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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE MOST EXCELLENT HOTELS & CONCIERGES HONORED

**New York (February 6, 2009):** On February 2, 2009, MVP/NY hosted the 2008 Hotel Excellence Awards (HEA), the hospitality industry's most prestigious awards gala, at the New York Marriott Marquis's Broadway Ballroom. More than 500 guests and honorees gathered to celebrate and recognize the travel and hospitality industry's service to New York City. The night featured the industry's top honors: the Hotel Experience and Silver Plume Awards, as well as a special Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Jonathan M. Tisch.

Hotel Experience Awards winners among hotels with 500 rooms or more were: The New York Palace Hotel for **Best Concierge Service**, Inter-Continental The Barclay New York for **Best Room Amenities**, W New York—Times Square for Best Hotel Restaurant, Hilton New York and The Westin New York at Times Square (tied) for **Best Family-Friendly Hotel** and The Waldorf=Astoria for **Best Business Services**. The **Best Overall Hotel Experience** award went to New York Marriott Marquis. In the 500 rooms or less category, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park won for Best Concierge Service, The Plaza won for Best Room Amenities, Mandarin Oriental, New York received the Best Hotel Restaurant award, Omni Berkshire Place won the Best Family-Friendly Hotel award, The Peninsula New York won for Best Business Services and The St. Regis New York won for Best Overall Hotel Experience. In addition, the venerated **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Jonathan M. Tisch, Chairman and CEO of Loews Hotels.

Silver Plume Awards winners included Michael Romei of The Waldorf Towers for Chef Concierge of the Year, while The St. Regis New York had a big night as Harald Mootz took home the Concierge of the Year award and Scott Geraghty was named Best Supporting Manager of the Year.

A hugely successful Silent Auction of more than 120 items was held 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.

Entertainment abounded. Cast members from the Broadway production of *West Side Story* thrilled the crowd, and a cameo by *In the Heights* was a showstopper. The Piers Lawrence Quartet provided graceful musical accompaniment for a lively cocktail hour, while Wayne Sabella Music got everyone moving on the dance floor following the award ceremony.

The 2008 HEA was sponsored by Bloomingdale's, Gray Line New York Sightseeing, CityPass, Peroni Italy, Empire State Building, CitySights New York, YouHere Productions, Genesis Beverage Brands, BICE Ristorante, Benjamin Steak House, John Barrett and Wempe Jewelers, among others.

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