

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Condé Nast Johansens Luxury Travel Guide Announces  
Winners of 2008 Awards for Excellence in the Americas, Atlantic,  
Caribbean & Pacific Islands**

SAN FRANCISCO (January 25, 2008) -- Condé Nast Johansens, the international luxury travel guide from the “most trusted name in travel publishing,” Condé Nast Publications Ltd., today announced the eagerly awaited winners of the 2008 *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 Hotel, Most Excellent Resort and Most Excellent Spa Hotel. Other winners were chosen in categories created specifically to celebrate the ever-growing diversity of the Guide’s offerings, such as Most Excellent Lodge, Central & South America; Most Excellent Ranch, USA; and Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway, Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific Islands. The winners were voted for by readers of the Guide, hotel guests and the Condé Nast Johansens inspection team.

“With 326 of the world’s finest properties in the 2008 *Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas – The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean, & Pacific*, and our expanded coverage of Canada and Central and South America, the categories were very competitive,” said Lesley O’Malley-Keyes, VP & 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, savvy travelers who enjoy 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 2008 Guide represents a departure from the illustrated coffee table format that Condé Nast Johansens first introduced 25 years ago. The 2008 Guides have a more compact, portable and user-friendly format, with an injection of contemporary style to fit both the needs and the style of affluent travelers on-the-go.

The Guides, which are celebrating their 26<sup>th</sup> year of publication in Europe, have attracted a loyal readership in the United States by guaranteeing that each *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 prestigious sign of approval serves as a visible endorsement for more than 13 million of the world's most discerning travelers.

Following extensive user-research, the Condé Nast Johansens Web site ([www.johansens.com](http://www.johansens.com)), an increasingly important part of the Condé Nast Johansens offerings, has also been re-designed to reflect the varying ways in which the Guides' users research hotels and destinations. The easy-to-use Web site allows visitors to find a hotel by country, state, island or by keyword search -- if inspiration is required -- the Web site delivers recommendations based on preferred criteria, such as "spa" or "gourmet food." Other features of the site include a venue finder, special offers, online gift certificate purchasing, and late availability options.

**The winners of the Condé Nast Johansens 2008 Awards for Excellence,  
The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean & Pacific are:**

**USA & CANADA**

**Most Excellent Resort**

LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort - Florida

**Most Excellent Inn**

Old Edwards Inn and Spa - North Carolina

**Most Excellent Lodge**

The Big EZ Lodge - Montana

**Most Excellent Spa Hotel**

Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain – Arizona

**Most Excellent Hotel**

Hotel Bel-Air - California

**Most Excellent Ranch**

Hidden Meadow Ranch - Arizona

**Most Excellent Small Hotel**

Hotel Quintessence - Quebec

**Most Excellent Golf Resort**

Ballantyne Resort - North Carolina

**Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway**

Wickaninnish Inn - British Columbia

**Most Excellent Country House Hotel**

Blantyre – Massachusetts

## **MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA**

### **Most Excellent Resort**

Esperanza – Mexico

### **Most Excellent Hotel**

Hotel Punta Islita - Costa Rica

### **Most Excellent Spa Hotel**

Grand Velas All Suites & Spa Resort - Mexico

### **Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway**

Hacienda de San Antonio - Mexico

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **Most Excellent Beach Hotel**

Pousada do Toque - Brazil

### **Most Excellent Hotel**

Ponta dos Ganchos - Brazil

### **Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway**

Correntoso Lake & River Hotel - Argentina

### **Most Excellent Spa Hotel**

Kurotel - Brazil

### **Most Excellent Lodge**

Pousada do Engenho - Brazil

## **ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC ISLANDS**

### **Most Excellent Resort**

Grace Bay Club - Turks and Caicos Islands

### **Most Excellent Hotel**

Biras Creek Resort - British Virgin Islands

### **Most Excellent Romantic Hideaway**

Royal Davui Island Resort - Fiji Islands

### **Most Excellent Spa Hotel**

Parrot Cay - Turks and Caicos Islands

## **THE AMERICAS, ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC ISLANDS**

### **Most Excellent Service**

The Hay-Adams - Washington, DC

### **Most Excellent Business Partner**

Hotel Plaza Athenee – New York City

The Condé Nast Johansens international collection of guides are available at select bookstores nationwide, including the 2008 *Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas – The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean, Pacific*. The Guide Web site, [www.johansens.com](http://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](http://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 72 magazines around the world, including *Vogue, Condé Nast Traveler, House & Garden, Architectural Digest, The New Yorker, GQ, Tatler, Vanity Fair, Brides, Glamour* and *Wired*.

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