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## The Peabody Orlando Earns Forbes Four Star Rating for 22<sup>nd</sup> Year in a Row

**Orlando, Fla**... Less than two months after the opening of The Peabody Orlando's \$450 million expansion, the 1,641 room hotel has earned the coveted *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star rating for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, making it the largest non-gaming hotel in the United States with this distinction. The Peabody Orlando was one of only two Central Florida-area hotels to receive the honor and one of 17 hotels in the state of Florida.

"We are thrilled to once again be honored with the *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star award," stated Alan Villaverde, president, hotel operations and managing director, The Peabody Orlando. "To maintain this distinction during our expansion is a phenomenal achievement. This award is a testament to the commitment of our associates and their dedication to Peabody Service Excellence®. They continuously provide our guests with the highest level of service quality that we've been known for over the past two decades."

In addition to The Peabody Orlando, The Peabody Memphis and The Peabody Little Rock were also awarded the *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star rating for 2011, accounting for all three Peabody hotels being recognized on the list of 167 designated hotels and resorts throughout the United States, Canada, Beijing, Hong Kong and Macau.

"This year's Four- and Five-Star winners demonstrate the rich diversity among outstanding experiences that define the best of the best hotels, restaurants and spas worldwide," stated Shane O'Flaherty, president and CEO of *Forbes Travel Guide*.

To achieve *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star status, properties must meet or exceed the bar-setting services standards which are determined through an un-announced, undercover service evaluation conducted by *Forbes Travel Guide's* expert inspectors. The ratings are the most comprehensive in the industry, and are based on objective evaluations of more than 500 attributes. The process begins with a facility inspection that considers every aspect of the property from check-in to departure.

## About The Peabody Orlando:

The Peabody Orlando, opened in November 1986, is a staple in the Orlando-area convention and tourism industry and famous for its Peabody Ducks. The hotel has received the prestigious *Forbes Travel Guide* Four Star rating for 22 consecutive years. Located directly across from and adjacent to the Orange County Convention Center and in the heart of the International Drive entertainment district, The Peabody Orlando currently offers 1,641 ultra-luxurious guestrooms, 300,000 total square feet of state-of-the-art, flexible function space, a 22,000-square-foot, full-service spa, salon and fitness center and ten delectable dining and entertainment options. Peabody Hotels, comprising The Peabody Orlando, The Peabody Memphis and The Peabody Little Rock (all Forbes Travel Guide Four Star rated hotels) is a division within the portfolio Peabody Hotel Group of Memphis, Tennessee. To learn more, please visit <u>www.PeabodyOrlando.com</u> or <u>www.PeabodyMeetings.com</u>, connect on <u>Facebook</u> or follow on <u>Twitter</u>.

## About Forbes Travel Guide:

Forbes Travel Guide, formerly Mobil Travel Guide, originator of the prestigious Mobil Star ratings and certifications, has provided the most comprehensive ratings and reviews of hotels, restaurants and spas since 1958. In October 2009, Mobil Travel Guide announced a strategic partnership with Forbes Media LLC. This exclusive licensing agreement between two industry leaders with more than 140 years of combined experience transfers the hospitality industry's premier star rating and travel guide brand from ExxonMobil to Forbes. Forbes Travel Guide has a team of expert inspectors who anonymously evaluate properties against rigorous and objective proprietary standards, providing consumers the insight to make better-informed travel and leisure decisions.