

PHOTOS BY RICK BETEHM/SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE

The living room of one of Marco Beach Ocean Resort's two-bedroom suites.

Marco Beach Ocean Resort is a Florida Green Lodge

SUBMITTED

The award-winning Marco Beach Ocean Resort, located along the Gulf of Mexico's famous white-sand beaches, has been recertified as an environmentally-friendly destination, receiving a Two-Palm rating from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Green Lodging program.

Known for its stunning Gulf views, intimate environment and personalized service, the 93-suite Marco Beach Ocean Resort was originally certified as a Florida Green Lodge in 2010, and has received the triennial designation since.

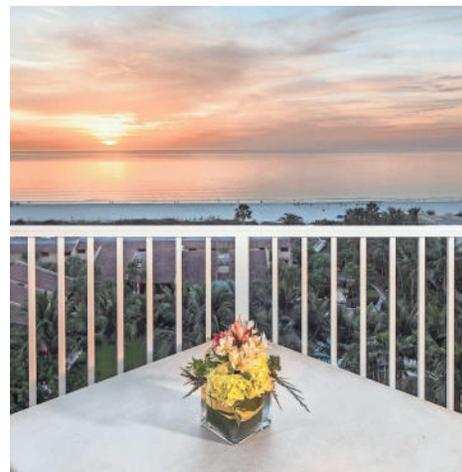
The certification recognizes the resort for voluntarily adopting initiatives to conserve and protect Florida's natural resources.

The Florida Green Lodging's environ-

mental guidelines are designed to help the hospitality industry evaluate its operations, set goals and take specific actions to continuously improve environmental performance. Eligible properties must address five core standards, including: waste reduction, reuse and recycling; water conservation; energy efficiency; indoor air quality; and communication and education for guests, employees and the public.

"The Marco Beach Ocean Resort is committed to implementing green initiatives," said Jonathan Whitlow, director of guest services at Marco Beach Ocean Resort. "Our beautiful stretch of beach and the Gulf of Mexico are the top reasons guests choose to stay with us. We are constantly improving our practices to protect our environmental treasures."

Florida Green Lodging properties are



The view from on of Marco Beach Ocean Resort's two-bedroom suites.

required to submit environmental performance data annually and implement a minimum of two new environmental practices. The program not only benefits the environment, but also helps designated properties save money and increase occupancy rates.

In 2015, the resort was recognized by Conde Nast Traveler as one of the top 25 resorts in Florida's Gulf of Mexico and Central regions; was named among the top 400 hotels worldwide by Expedia+ members; and was inducted into the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame.

Developed by the Gulf Bay Group of Companies, Marco Beach Ocean Resort is located at 480 South Collier Blvd. on Marco Island. For additional information or to make reservations, call 239-393-1400 or toll-free at 800-715-8517, or visit marcoresort.com.