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Three resorts receive five diamonds

The Breakers, Four Seasons, Eau Palm Beach get AAA top honors.

By M.M. CLOUTIER

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AAA has announced its annual list of hotels that have received the organization's 2016 Five Diamond rating, AAA's highest, and once again, Palm Beach figures into the elite list.

Three Palm Beach resorts are AAA's 2016 Five Diamond designees, which number 118 and represent just 0.4 percent of the nearly 28,000 eligible properties evaluated annually by AAA.

Five Diamond winners for 2016 on the barrier island are: The Breakers, the Four Seasons and Eau Palm Beach.

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Candidates for AAA's highest ratings undergo, among other things, multiple unannounced evaluations; a final ratings decision is then made by a panel of experts.

According to Michael Petrone, director of AAA inspections and ratings, "Five Diamond establishments stand apart by redefining personalized service, using creativity to enhance guest comfort and providing memorable experiences. ... At the Five Diamond level, we're seeing hotels using new technology to expand the scope and depth of the traditional hallmarks of ultra-luxury accommodations: indulgent pampering and highly personalized service."

When AAA announced its 2016 Five

Diamond designees Friday, it also announced the recipients of its Four Diamond rating, the second-highest and much-prized AAA ranking.

Island hotels on that list are: The Brazilian Court, The Chesterfield, Tideline Ocean Resort (formerly The Omphoy) and The Colony.

AAA is slated to announce its 2016 restaurant ratings in early February.

For more than 80 years, AAA has used professional inspectors to conduct in-person property evaluations.

AAA's rating system now covers the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

For more information and the complete lists of AAA's 2016 Four and Five Diamond hotels, visit AAA.com/Diamonds.