

Rust, mold, parasites: Trump's Mar-a-Lago cited for 78 health violations in the last three years



President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sit down for dinner at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort. (Nicholas Kamm / AFP/Getty Images)

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

APRIL 13, 2017 12:35 PM PT

Unsafe seafood. Insufficiently refrigerated meats. Rusty shelving. Cooks without hairnets.

Reports show Florida health inspectors cited President Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort with 15 violations in late January, days before the U.S. leader hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a diplomatic visit.

Still, the state inspectors allowed the luxury resort's main restaurant and beach club grill to remain open as staff scrambled to make several immediate corrections.

Among the "high priority" problems described as "potentially hazardous" were faulty fridges with meats stored well above the required 41 degrees Fahrenheit. For example, in the restaurant's walk-in cooler, the duck and beef were measured at 50 degrees, while a ham was at 57 degrees.

Other issues included smoked salmon being served without undergoing "proper parasite destruction" and a hand washing sink for employees with water that was not hot enough.

Stephen Lawson, spokesman for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, said the violations were

the result of a routine inspection and not prompted by any consumer complaints or food-borne illnesses.

“The infractions were corrected on site, and the establishment was immediately brought into compliance,” Lawson said on Thursday.

The January inspections were not the first time authorities have found problems at Mar-a-Lago. Over the last three years, records show the club has been cited 78 times for violations that included chefs handling food without washing their hands, dirty cutting boards, a slicer “soiled with old food debris” and an “accumulation of “black/green mold-like substance” in the ice machine.

Lawson said inspectors will return to Mar-a-Lago for another unannounced visit before the end of the year.

The Trump Organization, which operates the family’s business empire, did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment. The violations were first made public weeks ago, but received broader attention this week following a report in the Miami Herald.

ADVERTISEMENT

Trump is a frequent visitor to his private club in Palm Beach. The president often refers to the property as the Winter White House. He hosted a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping there last weekend, where Trump said the men shared a “beautiful” chocolate cake while discussing the U.S. cruise missile strike on Syria.

ALSO

[United faces more questions as dragged passenger hires high-powered attorney](#)

[North Miami cop charged in shooting of autistic man’s unarmed therapist](#)

[One sister faces early onset Alzheimer’s. The other plans to be with her for the journey](#)

MORE TO READ

Café Tropical closed this week. Debts and a bitter family dispute played a role

Dec. 1, 2023



Executive at Trump's company says 'presidential premium' was floated to boost bottom line

Oct. 13, 2023



Is Mar-a-Lago worth \$1 billion? Trump's winter home valuations are at the core of his fraud trial

Oct. 9, 2023



Associated Press

The Associated Press is an independent, not-for-profit news cooperative headquartered in New York City.