

AUBERGE RESORTS

ESPERANZA RESORT JOINS RELAIS & CHATEAUX

The World's Most Prestigious Travel Association Selects Auberge Resorts' Award-Winning Mexican Hotel as One of Five New Members.

MILL VALLEY, CALIF. (November 30, 2009) -- *Relais & Châteaux*, the oldest and most respected travel association in the world, welcomed Esperanza, Auberge Resorts' intimate seaside hotel Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (www.esperanzaresort.com), as one of five new members in North America. With this announcement, Esperanza joins sister properties Auberge du Soleil in Napa Valley, Calif. and Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. as members of the highly selective collection of outstanding properties.

Established in 1954, Relais & Châteaux was created to identify the world's finest and most distinctive hotels and gourmet restaurants that offer guests a one-of-a-kind experience and convey a true sense of their destination. The association has 475 members in 57 countries.

"Becoming a Relais & Châteaux member is a testament to our passion and dedication to offering guests a truly exceptional experience," said Severino Gomez, Managing Director of Esperanza. "We are pleased the association recognizes Esperanza's commitment to offering guests personalized service and amenities while showcasing warm Mexican hospitality.

"We are elated that Esperanza is our third property to become a Relais & Châteaux member," said Mark Harmon, President and CEO of Auberge Resorts. "Auberge Resorts' founding values are aligned with Relais & Châteaux's mission and becoming a member confirms that."

Relais & Châteaux prerequisites for membership consideration include: hotel services with a minimum of four stars or equivalent rating; a hotel capacity of less than 100 guest rooms; one gourmet restaurant; and has operated under the same owner or general manager for more than one year. Hotels are then graded on Relais & Châteaux founding values: courtesy, charm, character, calm and cuisine.

Esperanza encompasses a 57-room resort, 60 privately owned villas, 36 private residences, a full-service spa and a signature restaurant, located on the bluffs overlooking two private coves at Punta Ballena near Cabo San Lucas. For reservations or more information, please call toll-free 866-311-2226 or visit www.esperanzaresort.com.

ABOUT RELAIS & CHATEAUX

Relais & Châteaux is an exclusive collection of 475 of the finest charming hotels and gourmet restaurants in 57 countries. Established in France in 1954, the Association's mission is to spread its unique art de vivre across the globe by selecting outstanding properties with a truly unique character. Furthermore, Relais & Châteaux is also a family of hoteliers and Grands Chefs from all over the world who share a passion for and a personal commitment to ensuring their guests are privy to moments of exceptional harmony, an unforgettable celebration of the senses. From the vineyards in the Napa Valley to the beaches in Bali, from the olive trees in Provence, to the lodges in South Africa, Relais & Châteaux offers all the stops on the finest route for discovering each special place and country.

ABOUT AUBERGE RESORTS

Auberge Resorts is a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a memorable guest experience. Among the distinctive properties are Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina; Encantado, Santa Fe; Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., with several others currently in development. While Auberge Resorts nurtures the individuality of each establishment, all are characterized by a set of communal elements: intimate, understated elegance; captivating locations that inspire exceptional cuisine and spa experiences; and gracious yet unobtrusive service. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit www.aubergeresorts.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Color photography is available upon request.

