

Coast Hotels & Resorts to Open Hotel in Whistler, B.C.

Residence Inn by Marriott in Whistler to Be Rebranded as Coast Hotel on December 15

Vancouver, B.C. – August 24, 2009 – Coast Hotels & Resorts announced today it has signed an agreement with OHR Springs Management Ltd. to rebrand the 186-room Residence Inn by Marriott in Whistler, B.C. as the Coast Blackcomb Suites at Whistler effective December 15th, 2009. The hotel will be operated as a Coast Hotels & Resorts franchise.

Considered one of Whistler's premier hotel properties, the six-floor, ski-in, ski-out lodge-style hotel situated on the slopes of Blackcomb Mountain is managed by O'Neill Hotels & Resorts Ltd.

"Ever since Coast Hotels & Resorts left Whistler two years ago, we've been looking for a suitable property that would allow us to re-enter this highly sought-after market," said Graeme Barrit, President of Coast Hotels & Resorts. "The addition of this prestigious hotel to our portfolio gives Coast Hotels & Resorts a much stronger presence in the Victoria, Vancouver, Whistler tourism triangle. The addition of the Whistler hotel will also complement our other snow resort properties in Sun Peaks and Revelstoke."

"The Coast Hotels & Resorts' brand is widely respected and the hotel chain is well represented in western Canada and the western United States, which was a key consideration for the strata council," said John Hopkins, Vice Chair of the Blackcomb Springs Strata Council. "The high quality of the franchise services they offer plus the fact the company is located in our own backyard made Coast Hotels & Resorts a natural choice for us."

The property's transition to the Coast Hotels & Resorts flag is a perfect fit," said John O'Neill, President and CEO of O'Neill Hotels & Resorts. "We have complete confidence the new relationship will benefit all stakeholders and ensure the property will maintain its segment-leading status."

O'Neill Hotels & Resorts Chairman Robert O'Neill added, "With the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Games coming to Whistler in less than six months from now, there couldn't have been a better time to move forward with the re-flagging of this world-class property."

The Whistler property is an all-suite, condo-style hotel located at the base of Blackcomb Mountain. The hotel offers a range of accommodation to meet every traveler's needs from spacious, luxuriously appointed studio suites to one and two-bedroom units all containing fully equipped kitchens, gas fireplaces and balconies, some with breathtaking mountain views. The hotel also features onsite ski and sporting equipment rental, a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool, fitness facility and 1,242 sq. ft. of meeting space.

With the addition of the Whistler property, Coast Hotels & Resorts will have added 14 properties to the chain's portfolio over the last four years. The company recently opened hotels in Chilliwack, Sun Peaks and Williams Lake, B.C. and Edmonton, Alberta. With the opening this year of new hotels in Lethbridge, Alberta, downtown Vancouver, and now Whistler, Coast Hotels & Resorts will have 42 hotels with 5,703 rooms in Canada and the U.S.

About Whistler, B.C.

Located 120 km north of Vancouver between the two peaks of Whistler Mountain and Blackcomb Mountain, Whistler is one of the top ten year-round resorts in North America. Whistler has received numerous awards and accolades including the "Number One Ski Resort in North America," "One of the best golf resorts in the world" and "Best overall resort design." While best known as a world class ski centre and home of the 2010 Winter Olympics, it is equally attractive as a summer destination with a wide range of activities including great golfing, hiking, swimming, sunbathing on lakeside beaches, white water rafting, fly fishing, cycling and zip lining. Visitors can still ski during the summer months on glaciers high in the mountains or take a gondola or chair lift up the mountains to admire the spectacular views.

About Coast Hotels & Resorts

Coast Hotels & Resorts is a leading hotel chain in western North America. The company's philosophy of serving its guests through a superior standard of value, hospitality and service enables its continuing expansion. Coast Hotels & Resorts now owns, manages and franchises 42 hotel and resort properties located throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories, the Western United States, Alaska and Hawaii. Visit www.coasthotels.com or call 1-800-663-1144 for more information.

About O'Neill Hotels & Resorts

O'Neill Hotels & Resorts is one of Canada's most trusted and progressive hotel-management companies. After playing a pivotal role in the creation of Canada's first Real Estate Investment Trust, Canadian Hotel Income Properties (CHIP REIT), O'Neill Hotels & Resorts transformed itself in a boutique manager specializing in resorts, full-service and strata-ownership properties. Brothers Robert and John O'Neill bring more than 50 years of combined hospitality-industry experience to the firm, and their astute management skills have earned international praise for properties operating under the O'Neill Hotels & Resorts umbrella.

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