

For Immediate Release

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THE WESTIN COLONNADE CORAL GABLES OPENS ITS DOORS

Westin Brand to Bring Signature Service to Visitors of Florida's "City Beautiful"

WHITE PLAINS, NY – (January 4, 2007) – Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.® (NYSE:HOT) today announced the opening of The Westin® Colonnade Coral Gables in Coral Gables, Florida. The historic landmark hotel, located at the corner of Coral Way and Ponce de Leon, features 157 guestrooms and 23,000 square feet of meeting space, including the historic 6,000 square foot *Rotunda* dating back to the 1920's. The hotel is owned by an affiliate of The Carlyle Group and is managed by Davidson Hotel Company under a long-term management agreement. As part of the conversion of the hotel, The Carlyle Group and Davidson Hotel Company together completed a \$9.5 million renovation of the property.

At The Westin Colonnade Coral Gables, guests can relive the splendor of the roaring twenties while being pampered with Westin's signature amenities and services. Located in the renowned Miracle Mile shopping district, the hotel is just minutes from the Port of Miami and South Beach. Home to 175 multi-national companies and 26 consulates, Coral Gables encompasses a fast-growing commercial center with a myriad of theater, fine dining and entertainment options.

"The Westin Colonnade Coral Gables, located in the heart of the exclusive Coral Gables area of Miami, is an ideal location for social and corporate events and leisure travelers alike," said Sue Brush, senior vice president Westin Hotels & Resorts. "We look forward to bringing Westin's renewing services and amenities to Coral Gables and the nearby Miami community."

Creating a sense of timeless harmony, hand-blown chandeliers, modern and functional furnishings, and pink and green marble offer a blend of simple and clean lines in the hotel's lobby. Connected to the lobby is the historic *Rotunda*, one of Coral Gables' most popular venues for both social events and business functions. The *Rotunda*, constructed in 1926 in a Mediterranean Revival Style, features a 60-foot domed ceiling and 'tropical Corinthian' columns. As part of the extensive renovation of the hotel, the *Rotunda* was fully restored, including hand-painting the ceiling. As depicted in the hotel's collection of period photographs and hand-colored prints, Coral Gables offers an intriguing history for visitors as one of the nation's first fully planned communities, inspired by the Garden City and "City Beautiful" movements of the 1920's.

The Westin Colonnade Coral Gables features 157 oversized guest rooms and suites and 23,000 square feet of function space. All guestrooms feature new furniture and one 42" or two 32" plasma televisions. Serving three meals a day, the hotel's restaurant -- *Hoja Nueva* -- tempts guests with a Latin fusion menu and impeccable service. Other services include in-room and poolside dining and a rooftop garden, Jacuzzi and sundeck.

Westin's dedication to facilitating personal renewal is reflected in its array of services and smoke-free environment. In the lobby, guests can unwind with the help of Westin's new sensory welcome, consisting of a white tea scent, music, lighting and botanicals. All of the hotel's guestrooms and suites feature The Westin Heavenly Bed®, offering guests plush comfort. The hotel also boasts the Westin WORKOUT Powered by Reebok®.

About Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. is one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with approximately 850 properties in more than 95 countries and 145,000 employees at its owned and managed properties. Starwood® Hotels is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels and resorts with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis®, The Luxury Collection®, Sheraton®, Westin®, Four Points® by Sheraton, W®, Le Méridien® and the recently announced ALOFTSM and ELEMENTSM Hotels. Starwood Hotels also owns Starwood Vacation Ownership, Inc., one of the premier developers and operators of high quality vacation interval ownership resorts. For more information, please visit www.starwoodhotels.com.

About The Carlyle Group

The Carlyle Group is a global private equity firm with \$46.9 billion under management. Carlyle invests in buyouts, venture & growth capital, real estate and leveraged finance in Asia, Europe and North America, focusing on aerospace & defense, automotive & transportation, consumer & retail, energy & power, healthcare, industrial, technology & business services and telecommunications & media. Since 1987, the firm has invested \$24 billion of equity in 576 transactions for a total purchase price of \$101.8 billion. The Carlyle Group employs more than 740 people in 16 countries. In the aggregate, Carlyle's portfolio companies have more than \$68 billion in revenue and employ more than 200,000 people around the world. Carlyle's recent hotel investment activity includes the acquisition or development of hotels under the Hyatt, Westin, Hilton, Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Inn, Radisson, and Crowne Plaza brands. More information on Carlyle can be found at www.carlyle.com.

About Davidson Hotel Company

Headquartered in Memphis, Tenn., Davidson Hotel Company is an award-winning, full-service hotel owner and third-party management company that provides management development/renovation, acquisition, consulting and accounting expertise for the hospitality industry. The company currently owns and/or manages 27 upscale hotels with nearly 8,000 rooms across the United States, under such brands as Westin, Sheraton, Hyatt, Hilton, Embassy Suites, Doubletree, Marriott and Renaissance. Davidson is a Preferred Management Company for Starwood, under its Westin, Sheraton, Le Méridien

and Aloft brands. Additional information on Davidson may be found at the company's Web site, www.davidsonhotels.com.

**** Please contact Starwood's toll-free media hotline at (866) 4-STAR-PR (866-478-2777) for photography or additional information.****

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