

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Condé Nast Johansens Luxury Travel Guide Announces

Winners of 2009 Awards for Excellence in the Americas, Atlantic,

Caribbean & Pacific Islands

NEW YORK (January 25, 2009) -- Condé Nast Johansens, the international luxury travel guide from the most trusted name in travel publishing, Condé Nast Publications Ltd., today announced the winners of the 2009 *Awards for Excellence*. The winners of the prestigious awards were chosen as the premier properties throughout the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific Islands. The full list of winners is included below.

The winners were selected in 25 categories, including Most Excellent Resort, Most Excellent Hotel and Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway. Other winners were chosen in categories created specifically to celebrate the ever-growing diversity of the Guide's offerings, such as Most Excellent Spa Hotel, Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific Islands; Most Excellent Ranch, USA; and Most Excellent Beach Hotel, Mexico and Central America. Votes for the winners were taken from readers of the Guide, hotel guests and the Condé Nast Johansens inspection team.

"With an ever-growing list of the world's finest properties in the 2009 *Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas – The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean, & Pacific*, and our expanded coverage of Canada and Central and South America, the categories now cover 342 hotels, and so were very competitive," said Lesley O'Malley-Keyes, Vice President & Publishing Director, The Americas. "Condé Nast Johansens recommends only properties that meet our exacting standards, so the Excellence Awards winners represent the very best of the best. Our readers are

discerning, sophisticated travelers who know what they want when they travel - excellent accommodations and personal attention."

The Guide's easy-to-use format simplifies the independent traveler's task of selecting and booking accommodations. Each *Recommendation* features rich, full-color exterior and interior hotel photographs, and details about facilities, rates and contact information. The 2009 Guides have a compact, portable and user-friendly format, with contemporary style to fit both the needs and the style of affluent travelers on-the-go.

The Guides, which are celebrating their 27th year of publication in Europe, have attracted a loyal readership in the United States by guaranteeing that each and every *Recommended* property undergoes a rigorous annual inspection process to ensure exceptional quality is maintained year after year. Every *Recommended* hotel or spa in the Guide is awarded the "Condé Nast Mark of Excellence" wall plaque. This distinctive blue sign hangs on the wall of each hotel and serves as a visible endorsement for more than 13 million of the world's most discerning travelers.

The Condé Nast Johansens Web site (www.johansens.com), an increasingly important part of the Condé Nast Johansens offerings, now reflects the varying ways in which the Guides' users research hotels and destinations. The user friendly Web site allows visitors to find a hotel by country, state, island or by keyword search -- if inspiration is needed -- the Web site delivers recommendations based on preferred criteria, such as "spa" or "gourmet food." The site can now also send a reservation or availability request directly to the hotels. Other features of the site include a venue finder, special and seasonal offers, online gift certificate purchasing, and late availability options.

The winners of the Condé Nast Johansens 2009 Awards for Excellence, The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean & Pacific are:

ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

Most Excellent Resort Winner: Carlisle Bay, Antigua

Finalists: Palm Island, The Grenadines
Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada
Tryall Club, Jamaica

Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort, Fiji
Grace Bay Club, Turks and Caicos Islands
CuisinArt Resort and Spa, Anguilla

Most Excellent Hotel Winner: Hôtel Le Toiny, Saint Barthélemy

Finalists: Point Grace, Turks and Caicos Islands
Montpelier Plantation, Nevis
La Samanna, St Martin
Turks and Caicos Club, Turks and Caicos Islands
Cambridge Beaches Resort and Spa, Bermuda
Biras Creek Resort, British Virgin Islands

Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway Winner: Horned Dorset Primavera, Puerto Rico

Finalists: Jade Mountain at Anse Chastanet, St Lucia Peter Island Resort, British Virgin Islands Curtain Bluff, Antigua Qamea Resort and Spa, Fiji

Most Excellent Spa Hotel Winner: CuisinArt Resort and Spa, Anguilla

Finalists: Yasawa Island Resort and Spa, Fiji Parrot Cay and COMO Shambhala Retreat, Turks and Caicos Islands Hotel Guanahani and Spa, Saint-Barthélemy Galley Bay Resort and Spa, Antigua

SOUTH AMERICA

Most Excellent Beach Resort Winner: Kiaroa Eco-Luxury Resort, Brazil

Finalists: Nannai Beach Resort, Brazil Txai Resort, Brazil DPNY Beach Hotel, Brazil Pousada do Toque, Brazil

Most Excellent Hotel Winner: Hotel Unique, Brazil

Finalists: Ponta dos Ganchos, Brazil Txai Resort, Brazil Kiaroa Eco-Luxury Resort, Brazil Villarrica Park Lake Hotel, Chile

Most Excellent Small Hotel Winner: Pousada Maravilha, Brazil

Finalists: Etnia Pousada and Boutique, Brazil Vila Naiá – Paralelo 17, Brazil Fazenda São Francisco, Brazil

Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway Winner: Ponta dos Ganchos, Brazil

Finalists: Kiaroa Eco-Luxury Resort, Brazil Correntoso Lake and River Hotel, Argentina Hotel Las Balsas, Argentina

Most Excellent Spa Hotel Winner: Kurotel, Brazil

Finalists: Spa Unique Garden, Brazil Casas Brancas Boutique-Hotel and Spa, Brazil

Most Excellent Lodge Winner: Hotel Las Balsas, Argentina

Finalists: Pousada do Engenho, Brazil Correntoso Lake and River Hotel, Argentina

MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA

Most Excellent Resort Winner: Grand Velas All Suites and Spa Resort, Mexico

Finalists: Esperanza, an Auberge Resort, Mexico Las Alamandas Resort, Mexico

Most Excellent Spa Hotel Winner: Las Ventanas al Paraíso, A Rosewood Resort, Mexico

Finalists: Grand Velas All Suites and Spa Resort, Mexico Tabacón Grand Spa Thermal Resort, Costa Rica Esperanza, an Auberge Resort, Mexico

Most Excellent Hotel Winner: Hacienda Xcanatún - Casa de Piedra, Mexico

> Finalists: Hotel Punta Islita, Costa Rica Lapa Rios Eco Lodge, Costa Rica Casa Natalia, Mexico

Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway Winners: Hotel Punta Islita, Costa Rica Las Alamandas Resort, Mexico

Finalists: Gaia Hotel and Reserve, Costa Rica Casa Nalum, Mexico The Lodge at Chaa Creek, Belize

Most Excellent Beach Hotel Winner: Victoria House, Belize

Finalists: Las Ventanas al Paraíso, A Rosewood Hotel, Mexico El Tamarindo Beach and Golf Resort, Mexico

UNITED STATES AND CANADA Most Excellent Hotel Winners: The Hay-Adams, DC The Setai, FL

Finalists: The Sutton Place Hotel Vancouver, BC
Fifteen Beacon, MA
Pan Pacific Vancouver, BC
The Davenport Hotel and Tower, WA
Hotel Monaco Denver – A Kimpton Hotel, CO

Most Excellent Ranch Winner: Sorrel River Ranch Resort and Spa, UT

Finalists: Rancho de los Caballeros, AZ Hidden Meadow Ranch, AZ

Most Excellent Inn Winner: The Baker House 1650, NY

Finalists: The White Barn Inn, ME
The Goodstone Inn and Estate, VA
Inn at Montchanin Village, DE
1801 First Inn, CA
Villa Marco Polo Inn, BC
The Inn at National Hall, CT
Old Edwards Inn and Spa, NC
Arizona Inn, AZ
The Pitcher Inn, VT

Most Excellent Small Hotel Winner: Casa Tua, FL

Finalists: Hotel Healdsburg, CA Chanler at Cliff Walk, RI Cháteau du Sureau and Spa, CA Hotel Quintessence, QC

Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway Winner: Post Ranch Inn, CA

Finalists: Castle Hill Resort and Spa, VT Wickaninnish Inn, BC Hidden Meadow Ranch, AZ The Lodge at Moosehead Lake, ME

Most Excellent Lodge Winner: Sun Mountain Lodge, WA

Finalists: Brentwood Bay Lodge and Spa, BC

Most Excellent Country House Hotel Winner: Blantyre, MA

Finalists: Castle Hill Resort and Spa, VT Hastings House Country Estate, BC

Most Excellent Spa Hotel
Winner: Wedgewood Hotel and Spa, BC

Finalists: Post Ranch Inn, CA Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, AZ

Most Excellent Golf Resort
Winner: The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, SC

Finalists: The Lodge at Turning Stone, NY
The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, SC

Most Excellent Resort Winner: Meadowood Napa Valley, CA

Finalists: Bernadus Lodge, CA Ballantyne Resort, NY The Sanderling Resort and Spa, NC

THE AMERICAS, ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC ISLANDS

Most Excellent Service Winner: Château du Sureau and Spa, CA

Most Excellent Business Partner Winner: Grand Velas All Suites and Spa Resort, Mexico

The Condé Nast Johansens international collection of guides are available at select bookstores nationwide, including the 2009 *Recommended Hotels, Inns*, *Resorts & Spas – The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean*, *Pacific*. The Guide Web site, www.johansens.com, offers exclusive seasonal discounts and complimentary access to the international database of luxury accommodations. Consumers can purchase Condé Nast Johansens Guides by calling Condé Nast Johansens at 1-800-564-7518, or via the online bookstore at www.johansens.com. Gift certificates are also available at the Web site.

The complete Condé Nast Johansens international collection includes:

Recommended Hotels & Spas, Great Britain and Ireland

Recommended Country Houses, Small Hotels, Inns and Restaurants Great Britain and

Ireland

Recommended Hotels and Spas, Europe and The Mediterranean

Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean,

Pacific

Recommended Venues for Business Meetings, Conferences and Events

Recommended Luxury Spas

About Condé Nast Johansens

Condé Nast Johansens is owned by Condé Nast Publications, a wholly owned subsidiary of Advance Publications and Condé Nast International, which publishes an extensive portfolio of magazines around the world, including *Vogue*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Architectural Digest*, *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Tatler*, *Vanity Fair*, *Brides*, *Glamour* and *Wired*.

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