

## AUBERGE RESORTS HONORED ON ANNUAL FORBES TRAVELER 400 LIST

*The Industry's Top Travel Experts Name Auberge du Soleil, Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Esperanza and Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa Among the World's Best Hotels and Resorts*

**MILL VALLEY, CALIF. (February 27, 2009)** The world's most respected travel experts have recognized Auberge Resorts on the annual *Forbes Traveler* list of top hotels and resorts that are committed to providing guests an exceptional experience. Four Auberge properties, **Auberge du Soleil, Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Esperanza** and **Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa**, were listed among the world's 400 best hotels and resorts.

A recruited panel of travel experts that have stayed at 20 or more five-star hotels within the past 18 months chose the honored resorts. Luminaries such as Peter Greenberg of the *TODAY Show* and John Mariani of *Esquire* are among the experienced travel professionals who ranked the properties on seven criteria: unparalleled service, accommodations, interior design, food and beverage, amenities, the resort's overall design and location.

The *Forbes Traveler's* panel of experts bestowed the following accolades:

- **Auberge du Soleil** (Napa Valley, CA): The ranking lauds Auberge's flagship property as the "trailblazing retreat" in Napa Valley that "continues to shine bright" and whose restaurant "remains a Napa legend."
- **The Inn at Palmetto Bluff** (Bluffton, SC): Auberge's first Southern property is hailed as a rare example of being both "luxurious" and "family friendly," offering a creative and extensive program of outdoor activities "to excite young minds."
- **Esperanza** (Cabo San Lucas, Mexico): The Spa is praised as "one of the best in all of Latin America" and the service is called out as "world renowned for out-pampering even the most jaded five-star habitué."
- **Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa** (Rancho Santa Fe, CA): With the "variety of world-class golf" that is "simply spectacular," this world-class resort earns the reputation as a bonafide "retreat."

"We are thrilled to be included in such a renowned ranking and are pleased that *Forbes Traveler* recognizes Auberge Resorts' commitment to service and excellence as well as our signature stewardship to the geography and culinary landscape of each property," said Mark Harmon, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Auberge Resorts. "This honor is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and integrity of each staff member at all levels within the collection."

### **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. and Pond Bay opening in December on the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 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.aubegeresorts.com](http://www.aubegeresorts.com).