

New Reunion Castle vacation rental treats guests like royals

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The newly opened Reunion Castle has 15 bedrooms, three turrets, two gargoyles and a gigantic pool overlooking the golf course. (Courtesy of Magical Vacation Homes)



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Orlando's most discerning visitors have a new option for their next vacation stay — one that promises the royal treatment for as many as 48 guests.

The Reunion Castle at 470 Muirfield Loop in Reunion Resort is the largest property available on Magical Vacation Homes with 15 bedrooms, 19 bathrooms, and 23,000-square-feet.

“The market need is there and there are clients out there, be it corporate, large families, groups of friends, or high net worth VIPs that want the features in a place like this,” said owner Stuart Chandler. “The keys to what they want are luxury, security, and privacy.”

There is a castle theme, but it’s not over-the-top.

“We have some theming. We have the princess room and we have the knights room for boys and girls for the young and the young at heart,” Chandler told GrowthSpotter. “But the overall concept was to put a Ritz Carlton grade property inside a castle and everything that we put inside this property had to be castle worthy.”

Some accents are historic like an entry mirror from France’s Napoleonic era and an oil painting in the dining room from the 1600s as well as some things that are new, meant to look old.

“I have my family’s coat of arms in there and that’s historically accurate, built by someone who builds monuments all up and down the East Coast,” he said.

Every ceiling is different.

“We took the ceilings as an opportunity and we called it the fifth wall. It’s an opportunity to create something very unique,” Chandler explained, adding dozens of artists and experts did the work including former Disney Imagineers and people who did the stonework for the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal.

Why a castle? Chandler said why not.

“I’ve been around the world and I’m a big history buff and some of the most amazing places I have been have had castles nearby,” he said, adding castles are often for protection.

“There’s the whole mythology and all of the excitement and all the mystery that goes with castles and gargoyles. We have gargoyles as you come in. The two gargoyles are Rex and Cameron, and we have stories about each of the gargoyles.”

The “lore” Chandler created says Rex is a very serious gargoyle, taking his job of protecting guests in the castle very seriously and wards off the evil spirits. Cameron is the playful one, liking to play jokes on the guests.

Building the home with McNally Construction Group took almost two years and cost more than \$10 million.

“[The idea] started on a cocktail napkin. It was a doodle,” he said. “We went with the highest quality builder we could find using the highest quality materials we could find.”

Chandler said there are 109 pallets of tile inside the home, 15 sets of washers and dryers, more than 700 electrical outlets, and more than 500 lighting fixtures.

The 39,000-gallon pool has a grotto feel and was modeled after the pool at the Playboy Mansion.

Debby Dearth with McNally Design did the interior design and specifications, while Cherry Interior Solutions selected the furnishings. Some of the design choices are personal to Chandler.

“I have other homes in other places, but this is definitely something that has an incredible number of little things about it that represent me and represent my family.” He said, adding the height of the entry arch is the height he cleared as a high school pole vaulter. “There are a lot of fun facts about the place and I had fun building it. I got to be creative. I got to come up with ideas and work with some incredibly creative people.”

Chandler had a smaller reunion castle which he sold in 2021. It was only 10,600-square-feet and had room for 32 people.

“We rented it out and it did very well. People enjoyed it and we had wonderful feedback on it,” he said, adding he learned a few things he needed to incorporate into the new house. Number one: More bathrooms.

“People get up and they want to go to Disney, and you’ve got to have enough bathrooms to facilitate that. You can’t have three and four people sharing a bathroom and get ready on time and get to dinner or get to Disney.”

In addition to the large number of bathrooms, the home has a boardroom, a commercial kitchen, and plenty of entertaining amenities including a basketball court, arcade, and a large playroom.

“We have a playhouse [called] the Royal Playhouse. It’s a secret third floor. Some of these [rental] homes have a secret room. This house is a secret floor.”

Renters will also have access to all the benefits of Reunion Resort including golf, restaurants and bars, a water park, and more.

The nightly rental rate begins at \$5,000 and goes up to \$10,000 depending on the season.

The vacation home has 19 bathrooms, and no two are alike. Each features designer tile, spacious vanities and walk-in showers. Some have soaking tubs to enhance the spa-like experience. (Courtesy of Magical Vacation Homes)

“[It has] the luxury of a 5-star hotel but the privacy of a vacation home. Reunion Castle is truly a resort within a resort itself,” said Leigh Bateman, president of Magical Vacation Homes. “Guests looking for a vacation of a lifetime should look no further to enjoy the opulence of their private castle.”

Chandler said he knows it will take a long time to recover the building cost with rental income.

“My intent is to keep this, hold this, and have my two sons maintain this for quite some time and keep this property,” he said. “It’s a stable over time investment and it’s something that will be there in my family for a long time.”

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