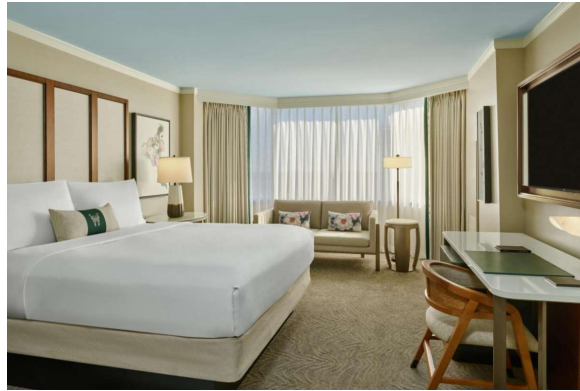


HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Hotels: Atlanta, Montreal, Dublin, Austin, San Juan



In hotel news, a Marriott Luxury Collection property in Atlanta is finally ready in its new incarnation; Four Seasons cuts the ribbon on a new Montreal location; Marriott adds a pair of options in Dublin for Bonvoy members; a new Texas property opens in Austin; and a Caribbean classic reopens in Puerto Rico.

The former Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead, in the upscale Atlanta neighborhood of that name, was rebranded a year and a half ago as The Whitley, but it remains in the Marriott family as a member of the prestigious Luxury Collection. At one time, the R-C Buckhead was the brand's flagship, with its headquarters in an adjacent office building. Anyhoo, the rebranding also brought with it a major overhaul of the hotel that started last fall and will finally be finished next month. All 507 guest rooms and suites (which range from 720 to 1,800 square feet) have been redesigned, and all offer marble bathrooms, hardwood floors, Frette linens, honor bars and Luxury Collection feather beds. Guests in Club-level rooms and suites can access The Whitley Club Lounge for custom-cooked breakfasts, snacks, desserts and drinks. The expanded lobby area is surrounded by social spaces including the Hearth Lounge (with a fireplace), the Front Porch Lounge, the Sanctuary Lounge and the Explorers Library. The hotel's spa has been enhanced with the addition of the only Himalayan salt rooms in any Atlanta hotel, and the Trade Root Restaurant specializes in locally-sourced Southern-inspired cuisine. During June, weeknight advance purchase rates for Bonvoy members range from **\$177 to \$391 plus 18 percent taxes and fees.**