

January 15, 2008

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Gala Fetes New York Hospitality Industry's Excellence

New York (January 15, 2008): On Monday, January 14, 2008, two of the most prestigious awards in the hospitality industry, *IN New York* magazine's Hotel Experience Awards and *WHERE New York* magazine's Silver Plume Awards, were united under the umbrella of the Hotel Excellence Awards (HEA). This glamorous 500-guest gala was produced and presented by the nation's leading visitor publisher MVP/NY (the parent company of *IN New York* and *WHERE New York*) in cooperation with the Hotel Association of New York City. The event, co-hosted by MVP/NY President and Publisher Merrie L. Davis and Senior Vice President Paula Cohen, and covered by NYC/TV (Time Warner Channel 25 and Cablevision Channel 22, to be aired on February 18, 2008), was held at the New York Marriott Marquis.

IN New York readers (hotel guests) voted to select Hotel Experience Award recipients. Winners among hotels with 500 rooms or more: The Waldorf=Astoria for "Best Concierge Service," Jumeirah Essex House for "Best Room Amenities," The New York Palace Hotel for "Best Hotel Restaurant," Grand Hyatt New York for "Best Family-Friendly Hotel," New York Marriott Marquis and InterContinental The Barclay New York (tie) for "Best Business Services" and "Best Overall Hotel Experience" went to the W New York. Winners in the 500 rooms or less category: The Pierre, A Taj Hotel tied with The St. Regis Hotel, New York for "Best Concierge Service," The Benjamin, "Best Room Amenities," Trump International Hotel & Tower, "Best Hotel Restaurant," the Michelangelo Hotel New York, "Best Family-Friendly Hotel," Mandarin Oriental, New York and The Carlyle tied for "Best Business Services" and The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park, "Best Overall Hotel Experience." In addition, the venerated "Lifetime Achievement Award" was presented to Tom Lewis, President of Gray Line New York Sightseeing by Cristyne Nicholas, President of Nicholas & Lence Communications.

Silver Plume Award winners (Concierges and General Managers) were chosen by a panel of their peers and included: Maurice Dancer, The Pierre, A Taj Hotel for "Chef Concierge of the Year" and Ivette Munroe, also from The Pierre, who took home the "Concierge of the Year" award. Rounding out the trio of winners, The New York Palace Hotel's Vito Trezulli tied Eric Long from The Waldorf=Astoria for "Best Supporting Manager of the Year."

This year's list of sponsors and presenters includes AP Graphics, Bermini Custom Tailors, BICE Ristorante, Bloomingdale's, Chopra Center & Spa at Dream, Circle Line Downtown, Commonwealth Worldwide Chauffeured Transportation, EmpireCLS, the Empire State Building, Evian, Graphic Lab, Gray Line New York Sightseeing, Dr. Jan Linhart, John Barrett, M & V Limousine, Ltd., Madame Tussauds, Martha Clara Vineyards, NYC & Company, NYC TV/NYC Media Group, p.i.n.k. Vodka, Ripley's Believe It or Not Times Square, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park, The Shops at Columbus Circle, SNS Staging, Starbright Floral Design, Stella Artois, SuperShuttle, Times Square Alliance, Top of the Rock, Wall Street Entertainment, Wempe Jewelers and William Grant & Sons, USA.

Entertainment included magician Michael Chaut, The New York Saxophone Quartet, East Coast Band and the cast of *Grease on Broadway*. A Silent Auction of more than 100 donated items benefiting four charities (Les Clefs d'Or Foundation, the New York City Association of Hotel Concierges' Charitable Fund, the Hotel Association of New York City Scholarship Fund and the ITM Hospitality Fund) was also part of the festivities.

About MVP/NY

Morris Visitor Publications New York (MVP/NY) is a division of Morris Communications Company. MVP/NY's market-leading visitor publications include *IN New York* and *WHERE® New York* magazines, *QuickGuide: New York Itineraries*, *WHERE GuestBook® New York* and *IN New York Maps*. Reaching every segment of the visitor market—from leisure and family to business and luxury travel—MVP/NY products appear at more than 220 of New York's most distinguished hotels, visitor centers and high-traffic attractions, private clubs and upscale corporate housing, and generate annual readership in excess of 26 million. For more information, log onto www.mvpny.net, MVP/NY's comprehensive visitor's Web site.

CAPTION FOR 2007 HEA GROUP PHOTO:

Honorees and award presenters for the *MVP/NY Hotel Excellence Awards* gather around their hosts, President/Publisher Merrie L. Davis and Senior Vice President Paula Cohen, following the awards ceremony held Monday, January 14, 2008 at the New York Marriott Marquis. **BACK ROW (L to R):** Joe Dembeck, Hotel Manager, Marriott Marquis; Eric Long, General Manager, The Waldorf=Astoria; Sante Calandri, Maître d', BICE Ristorante; Dan Flannery, General Manager, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park; Stacey Feder, The Shops at Columbus Circle; Marcelo Surerus, Area Concierge Director, W Hotels of New York; Trevor Scotland, Director of Business Development, NYC TV; Ivette Munroe, Concierge, The Pierre, A Taj Hotel; Mary Murphy, Concierge, Omni Berkshire Place and President, New York Association of Hotel Concierges; Tom Lewis, President, Gray Line New York Sightseeing; Keith Douglas, Senior Director of Sales & Marketing, Tishman Speyer, Rockefeller Center & Top of the Rock Observation Deck; Kelly Ann Curtin, Senior Vice President of Membership, NYC & Company; Joyce Louie, Chef Concierge, The New York Palace Hotel; Domenic Alfonzetti, Concierge, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park; Celso Moreira, Concierge, Four Seasons Hotel New York; Jacqueline Relyea, Director of International Marketing and Tourism, Bloomingdale's; Nico Hallwass, Director of Rooms Division, Trump International Hotel & Tower; Greg Dinella, Hotel Manager, The Carlyle; **FRONT ROW (L to R):** Michael Blackman, General Manager, The Michelangelo Hotel; Paula Warrington, Sales Manager, SuperShuttle; Adrianna Lypecky, Concierge, Grand Hyatt New York; J.B. Meyer, President, Circle Line Downtown; Klaus Assmann, Resident Manager, Jumeirah Essex House; Anya Orlanska, Concierge, The Benjamin; Dr. Jan Linhart; Tim Tompkins, Executive Director, Times Square Alliance; Trisha McMahon, Editor-in-Chief, MVP/NY; Merrie L. Davis, President/Publisher, MVP/NY; Paula Cohen, Senior Vice President, MVP/NY; Arpad Romandy, Resident Manager, InterContinental The Barclay New York; Mark Vigilante, M&V Limousines, Ltd.; Vito Terzulli, General Manager, The New York Palace Hotel; Denzil Croning, Director of On-Premise Sales, EVIAN; Heiko Kuenstle, General Manager, The Pierre, A Taj Hotel; Rudy Albers, Wempe Jewelers; Scott Geraghty, General Manager, The St. Regis Hotel, New York.