



For Immediate Release

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Completed Renovations at Newport, Rhode Island Hotels

Newport, RI (December 1, 2008) –

The **Newport Marriott**, located on the harbor in downtown Newport, started 2008 with a completed \$14 million guestroom renovation featuring the Marriott Revive bedding package. Described as “eclectic, nautical and upscale” by Perry Kessler, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Marriott, the renovation features granite and wood in the bathroom, upgraded bath amenities, refrigerators, in-room safes, and clock radios with CD/ MP3 players. The final touch in convenience and experience was the installation of 32” plasma televisions in all 317 guest rooms and suites that offer connectivity with a range of devices such as laptops, iPods and digital cameras. In January 2009, renovation will begin on all the meeting space to be completed in March of 2009.

The **Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina** recently completed improvements including a completely renovated lobby and entry and extensive landscaping detail to the property. The hotel has also made changes to the on-site restaurant, Pier 49 Seafood & Spirits which now features a new menu of New England seafood specialties. A new sprinkler system was installed as well as new ceilings, and carpeting in all public areas.

The **Hotel Viking** is showcasing a \$4.8 million design renovation and reconfiguration of the hotel’s 78-room Viking Wing. The hotel has a total of 209 sleeping rooms including the 53 completely redesigned upscale rooms and the 12 unique luxury suites harkening back to the opulence and elegance of Newport’s historic mansion era. All renovated accommodations feature king beds with pillow top mattresses and 400-thread count lush Italian bed linens from Anichini on the poster and canopy beds. The romantic suites have separate intimate parlors to further enhance the feel of the days of The Gilded Age, and all floors are adorned with custom European, hand-tied wool carpets. Every refurbished and enhanced guest room and suite offers marble and granite-accented bathrooms replete with state-of-the-art fixtures including walk-in showers – bringing the best of today’s amenities into harmony with a salute to historical grandeur. The famed dormered, roof-top rooms of Hotel Viking will remain true to their original architectural detail and continue to provide the distant views of Newport Harbor that have delighted visitors for

the last 80 years. In addition to the Viking Wing renovation, the property will also give all of its much sought-after meeting and banquet spaces a minor facelift.

This winter the **Hyatt Regency Newport** is enjoying the completion of a \$34 million renovation that is unprecedented in the upgrading of an existing Newport hotel. The result is a true destination resort with a full range of luxury amenities for guests. Every guestroom has been totally refurbished, including new surfaces, furnishings and décor. Renovations include everything from tiled baths with sliding entry doors to large flat screen televisions and lamps with a built in iPod docking station. The lobby is totally reworked so entering guests are greeted with a water view while they approach three individual check-in stations next to an adjacent bar with an outside deck also offering views of the Newport Bridge and Narragansett Bay. There was a remodeling of the Stillwater Spa, the exercise facility, and a new two-story parking garage has been added. The existing parking lot on the north side of the property has been replaced with park-like grounds and new landscaping. Significant upgrades were also made to the special event and conference facilities.

“It is always exciting to have a renovated product to help us sell Newport,” says Tim Walsh, VP Sales for the Newport, RI CVB. “The remodeling of all the Hyatt’s meeting and event space, as well as the creation of a new main entrance and lobby area offering a spectacular sense of arrival overlooking the Newport Bridge is a great story for us to talk about this winter. With the Hyatt project complete, all four of the convention hotels in Newport including The Hotel Viking, The Newport Marriott and The Newport, will have undergone major renovations making the destination that much more alluring.”

In an historic destination that offers Colonial buildings and Gilded-Age Mansions for private events, Newport, RI is also delighted to have three new waterfront venues for the meetings market to utilize, each with its own unique qualities. Whether it be the simple chic and understated glamour of Belle Mer, the nautical elegance of Regatta Place, or the extraordinary resort atmosphere of Forty 1° North, it is clear meeting planners can take advantage of such settings in Newport to help create the perfect event right on the waters edge.

“Many planners are familiar with Newport, so it is refreshing to have something new to talk about when discussing options for offsite events coming to our area,” comments Walsh. “High-end products such as these add to the Newport experience that groups are immersed in when visiting our beautiful city.”

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The Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the City of Newport and the five townships of Newport County as a destination resort for business and leisure travel. For further information, please contact the NCCVB Marketing Department at (401) 845-9151 or www.GoNewport.com.