this day, he presented the mummified "aliens" with the claim that they are "not part of our terrestrial evolution." Scientists worldwide have since decried the entire thing as yet another elaborate hoax.

SEP 16

Rolling Stone magazine removed one of its co-founders, Jann Wenner, from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

The decision came soon after Wenner released a book titled "The Masters," in which he exclusively interviewed white male musicians, and the magazine's board of directors removed Wenner from the list following racist and sexist remarks he made regarding why he didn't feature any female or Black artists.

SEP 27

The Writers Guild of America strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers ended.

The 148-day strike was the second-longest strike the Writers Guild had ever undertaken. Writers took to picket lines to demand better pay and benefits while also seeking to safeguard their jobs from potential replacement by AI chatbots like ChatGPT.

OCT 5

Research into fossil footprints at White Sands National Park in New Mexico confirmed humans were in the Americas at least 21,000

years ago.

According to former theories, the Americas was only populated about 15,000 years ago via the Bering Strait between modern-day Russia and Alaska. The new research used multiple methods to determine the footprints' age, with all results pointing to a date between 21,000 and 23,000 years ago.

OCT 8

Israel formally declared war on Hamas following a surprise attack by Hamas operatives in Israeli-controlled territory. At the point of the declaration, the death toll had already risen to 1,100 from both sides.

OCT 13

Microsoft purchased Activision Blizzard in a record-breaking \$69 billion takeover.

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Microsoft's chief gaming executive announced that despite the takeover, gamers' favorite franchises would remain accessible to the usual platforms.

OCT 30

US President Joe Biden signed an executive order to guide the use of AI within federal agencies.

NOV 1

Collins Dictionary announced "AI" as the most notable word in 2023.



512 South Airport Blvd., South San Francisco, CA 94080

Tel: 855.885.2400 | 650.342.2400 | Fax: 650.342.7400 | www.oscartek.com