

Attached photo from left: Tom Cupo, general manager, The Chattanooga hotel; Dan Harshbarger, AAA Membership Sales Manager.

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THE CHATTANOOGAN HOTEL EARNS THE 2010 AAA FOUR DIAMOND AWARD

-One of only 15 hotels in Tennessee to receive designation-

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (December 10, 2009) – Benchmark Hospitality International’s The Chattanooga has been awarded the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Rating for the second year in a row. The Chattanooga is the only full-service hotel in Chattanooga to win the award, and one of only 15 in the state to receive the honor. Lodgings at the Four Diamond Rating offer an extensive array of amenities combined with a high degree of hospitality, service, and attention to detail.

“We are honored to be recognized as a AAA Four Diamond hotel for 2010,” said Tom Cupo, general manager of The Chattanooga. “At The Chattanooga, we are committed to providing a superior travel experience to our guests by consistently exceeding their expectations. This award acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our team of hospitality professionals.”

“AAA Four Diamond Award winners consistently deliver superior hospitality marked by personal service and extensive amenities in high-quality, comfortable surroundings,” said Michael Petrone, AAA Director of Tourism Information Development. “To achieve and maintain this level of service is a commendable accomplishment, and AAA is pleased to honor The Chattanooga.”

The Chattanooga is part of a select group of AAA Four Diamond Award winners. Just four percent of the more than 31,000 AAA Rated[®] lodgings and 2.8 percent of the 27,000 AAA Rated restaurants were awarded the prestigious AAA Four Diamond designation for 2010.

The AAA Four Diamond-rated The Chattanooga, a 210,000 square-foot five-story upscale urban resort with 198 guest rooms and suites, has three outstanding restaurants, a 25,000 square-foot conference center with comprehensive meeting planning and audiovisual support services and a spa with four treatment rooms, a steam room, sauna, fitness center, indoor pool, whirlpool and patio overlooking the hotel's courtyard.

The property is conveniently located within a two-hour drive from Atlanta; Nashville, Tenn.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Birmingham, Ala. It is within walking distance of the city's museums, galleries, retail stores, restaurants and The Tennessee Aquarium.

For more information or reservations, call (423) 756-3400, toll free (877) 756-1684 or visit The Chattanooga's Website at www.chattanooga.com.

The Chattanooga is managed by Benchmark Hospitality International, a leader in the management and marketing of resorts, conference centers, hotels, and Personal Luxury Hotels[™]. The privately held company, launched in 1980, is a founding member of the International Association of Conference Centers. Benchmark Hospitality is a worldwide organization operating properties in major metropolitan and resort destinations. Benchmark's international headquarters is located in The Woodlands, Texas, near Houston, with regional offices in New Jersey and Connecticut. International offices are located in Tokyo, Japan, and Santiago, Chile. For the location of Benchmark's properties and additional information, visit www.benchmarkhospitality.com.

The assignment of a AAA rating of One to Five Diamonds marks the completion of a successful annual evaluation. All properties must first meet AAA's rigorous requirements to become AAA Approved[®] establishments.

AAA's Diamond Rating System is the only ratings system that covers all of North America and one of only two that conducts physical, on-site evaluations. It is the only system that uses full-time, professionally trained evaluators to inspect each property using guidelines made available to all establishments. AAA evaluates more properties than any other rating entity. Information about AAA Diamond Ratings and the complete 2010 Four and Five Diamond Award winners lists are accessible at AAA.com/News.

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