

CELEBRATING

VICTOR HUGO GREEN

CREATOR OF
THE GREEN BOOK

Victor Hugo Green was an American postal employee and travel writer that's best known for writing *The Green Book*, a U.S. travel guide for African Americans. First published in 1936, as *The Negro Motorist Green Book* and later as *The Negro Traveler's Green Book*, the books served to help Black travelers choose safe spaces for lodging, restaurants and gas stations while on road trips during the Jim Crow era. The books were published annually until 1966 and were the most successful and longest-running Black travel guides, even being dubbed the "bible of Black travel." By 1962 there were more than two million copies in circulation, which included all 50 states as well as listings for Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Africa.

VICEROY FOR EVERYONE is the initiative at the heart of Viceroy's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging efforts. This February, in honor of Black History Month, Viceroy recognizes and celebrates the achievements of African Americans who have made a lasting impact on the hospitality and travel industry. Over the course of the month, we will spotlight African American pioneers and their achievements, and share their incredible stories with our colleagues and guests.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



CELEBRATING

BESSIE COLEMAN

AVIATION PIONEER

Born in Atlanta in 1892, Bessie Coleman soared across the sky as the first African American woman pilot. She was the first African American woman with a pilot's license, the first African American woman to fly a plane, and the first American with an international pilot's license. Known for performing flying stunts, Coleman's nicknames were "Brave Bessie," "Queen Bess" and "The Only Race Aviatrix in the World." As flying schools in the U.S. denied her entry because she was both African American and a woman, Coleman taught herself French and moved to France to pursue her passion. She became the world's first Black woman to earn her license in 1921 from Caudron Brother's School of Aviation in just seven months. Unfortunately, her career ended with a tragic plane crash in 1926, but her story continues to inspire people around the world.

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CELEBRATING

ALBERT & MARGARET ROBINSON

OWNERS OF HOTEL ROBINSON

The Hotel Robinson was built in 1897 and was one of the first businesses in San Diego County, California, to be African American owned and operated. In 1868, Albert, a freed Missouri slave, married Margaret, whose father was the first African American man to be a juror in San Diego County. Soon after their marriage, the Robinsons opened Robinson Restaurant and Bakery, which was popular within the community and enjoyed success for almost a decade. In 1897, the restaurant closed to make way for Hotel Robinson, a hotel featuring 14 guest rooms, a full kitchen, dining room and parlor room. The hotel became a social center of the community, famous for its hospitality and cooking. Now named the Julian Gold Rush Hotel, it's on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest continuing operating hotel in Southern California.

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