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### **The Peabody Orlando Opens Highly Anticipated \$450 Million Expansion**

**Orlando, Fla...** After a decade of planning and two and a half years of construction, The Peabody Orlando has officially opened the doors to its \$450 million expansion. The newly expanded hotel features a 32-story tower, 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, three beautifully landscaped pools and ten delectable dining and entertainment options including a new Napa Valley wine-themed restaurant and bar called Napa and a new 6,000-square-foot lounge called Rocks.

“Nearly 24 years ago, we opened The Peabody Orlando with the intention of changing the landscape of Orlando’s meetings and conventions sector, and now with our new expansion we hope to further establish the area as a top destination for meeting planners,” stated Marty Belz, president and CEO of Peabody Hotel Group. “As we open the doors to our newly expanded hotel, I’m thrilled by the response and positive feedback from our valued meeting planners, vendors, industry leaders and the surrounding community.”

Originally built in 1986, The Peabody Orlando has become one of the largest Forbes Four-Star, AAA Four Diamond hotels in the eastern half of the United States and a landmark in the Orlando meetings and conventions market. The hotel’s newly expanded meeting space features an impressive, pillar-free 54,652-square-foot Peabody Grand Ballroom, a 75,000-square-foot Peabody Grand Rotunda designed for networking and registration, a 34,378-square-foot Windermere Ballroom, a 26,923-square-foot Plaza International Ballroom, two junior ballrooms, 105 breakout rooms, three green rooms and five boardrooms, all connected by two covered walkways to the Orange County Convention Center.

“For the last two years, we have watched the construction site turn into a functioning hotel. We’ve hired more than 400 new employees and added amenities that will leave a lasting impression in the minds of our guests. This is not just an expansion, we’ve recreated ourselves – from the finishings in our ballrooms and the interior of our guestrooms, to the furnishing in our lobby and restaurants and the lushly landscaped recreation and pool areas,” stated Alan Villaverde, president, hotel operations and managing director, The Peabody Orlando. “Our employees and

partners that have contributed to the success of this project truly have something to be proud of and I'm humbled to be a part of it all and see it come to fruition. I expect that the excitement will not fade now that we're opened, instead it will continue to grow as we play a leading role in attracting new conventions and large groups to International Drive."

In addition to the new meeting/function space, guestrooms feature the Peabody Dream Bed®, high definition 42" LCD televisions, mini LCD TVs in the bathroom mirrors, complimentary in-room refrigerators, cordless telephones and Wi-Fi Internet access. The Peabody Orlando's 891 existing guestrooms were also renovated with contemporary design and luxurious décor and furnishings, creating a seamless transition into the new tower.

Some of the construction industry's most experienced and talented engineers, designers and construction professionals from Balfour Beatty Construction US, Metro Construction, LLC and Belz Construction Company, were engaged in the \$450 million project. Local architect, Stephen C. Abrams, SCA Design Group, Winter Park, Fla., designed the project. He was also part of the design team for the original hotel back in 1984. Interior architectural design was provided by Wilson Associates.

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*Editors' Note: Photos available*

*Photo 1:* [The new lobby at The Peabody Orlando located in the new tower \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 2:* [The newly renovated ultra-luxurious guestrooms at The Peabody Orlando](#)

*Photo 3:* [The newly renovated guest bathrooms](#)

*Photo 4:* [Napa, the Napa Valley wine-themed restaurant and bar \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 5:* [Rocks, the 6,000-square-foot lounge \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 6:* [The pillar-free 54,652-square-foot Peabody Grand Ballroom \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 7:* [The 34,378-square-foot Windermere Ballroom \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 8:* [The Peabody Grand Rotunda, prefunction space for networking and registration \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 9:* [The Peabody Grand Rotunda, prefunction space for networking and registration \(Photo Credit: Preston Mack Photography, Inc.\)](#)

*Photo 10:* [Employees of The Peabody Orlando, including 200 new full-time employees and 200 new part-time employees hired to staff the new expansion, celebrating the opening of The Peabody Orlando expansion.](#)

### **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 [www.PeabodyOrlando.com](http://www.PeabodyOrlando.com) or [www.PeabodyMeetings.com](http://www.PeabodyMeetings.com), connect on [Facebook](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).