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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

# Galveston's Hotel Galvez & Spa trades hands, renamed Grand Galvez Resort & Spa



Grand Galvez Resort & Spa, formerly known as Hotel Galvez.

COURTESY OF SEAWALL HOSPITALITY LLC



By **Sara Samora**  
Reporter, Houston Business Journal

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Mark Wyant, a Dallas-based businessman and owner of Seawall Hospitality LLC, has completed the acquisition of the historic Hotel Galvez & Spa from the Mitchell Historic Properties, a company owned by the George P. Mitchell estate on May 12.

The hotel's new name is Grand Galvez Resort & Spa, and it will become part of the Marriott Autograph Collection. Moreover, Wyant said his plans for the hotel will include renovations of the rooms, common areas and hospitality settings, as well as adding entertainment venues. Renderings of the renovations will be finalized and revealed in the coming weeks.

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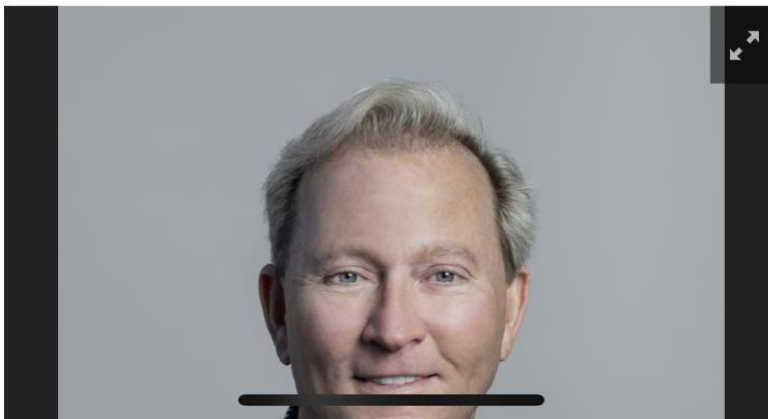
“My primary goal is to embody the hotel’s beautiful architectural design while, at the same time, introduce an upgraded luxury and energy, which will attract even more guests to the Grand Galvez Resort & Spa and Galveston,” Wyant said.

In the meantime, Wyant said the historic hotel will continue to be a destination for weddings, corporate meetings and travelers.

“I know and respect that this property has a long and storied history,” Wyant said.

“However, the new name, Grand Galvez Resort & Spa, will reflect the beautiful renovations and new energy I will bring to the resort and all its amenities.”

Wyant [announced the sale agreement on April 14](#), and Mitchell Historic Properties [confirmed the deal to The Daily News of Galveston County](#).



Wyant is an owner and developer of hotels in Texas, Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina, and this is his third property in Galveston. He built the Holiday Inn Express at 1st and Seawall in 1999 and sold it in 2005. He also developed the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in 2004 and sold it in 2014. He's known for creating The Saint Hotel brand in New Orleans; Key West, Florida; and Charleston, South Carolina.

"A history lover, Wyant strategically selects development properties that are located in key United States cities known for their history and excellent leisure, business and entertainment experiences," Wyant's April 14 announcement stated. "In every historic location, his primary goal is to embody and respect the legacy, charm and history of the city."

In January 2020 – just before the Covid-19 pandemic pummeled the hospitality industry – Mitchell Historic Properties had [agreed to sell the Hotel Galvez & Spa](#) to SRH Hospitality Galveston Investments LLC, an affiliate of Addison, Texas-based SRH Hospitality Holdings LLC. The deal was expected to close in the first quarter of 2020.

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The Tremont House was also part of that deal. In March 2021, Hospitality Asset Funding Group, a joint venture between SRH Hospitality and Austin-based JLM Financial Investments, announced it recently completed the acquisition of The Tremont House from Mitchell Historic Properties. According to that announcement, a multimillion-dollar renovation of The Tremont House is in the works and is expected to be complete in 2022. Afterward, the property will become a Marriott soft-branded Tribute property.



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George Mitchell and Cynthia Woods Mitchell – dedicated philanthropists who committed to donating the majority of their wealth – incorporated their namesake foundation in 1978. Since then, the couple and the foundation have distributed or pledged an estimated \$750 million to a variety of causes. The Texas-centric foundation focuses on environmental protection, social equity and economic vibrancy issues. It tackles sustainability-related issues through its Clean Energy, Land Conservation, Shale Sustainability, Sustainability Education and Water Programs as well as operating the 6,000-acre Cook’s Branch Conservancy in Montgomery County. In 2019, the foundation formally added its Galveston Program to support improvements in George Mitchell's hometown.

George Mitchell's legacy includes founding The Woodlands-based Mitchell Energy & Development, which Oklahoma-based Devon Energy Corp. (NYSE: DVN) acquired in 2002 for \$3.5 billion. He also was behind the initial development of The Woodlands, a 27,000-acre master-planned community north of Houston.

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George Mitchell [died in 2013 at the age of 94.](#)

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