

Relais & Chateaux Announces New Members for 2008 During Annual International Congress in Washington, DC

- 34 Privately-Owned Hotels & Restaurants Join the Prestigious Global Association -

NEW YORK, Nov. 26 /PRNewswire/ -- Relais & Chateaux today announced the addition of 34 new members to the prestigious global association of 470 of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in 55 countries. The announcement was made during the association's esteemed annual International Congress that is taking place in Washington, DC, November 25-28.

The 2008 Relais & Chateaux new members hail from such countries as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy and the United States. The seven new North American members will bring the total number of Relais & Chateaux properties in the association's North American market to 67.

"We are tremendously proud and honored to welcome 34 outstanding new members to the Relais & Chateaux association," said Jaume Tapiés, president of Relais & Chateaux. "Each of these new members exemplifies the association's enduring dedication to quality as well as the 'spirit' that distinguishes the association through the five ideals -- sense of place, harmony, being, personal generosity and fellowship."

To qualify for membership, hotels and restaurants must assemble an application file that testifies to its exclusive nature and makes a case for its adherence to the qualities and ideals that define Relais & Chateaux. These materials are examined to assess the establishment's qualifications. The property is then visited anonymously by an independent evaluation company that reviews hundreds of important criteria, as well as by current Relais & Chateaux member management. Their reports are rigorously reviewed by the Board of Directors and finally, at the annual Board of Directors meeting every year, a decision is made about Relais & Chateaux membership. Typically the process can take up to several years.

In addition to welcoming the association's 34 new members for 2008, the 33rd International Congress of Relais & Chateaux has attracted some 500 of the world's most respected hoteliers and chefs including Patrick O'Connell from the Inn at Little Washington, Thomas Keller of The French Laundry and Per Se and more. During this assemblage, the Congress has also addressed its membership synergies, marketing strategies and strategic partnerships. Participants have attended International Congress events in the National Building Museum, Union Station, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium.

Following is a list of the new 2008 Relais & Chateaux members:

Europe	North America
Hostellerie La Butte Aux Bois, Belgium	Manoir Hovey, Canada
Kong Hans Kaelder, Denmark	Wedgewood Hotel & Spa, Canada
Lower Slaughter Manor, England	Castle Hill Inn & Resort, United States
Au Soldat de L'An II, France	The Inn at Dos Brisas, United States

Flocons de Sel, France
Chateau de Bagnols, France
Villa Augusta, France
GasteHaus Erfort, Germany
Imaret, Greece
Bauer Palladio Hotel & Spa, Italy
Arnolfo Ristorante, Italy
Hotel Airds, Scotland
Valdepalacios, Spain
Mas de Canicatti, Spain
Grand Hotel du Lac, Switzerland

South America
Cavas Wine Lodge, Argentina
El Colibri, Argentina
Pousada Estrela D'Agua, Brazil

About Relais & Chateaux

Restaurant Bel-Air, United States
L'Auberge Carmel, United States
Restaurant Cyrus, United States

Australia
Jonah's Australia

Asia
The Pavilions Bali, Bali
Heritage Suites Hotel, Cambodia
Kanetanaka, Japan
Japamala Resort, Malaysia
Tamarind Springs Restaurant,
Malaysia
The Eugenia, Thailand
The Pavilions Phuket, Thailand
The Rachamankha, Thailand

Relais & Chateaux is an exclusive collection of 470 of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in 55 countries. Established in France in 1954, the Association's mission is to spread its unique art de vivre across the globe by selecting outstanding properties with a truly unique character. Furthermore, Relais & Chateaux is also a family of hoteliers and Grands Chefs from all over the world who share a passion for, and a personal commitment to, ensuring their guests are privy to moments of exceptional harmony. To choose Relais & Chateaux is to experience an unforgettable celebration of the senses. From the vineyards in Napa valley to the beaches in Bali, from the olive trees in Provence to the lodges in South Africa, Relais & Chateaux offers a chance to explore the Route du Bonheur and discover a special place in a variety of destinations. The Relais & Chateaux signature reflects this ambition: "ALL AROUND THE WORLD, UNIQUE IN THE WORLD." For information or reservations, call 800-735-2478 or consult the Web site at <http://www.relaischateaux.com>.