

**RANCHO VALENCIA RESORT & SPA RANKS HIGH IN *TRAVEL + LEISURE'S*
500 WORLD'S BEST HOTELS**

San Diego Property Recognized For Being One Of The World's Top Hotels

RANCHO SANTA FE, CALIF. – (December 16, 2009) – Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa is proud to be honored in *Travel + Leisure's* “500 World's Best Hotels” 8th annual awards. *Travel + Leisure*, among the most respected travel magazines worldwide, sent its international team of reporters and editors to check out the 500 highest-rated hotels, resorts, inns, and lodges in the “World's Best” survey and identified what makes them special, highlighting Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa for its continued commitment to providing an exceptional hotel experience for its guests.

Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa ranked highly in California with an impressive score of 84.67.

“We are pleased that Rancho Valencia continues to be valued so highly by *Travel + Leisure*,” said Mark Harmon, CEO of Auberge Resorts. “It is an honor to receive recognition for our commitment to our guests and our ongoing efforts to provide them with an unparalleled experience.”

Travel + Leisure magazine's 2010 “500 World's Best” appears in the January 2010 issue of the magazine and online at <http://www.travelandleisure.com/tl500/2010/region/us>. *Travel + Leisure* international team of reporters and editors again searched the globe for the best and highest-rated hotels it could find, drawing from the *Travel + Leisure* “World's Best” Awards compiled through readers' surveys and released in July 2009. The eighth annual “500 World's Best” list includes hotels, inns and lodges from six continents.

About Rancho Valencia

Set in the idyllic valley of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., Rancho Valencia features 49 luxuriously appointed suites, each with a fireplace and private garden terrace, an award-winning tennis program, a spa and playing privileges at three nearby golf courses. The resort is a member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux collection and is the only Relais & Châteaux property in Southern California. Rancho Valencia consistently has been ranked as a favorite North American

resort by readers of *Tennis* magazine, who ranked Rancho Valencia the No. 1 Tennis Resort in the U.S., *Wine Spectator*, *Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report* and *Travel + Leisure*.

For more information about Rancho Valencia, please visit www.RanchoValencia.com or call (800) 548-3664.

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.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kimi Ozawa / Ashley King
Murphy O'Brien, Inc.
310-453-2539
kozawa@murphyobrien.com
aking@murphyobrien.com