



Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HILTON SANDESTIN BEACH GOLF RESORT & SPA RECEIVES FLORIDA *GREEN LODGING* PROGRAM DESIGNATION

Destin, Fla. (May 27, 2009) – The beautiful white-sand beaches – Clean Beach Council Blue Wave certified – and the diverse eco-system surrounding the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa make the resort hotel the perfect spot for nature lovers. Now the Hilton Sandestin Beach is exploring a new wave of green with its environmentally friendly initiatives, earning the Florida *Green Lodging* Program Designation for its implementation of green practices such as its recycling program, water conservation and energy reduction.

“We are honored to receive this designation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and are committed to furthering our policy of implementing environmentally friendly practices across the property,” says Mike Chouri, general manager. “We see this program as an opportunity to be a part of protecting what makes this area so breathtaking and special, and keeps our guests coming back year after year.”

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s *Green Lodging* Program is a voluntary state initiative providing the lodging industry with free technical assistance, encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving “green” practices that reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

“It is wonderful to see businesses implement green practices such as water conservation, recycling and energy reduction because they are not only good for business, they are good for Florida’s environment,” said DEP Sustainable Initiatives Director Deas Bohn.

To become a designated member of the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, hotels must implement a variety of green practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, water conservation measures through low flow plumbing fixtures, a linen reuse program, and energy efficiency achieved by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and programmable thermostats. The waste reduction criteria are met by providing the opportunity to recycle, purchasing items in bulk, purchasing recycled materials and by recycling ink and toner cartridges. All designated properties must also use green cleaners and high efficiency air filters.

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About the Florida Green Lodging Program:

Launched in March 2004, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. In 2007 Governor Crist signed three executive orders initiating state energy-use policies, including one that requires state agencies and departments to hold meetings and conferences only at hotels with the Florida *Green Lodging* Program designation as of January 1, 2008, whenever possible. For more information about the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

About the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa:

The Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, managed by Sandcastle Resorts of Sandestin, Inc. and located directly on the sugar-white sands of the Gulf of Mexico within the 2,400-acre Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort community, celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009 as the Southeast's premier Gulf-front resort hotel. The Hilton Sandestin Beach has continued its quest to improve and upgrade to ensure that guests' expectations are exceeded during all hours of their stay. Whether in search of a leisurely getaway or an extraordinary wedding destination, the Hilton Sandestin Beach is the perfect retreat, offering a variety of amenities and activities including more than 32,000 square feet of meeting space, an unparalleled resort spa and fitness center, elegant dining venues and much more. For more information, visit www.HiltonSandestinBeach.com.