In 1908 two American Industrialists, Hernan & Sosthenes Behn, started the construction of many houses in Condado (they also hold credit as founders of the Puerto Rico Telephone Company). They went on to build the Two Brothers Bridge (El Puente de los Hermanos) as homage to their contributions to Condado. The bridge connects the districts of Condado & Old San Juan. Condado experienced an economical lift in the first decades of 20th Century. In 1919, the Vanderbilt Family initiated the transformation of the area. Between 1950’s-60 this flamboyant area became a popular tourist spot. Huge hotels were built as part of a government sponsorship program under the Operation Bootstrap banner.

The Famed Ashford Avenue was named after a well-known Condado resident Dr. Bailey Ashford. While serving as the medical officer in the general military hospital in Ponce, Puerto Rico he was the first to describe and successfully treat the hookworm parasite in 1899. The Avenue is host to a culinary festival with the areas popular restaurants competing each year beside the delightful turquoise colored beaches.

Condado features fashion boutiques such as: Cartier, Gucci, Louis Vuitton & Salvatore Ferragamo. Its eastern side is marked by De Diego Avenue and a straight extension towards the Atlantic coast.

The Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza sits on a privileged site, a small headland at the northwestern part of the Condado district, and just 5 minutes from the cobblestoned streets of historic Old San Juan. As the only city retreat overlooking both the Atlantic Ocean and Condado Lagoon, our exclusive San Juan hotel provides an enchanting setting. Well known for hosting celebrities’ top social events and welcoming top VIP’s. Our unique location boasts cool ocean breezes, breathtaking sunsets, and a shimmering beach.

The Condado Plaza was inaugurated in 1963. It has shared a wealth of names from Ponce de León to San Gerónimo Hilton, Helio Isla, and in 1977 the Condado Holiday Inn Resort & Sands Casino. In 1977 the company acquired the Laguna Building which was known as the Flamboyán Hotel.

A year later, the bridge that connects both buildings was inaugurated. That same year, Karl Wallenda the founder of the “Flying Wallendas”, a famous daredevil who was known for performing death defying sports without the protection of a safety net was killed in an accident while attempting to cross both towers of the hotel. On June 4th, 2011 his grandson, Nik Wallenda attempted the same walk in loving memory of his grandfather. Nik, better known as the “King of the High Wire” is a Guinness Book of Records world record-holder and successfully walked the wire together with his mother.

In August of 2005, when Blackstone acquired Wyndham, it became a LXR merged hotel. Once again revamped in 2008, and branded as part of the Hilton Worldwide Conrad hotels in 2009 as Conrad Hotels & Resorts.

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