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THE PEABODY ORLANDO: 2008 WORLD CLASS AWARD WINNER

ORLANDO, FLA. -- SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 – *Insurance & Financial Meetings Management* magazine has just announced the winners of its prestigious 2008 World Class Award, among them, The Peabody Orlando, International Drive’s first-ever, and still the finest, custom-built meetings hotels at home and abroad.

“The term ‘World Class’ is often bandied about, but in the case of this publication’s World Class Award it is truly a worthy, well-earned designation arrived at by independent ballots cast by the nation’s most professional meeting planners, whose expertise in the meetings industry not only covers North America, but also spans the globe,” said Tony Aslanian, director of sales and marketing for The Peabody Orlando.

“For the entire staff of The Peabody Orlando, winning the 2008 World Class award is a fitting tribute to, and recognition of, one of the world’s premier teams of hoteliers, who consistently provide meeting planners and their clients, flawless, unforgettable meetings and events.”

This year, meeting planner readers of *Insurance & Financial Meetings Management* magazine based their selection of the 2008 World Class Award winners on several criteria: superior staff service; excellence in accommodations and meeting facilities; trouble-free food and beverage functions; smooth setups and arrangements for social functions; exceptional ambience; convenient and accessible location.

The Peabody Orlando currently is undergoing a \$450-million expansion with completion projected for November 1, 2010. At that time, the hotel will comprise 1,641 ultra-luxurious guest rooms, 210,000 square feet of state-of-the-art, flexible function/exhibition space, an exotic grotto pool overlooked by a Napa Valley wine-themed restaurant, an Olympic-style lap pool, children’s cascading pool, a 22,000+ square foot spa, a 2,000+ parking garage, and “On-the-Go” eateries. Upon completion, The Peabody Orlando will be among the nation’s largest non-gaming hotels.

The Peabody Orlando is a *Mobil Travel Guide* Four-Star, AAA Four Diamond property of Peabody Hotels within the portfolio of Peabody Hotel Group, and is a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts.