



Local Release

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The Westin Jekyll Island Officially Opens

Annual Rotary Conference to be First Guests

Jekyll Island, Ga., - - April 20, 2015 - The [Westin Jekyll Island](#), a 200-room, convention-class, beachfront hotel on Georgia's acclaimed barrier island, officially opened today in advance of welcoming its first guests, the District 6900 Rotary Club's annual conference, which will bring 1,500 people to the quiet seaside resort this weekend.

The hotel is owned by Jekyll Oceanfront Hotel, LLC (JOFH), a joint venture comprised of [Leon N. Weiner & Associates](#), Inc, a nationally recognized real estate development company, [New Castle Hotels & Resorts](#), an award- winning, independent third-party hotel manager, owner and developer and several other investors, who were joined by the board of [the Jekyll Island Authority](#) (JIA) and Kurt Weber, regional vice president, Starwood Franchise to celebrate the occasion.

The Westin Jekyll Island is the cornerstone of the community's Beach Village project, which also includes an oceanfront promenade, village green, restaurants, retail shopping and Great Dunes Park and incorporates the only beachfront convention center in the southeast. The 128,000-square-foot [Jekyll Island Convention Center](#) opened in May 2012 and is the centerpiece of the project.

"This hotel was purpose built to be a catalyst for the revitalization of Jekyll Island," said Dave Curtis, president of Leon N. Weiner and Associates. "The Westin Jekyll Island will give a significant boost to the local and regional economy and there's no better group than the Rotary, business people devoted to community service, to appreciate that importance and help us christen it with a celebration of their own."

"Jekyll Island is known for its thoughtful stewardship of the island's environment and its storied past," said David Buffam, CEO of New Castle Hotels and Resorts. "That's why the Westin brand, with its emphasis on well-being and careful handling of natural resources, was the preferred choice for this one-of-a-kind project. We are confident that this combination of location, premium convention facilities and well-chosen hotel brand will resonate with leisure travelers and meeting planners in search of a destination that satisfies the mind, body and soul."

"The opening of the new Westin hotel on Jekyll Island is yet another significant step in the revitalization of this beautiful island," said Richard Royal, chairman of the JIA. "I look forward to the positive impact it will have on the island's visitors, as well as the island's economy."

"We're just delighted about the opening of this new Westin hotel," added Jones Hooks, executive director of the JIA. "The addition of a Starwood property is a huge benefit for Jekyll

Island, and the entire Golden Isles region. This property will give our visitors even more choices in the area, and will bring in new guests to the island.”

With breathtaking ocean views and direct beach access, The Westin Jekyll Island features the complete suite of Westin signature amenities including the Heavenly Bed®, and Heavenly Bath® with exclusive White Tea Aloe bath amenities, all designed to promote overall wellbeing. In-room, high-speed Internet access and an ergonomic work space will offer travelers convenience and productivity in a tranquil setting.

“The Westin Jekyll Island is a terrific new addition to the Westin brand’s growing portfolio and provides a restful retreat for travelers on one of the most beautiful barrier islands in the United States,” said Bob Jacobs, Vice President of Brand Management for Sheraton and Westin. "The Westin Jekyll Island is one of six new Westin hotels opening in North America this year and follows the brand’s 200th opening worldwide in 2014."

Dining options at The Westin Jekyll Island include The Reserve, an upscale, casual restaurant serving the freshest local seafood and Salty's poolside bar and café for cocktails and lighter fare. At Harry’s @The Reserve, the hotel’s outdoor rooftop bar, guests can enjoy sweeping views of the beach and ocean. Westin SuperFoodsRX™ options are on the menu at all three restaurants.

For small groups, weddings and reunions in search of a premier location 5,350 square feet of indoor meeting space, as well as outdoor venues promise a memorable event. The brand's flexible Tangent™ at Westin workspace gives groups of four or more room to collaborate in between dips in the ocean. Additional facilities include a resort-style outdoor pool, beach chair and umbrella service, and the brand’s signature WestinWORKOUT® gym experience, including loaner gear and a running concierge..

Close to the island's National Historic Landmark District, The Westin Jekyll Island also is convenient to the island's four golf courses, 10 miles of barrier island beaches and a variety of outdoor recreation, including marsh eco-tours, the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and more than 20 miles of bike paths and kayaking waterways.

The five-story, U-shaped, beachfront hotel was designed by LLW Architects of Memphis, Tenn., to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, (LEED) Silver specifications and minimize the hotel's impact on the barrier island's sensitive surroundings. The 8,750 cubic yards of concrete used in the construction were sourced from a plant in Brunswick, GA., only 15 miles from the site. Westin brand room design specifications also are 60 percent more sustainable than conventionally built guest rooms, providing a more healthful guest environment.

The Westin Jekyll Island offers the Starwood Preferred Guest® program, which offers offers members the ability to redeem awards at more resorts, more luxury properties, more European hotels and more golf properties than any other hotel program without blackout date restrictions.

About Jekyll Ocean Front Hotel, LLC

Jekyll Ocean Front Hotel LLC (“JOFH”) is comprised of Leon N. Weiner & Associates, Inc. (“LNWA”), a Wilmington, De. based nationally recognized homebuilder and multi-family real estate development company, New Castle Hotels & Resorts (“NCHR”), a Shelton, Conn. based independent hotel owner, operator and manager of distinctive hotel and resort properties, and other individual investors. LNWA and NCHR previously teamed up in 2008 to develop a now successful and stabilized Hampton Inn & Suites, also on Jekyll Island. LNWA and other individual investors in JOFH are also owners and operators of the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, a four star resort and National Historic Landmark.

About New Castle Hotels & Resorts

The Westin Jekyll Island is operated by Shelton, Conn.-based New Castle Hotels & Resorts, an award-winning independent third-party hotel manager, owner and developer with 30 hotels and

resorts and nearly 5,000 rooms under contract or in development. New Castle's growing portfolio of hotels spans 10 states and three Canadian provinces and includes several of Canada's historic landmark resorts. The privately-held company was established by CEO, David Buffam in 1980 and consistently ranks among the top hotel management and development companies in North America, serving the United States and Canada. New Castle is a preferred operator for diverse brands within the Marriott, Hilton and Starwood families. For additional information, please go to www.newcastlehotels.com.

About Westin Hotels & Resorts

Westin Hotels & Resorts has been a leader in wellness and hospitality for more than a decade. Today, Westin has more than 200 hotels and resorts in nearly 40 countries and territories, and is owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with more than 1,200 properties in 100 countries and over 180,000 employees at its owned and managed properties. Starwood is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels, resorts and residences with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis®, The Luxury Collection®, W®, Westin®, Le Méridien®, Sheraton®, Four Points® by Sheraton, Aloft®, and Element®. The Company boasts one of the industry's leading loyalty programs, Starwood Preferred Guest (SPG®), allowing members to earn and redeem points for room stays, room upgrades and flights, with no blackout dates. Starwood recently announced plans to spin off its Starwood Vacation Ownership, Inc. business, a premier provider of world-class vacation experiences through villa-style resorts and privileged access to Starwood brands, into a standalone public company by the end of 2015. For more information, please visit www.starwoodhotels.com.