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PLUS: EVENT STYLE AWARD WINNERS & FINALISTS

BIZBASH BEST 2017

FORMERLY THE NATIONAL VENUE & SUPPLIER GUIDE

**THE TOP VENUES
AND NEW IDEAS FOR
EVENTS AND MEETINGS
IN 17 CITIES**

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Old Post Office on Pennsylvania Avenue. Trump International Hotel, Washington, D.C., isn't the only new big-name hotel in town: In 2016, the Watergate Hotel returned with a stunning makeover, and the \$1.4 billion casino resort MGM National Harbor made its debut. Another huge opening was



Room Check

These new hotels come loaded with amenities.

The \$1.4 billion **MGM National Harbor** luxury gaming resort in Oxon Hill, Maryland, opened in December. Located on the banks of the Potomac River, the 308-room hotel and 125,000-square-foot casino offers 50,000 square feet of meeting and event space. The 16,200-square-foot MGM Grand Ballroom has floor-to-ceiling windows and a 6,000-square-foot terrace. Other event spaces include the 4,284-square-foot Bellagio Ballroom; the Aria, Mandalay Bay, and Beau Rivage rooms, which are 1,838 square feet each; and two Mirage boardrooms. Outdoor events can take place at the pool deck as well as the Potomac Plaza, which holds 500 people. Live Nation promotes shows at the property's 3,000-seat theater, which includes V.I.P. suites. The resort's dining lineup includes offerings from notable chefs such as José Andrés, Marcus Samuelsson, and Bryan and Michael Voltaggio. The property also offers two cocktail lounges, an infinity pool, and a spa. Among the property's art installations is a sculpture from the singer Bob Dylan. (7200 MGM National Ave., Oxon Hill, Md., mgmnationalharbor.com)

Iconic Washington property the **Watergate Hotel** reopened to much fanfare in June after a \$200 million renovation by Euro Capital Properties. The hotel had been closed since 2007, and Ron Arad Architects renovated the space with nods to its 1960s history. The original staircase and indoor pool have been restored, and *Mad Men* costume designer Janie Bryant created the employee uniforms. The hotel now offers more than 17,000 square feet of flexible indoor event space and 10,000 square feet of outdoor space. The largest indoor-outdoor space is the Moretti Grand Ballroom and Terrace, which spans nearly 7,000 square feet. The ballroom holds 510 seated guests or 600 standing guests, while the terrace holds 50 guests on the main deck and 100 on the lower deck. The 1,900-square-foot Cecchi Junior Ballroom seats 140 seated guests or holds 250 for receptions, while the hotel's rooftop bar

Top of the Gate is equipped with heaters and holds as many as 250 with 360-degree views of Washington and the Potomac River. For a more intimate event, the Library accommodates 60 seated guests or 80 standing guests. There are two additional terraces available for events: the Terrace at the Next Whisky Bar holds 120; and the Kingbird Terrace, attached to the hotel's main restaurant, seats 80. (2650 Virginia Ave. NW, thewatergatehotel.com)

Kimpton marked its 10th hotel in Washington in June with the opening of **Kimpton Glover Park Hotel** on the border of Rock Creek Park. The hotel offers nearly 3,860 square feet of total event space. There's the Walnut Room, a 1,860-square-foot ballroom that holds as many as 200 standing guests; and the 2,000-square-foot Tunlaw Terrace, an open-air space best suited for 150. The hotel's 156-seat coastal Italian restaurant Casolare is helmed by acclaimed chef Michael Schlow and provides catering for all events and meetings at the hotel with customized menu options. (2505 Wisconsin Ave. NW, gloverparkhotel.com)

Kimpton Mason & Rook Hotel opened in April in the 14th Street neighborhood. The 178-room hotel's decor is from Kimpton's creative director of design, Ave Bradley, and New York-based Bill Rooney Studio. The property offers 4,000 square feet of meeting and event space including the Exchange, a 1,700-square-foot ballroom with two onyx backlit skylights. It seats 150 people banquet-style or holds 128 for receptions and can be divided into two spaces. There is also a 660-square-foot prefunction space. Three smaller meeting rooms accommodate 25 guests each at rounds or 30 guests for receptions; a rooftop holds 60 for receptions. Another option is Radiator, a cocktail bar and restaurant with a 58-seat bar area, a separate 23-seat lounge area, and a 45-seat patio with a large fire pit and shuffleboard court. (1430 Rhode Island Ave. NW, masonandrookhotel.com)