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AAA/CAA FIVE DIAMOND LODGINGS AND RESTAURANTS 2011 FACT SHEET

Data provided Jan. 14, 2011 – Valid through Dec. 31, 2011

For a complete list of AAA/CAA Five Diamond Lodgings and Restaurants and additional information about the AAA Diamond Rating System, visit AAA.com/news.

- ◆ For 2011, 18 new establishments (15 lodgings and three restaurants) were added to the coveted Five Diamond Award[®] list; four lodgings were removed.
- ◆ A total of 179 select establishments (124 lodgings and 55 restaurants) throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean received the AAA/CAA Five Diamond Rating.
- ◆ Five Diamond establishments represent just 0.3 percent of the current 59,000 AAA/CAA Approved and Diamond Rated establishments (31,000 lodgings and 28,000 restaurants).
- ◆ Two Caribbean countries attained their first Five Diamond Award winners, both lodgings: in the Dominican Republic, the Tortuga Bay Punta Cana Resort & Club in Punta Cana; in St. Lucia, the Jade Mountain Resort in Soufriere.
- ◆ Connecticut is the only state to add both a Five Diamond Lodging and a Five Diamond Restaurant: Winvian resort and its on-site Winvian restaurant in Morris, Conn.
- ◆ Illinois, Nevada and Quintana Roo, Mexico, each added two new Five Diamond Lodgings.
- ◆ Three lodgings have maintained the Five Diamond Rating for 35 consecutive years, since 1976 when the Diamond Ratings were first introduced for lodgings: The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Camelback Inn, A JW Marriott Resort & Spa, in Scottsdale, Ariz.; and The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
- ◆ Four additional lodgings have maintained the Five Diamond Rating for 25 or more consecutive years: Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia; The American Club in Kohler, Wisc.; The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead in Atlanta, Ga.; The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel in Dana Point, Calif.

- ◆ The restaurant with the longest Five Diamond tenure is The Inn at Little Washington Dining Room in Washington, Va., which has maintained the rating for 23 consecutive years, since 1988.
- ◆ Two additional restaurants have maintained a Five Diamond Rating for 20 or more consecutive years: The French Room in Dallas and Le Mer (in the Halekulani) in Honolulu.
- ◆ States with the greatest number of Five Diamond Lodgings: California (19); Florida (12); Nevada (9); Quintana Roo, Mexico (9), New York (8); and Georgia (7).
- ◆ States with the greatest number of Five Diamond Restaurants: California (7), Illinois (7) – all in Chicago and Nevada (5).
- ◆ States with the greatest number of Five Diamond establishments: California (26) – 19 lodgings/7 restaurants; Florida (15) – 12 lodgings/3 restaurants; Nevada (14) – 9 lodgings/5 restaurants; Quintana Roo, Mexico (12) – 9 lodgings/3 restaurants; New York (11) – 8 lodgings/3 restaurants; and Illinois (11) – 4 lodgings/7 restaurants.

ABOUT THE AAA/CAA DIAMOND RATING SYSTEM

AAA began field inspections of lodgings and restaurants in 1937 and introduced a formal rating system for accommodations in 1963. The early rating system evolved into the Diamond Rating System for lodgings in 1976 and was later rolled out for restaurants between 1986 and 1991. Today, AAA's professionally-trained inspectors use published guidelines to evaluate properties as a service to members.

AAA rates more properties than any other rating entity and is the only rating system that covers the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. It is one of only two that conduct physical, on-site evaluations. AAA Approved lodgings and restaurants are assigned a rating of One to Five Diamonds. Only one third of one percent of AAA Diamond Rated properties receive the prestigious Five Diamond Award designation.

Properties identified by AAA as potential candidates for the Five Diamond Rating undergo multiple evaluations and a final decision by a panel of experts. Similarly, properties determined to be at risk of losing their Five Diamond Rating undergo several evaluations and a final panel decision.