



ARTIST RENDERING OF THE LOBBY AT THE POST OAK HOTEL.

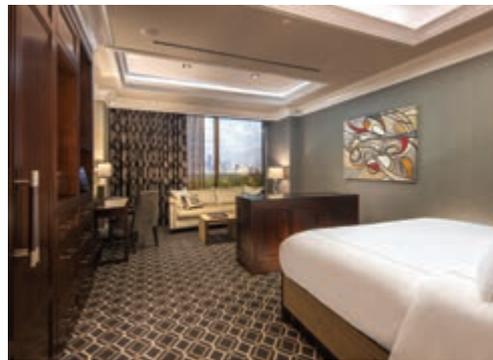
Inn coming: Fertitta's new Post Oak Hotel

By GREG MORAGO

On CNBC's "Billion Dollar Buyer," Landry's Inc. CEO Tilman Fertitta vowed to make one of the world's best hotels. And with the opening of The Post Oak Hotel this month, he'll have a chance to prove himself.

The 250-room hotel is poised to be the crown jewel of Fertitta's larger still-in-development campus, called The Post Oak at Uptown, on Houston's West Loop near the Galleria. The luxury-oriented campus already includes a Rolls-Royce showroom, a Bugatti and Bentley dealership, as well as two spare-no-expense restaurants, Mastro's Steakhouse and the relocated seafood-savvy Willie G's. The hotel's home is a 38-story tower that also will eventually have residential, retail and restaurant space.

What to expect at "one of the world's best hotels?" For starters, rooms will have 10-foot ceilings and generous floor plans — the smallest is over 500 square feet, the Presidential Suite, with its own private elevator, is 5,000. Each comes with opulent décor touches (think golden



GUEST ROOMS AT THE POST OAK HOTEL INCLUDE LOUNGE AREAS.

hues and rich woods); a lounge area; a tablet that controls lighting, temperature and room service; Egyptian cotton sheets; and wall-to-wall marble bathrooms with Acqua di Parma products. It's pet-friendly, too, with plush dog beds available and 24-hour room service through which you can order filet mignon for Fido.

On-site drinking and dining options will

include the garden-inspired Bloom & Bee, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Craft F&B, a casual pub serving comfort food and craft beer; Bouchée Patisserie, offering pastries and chocolates; and H Bar, a high-end cocktail bar. Guests can tap into The Cellar, a 20,000-bottle wine collection of more than 2,000 labels, via room service or at any of the food and beverage outlets within the larger Post Oak development.

Adding to the hotel's allure: a state-of-the-art spa, salon and gym; a swimming pool surrounded by fire pits and private cabanas; a VIP lounge reserved for concierge floor guests; and a crystal-chandelier-clad ballroom with seating for up to 1,200, its own valet entrance and a multimillion-dollar art collection including works by Alex Katz, Frank Stella and Robert Motherwell.

Fertitta, who also owns the Rockets and Golden Nugget casino resorts, assures The Post Oak Hotel will be something special.

"There's never been a hotel built like this in Houston," he said.

Rates start at \$409 for weekend, \$499 weekdays; thepostoak.com.