The Breakers

The 1999 Grand Award Winner of the Professional Grounds Management Society for Hotel, Motel or Resort

There’s nothing like the smell of an early morning sea breeze, or the smell of diesel fumes and freshly cut grass. Just ask the grounds crew at The Breakers, who have the sights, smells and sounds of balmy Palm Beach, FL, to comfort them during their work day.

The guests who come for rest and relaxation at The Breakers expect beautiful and entertaining landscaping, and that’s why Director of Golf and Grounds Daniel Miller and his crew have to maintain such things as flower displays that go through 25,000 annuals a year, a 20,000-sq.-ft. courtyard and the Children’s Secret Garden. The children’s garden features colorful butterfly-attracting plants such as pentas, lantana and passion flower, sculpted topiary monkeys and cranes, and, in the center of the maze, a wishing well fountain.

The crew members have to be on their game at the Spa Courtyard, where everything is exposed to the elements. To combat Mother Nature, the crew installed salt-tolerant plantings. There is also a constant change out of color to maintain vibrancy and keep things fresh.

Editors’ note: Landscape Management is the exclusive sponsor of the Green Star Professional Grounds Management Awards for outstanding management of residential, commercial and institutional landscapes. The 2000 winners will be named at the annual meeting of the Professional Grounds Management Society in November. For more information on the 2000 Awards, contact PGMS at 120 Cockeysville Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD; 410/584-9754. Web-site: www.pgms.org