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the Current

EYE OF MIDAMER

Check It!

"It's rare to have a big casino resort in the center of an urban destination," says Lisa Williams, director of sales at the **MGM Grand Detroit**, conveniently located in the heart of downtown.

Williams says that this convenience is a big selling point for the property; Detroit is a short flight from major population centers, a Delta airport hub and near an international border.

"Planners like to minimize travel time, and here there is everything under one roof," she says. Plus, Detroit's major sporting venues and the Fox Theater are within walking distance.

Like its Las Vegas counterparts, the MGM offers Vegas-style gaming, mixology and catering programs for groups, and several restaurants.

Williams recommends an opening night event at the hotel's hot nightclub space, which features a dance highlight is the grand ballroom, accommodating up to 1,200 people, and several bars that are popular with groups.

With 1,000 rooms, our ideal for groups, plenty of room for meetings and events.

For a complete list of amenities, recently noted a variety of services, including their own spa, pool, and more. "To move the spa, entertainment and gaming options," she says.

www.mgmgranddetroit.com



Upgrades & Openings



Prairie Capital Convention Center

ILLINOIS
The **Prairie Capital Convention Center** in Springfield completed a \$15 million renovation. Originally built in 1978, the center updated lighting, audiovisual components, loading docks, bathrooms and outdoor plaza space. The 310-room **President Abraham Lincoln Springfield-A DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel** is attached to the convention center and offers 15,000 square feet of additional meeting space. www.visit-springfieldillinois.com

MICHIGAN
Aloft plans to open its first property in the state in Detroit this winter. The 136-room **Aloft Detroit** is slated to debut in December with two restaurants as well as banquet and meeting space. www.aloft-hotels.com

An 86-room **Residence Inn by Marriott** opened in Ann Arbor in June with 500 square feet of meeting space for small groups. www.marriott.com

MINNESOTA
Hyatt Hotels announced plans to open the 302-room **Hyatt Regency Bloomington Center Station** near the

Mall of America in 2016. The Hyatt property will offer 17,000 square feet of meeting space, including a 8,250-square-foot ballroom, and be managed by Airbridge Hospitality. Center Station is a growing transit-focused mixed-use development. www.hyatt.com

MISSOURI
The **Gateway Arch** in St. Louis, a national symbol of growth and discovery, is preparing for its 50th anniversary in 2015 with a series of renovations and enhancements for visitors. The Arch will debut a new interactive museum and update surrounding park grounds and riverfront public spaces. www.cityarchriver.com

NORTH DAKOTA
The new-build, 124-room **Value Place** hotel is now open in Watford City. www.valueplace.com

The new, LEED-certified **Element Fargo** is expected to open in early November. Located downtown near corporate offices, the 130-room hotel will offer a 450-square-foot meeting room equipped with the latest videoconference technology. www.starwoodhotels.com

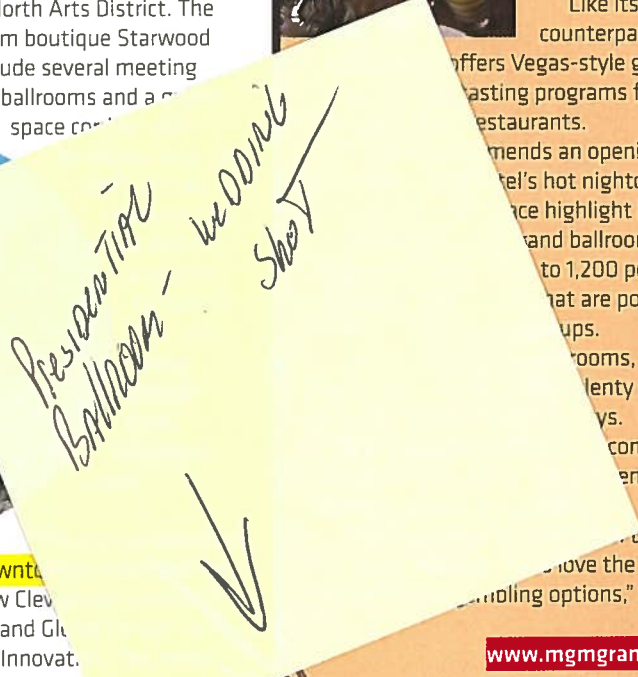
OHIO
Le Meridien Columbus, The Joseph Hotel is under construction in Columbus' Short North Arts District. The 135-room boutique Starwood will include several meeting rooms, ballrooms and a large space for events.



Le Meridien Columbus, The Joseph Hotel

OHIO
Downtown Cleveland is home to the new **Cleveland Center and Glendale Health Innovation Center**. The 200,000-square-foot facility offers 484 guest rooms, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, and views of Lake Erie. www.westin-cleveland.com

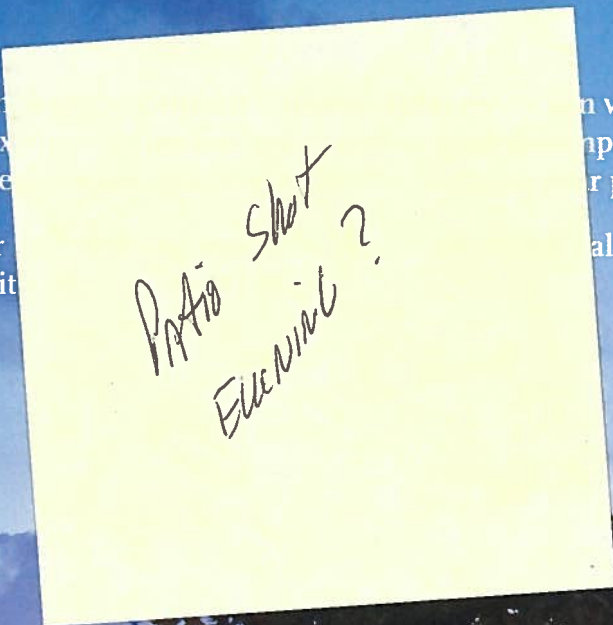
WISCONSIN
An hour south of Madison, the **Ramada Janesville** completed a lobby renovation, a rebranding and a restaurant menu update with a new chef. All guest rooms and suites will be refreshed in the coming months and meeting spaces, including the 400-person ballroom, were updated. www.ramada.com



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RESORTS & INCENTIVES

A Special Advertising Section

Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB



Description

Florida's Paradise Coast is the perfect place to host a meeting of any size, and offers a plethora of indoor and outdoor meeting spaces, luxury beach and golf resorts that can accommodate large groups, or elegant boutique hotels that are perfect for intimate meetings.

Meeting Space

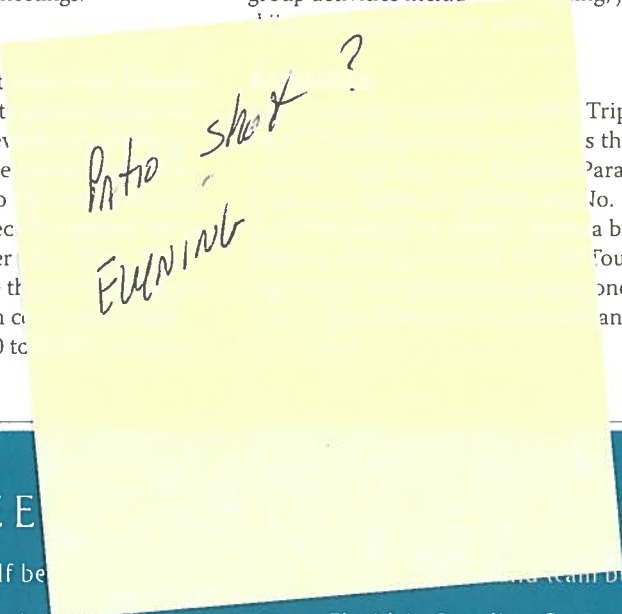
Florida's Paradise Coast has over 100 hotel rooms, and all resort meeting spaces have concierge-level service. Some meeting space can accommodate up to 1,600 people, with 10 to 150 rooms. The destination is perfect for any meeting space, with nice weather and beautiful views. The destination offers more than 100,000 square feet of meeting space in over 100 venues, perfect for groups of 10 to 1,600 people.

Recreation

Many properties offer on-site amenities such as world-class dining, spas and/or golf. Attendees will also enjoy the beautiful, exotic, tropical settings, phenomenal beaches and Everglades National Park. Other exciting group activities include golf, boating, jet skiing, and fishing.

Hot Dates and Rates

Seasonal summer meeting package specials, planner perks and other incentives make it the perfect moment to book a meeting in Paradise.



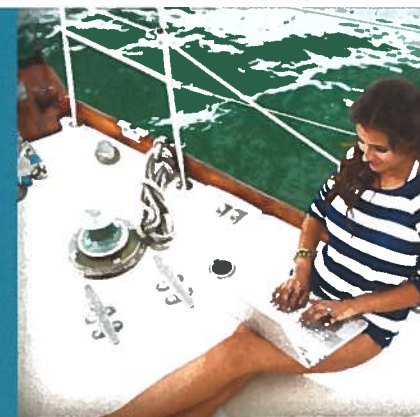
TripAdvisor is the No. 1 travel site in the world. Paradise Coast is ranked No. 1 in Florida by the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards. Four of the top 100 destinations in the world are in Florida. One of the top 100 destinations in the world is in Florida. One of the top 100 destinations in the world is in Florida.

Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB

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From world-class hotels and Gulf beach resorts to team building adventures to exceptional incentives, nothing compares to Florida's Paradise Coast: Naples, Marco Island, and the Everglades. Whether you have a small, mid-sized or large group, enjoy wide, white-sand beaches, award-winning dining, unparalleled water sports and the number one golf destination in North America. For more information and planning assistance, visit us online.



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