



For more information, contact:
Barb Worcester
President/Principal
PRPRO
Tel: (440) 930-5770
barbw@prproconsulting.com
or
Katherine Steed
Director of Marketing
The Hotel Group
Tel: (425) 248-2978
ksteed@thehotelgroup.com

For Immediate Release

THG's Crowne Plaza Billings Honored by IHG as 2009 Renovation Award Winner

Ownership and management group recognized for multi-million dollar renovations to exterior and interior, including public spaces and guestrooms; Renovation marks milestone 100th project for THG

Edmonds, Wash. — February 3, 2010 — The Hotel Group (THG) was awarded the 2009 Renovation Award by InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)]. The prestigious award was bestowed to the hotel management and ownership group for successfully completing a more than \$15 million renovation to its 23-story, 289-room Crowne Plaza in Billings, Montana, located at 27 N. 27th Street.

Douglas Dreher, THG president and CEO, and Lara Latture, THG Executive Vice President and Principal, accepted the award at a special reception held during IHG's Americas Investors & Leadership Conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Jim Abrahamson, IHG president, the Americas, said THG demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the guest experience during the property renovation last year, even during challenging economic times. A trophy designating the Crowne Plaza Billings as a 2009 Renovation Award winner will be on permanent display at the property.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by IHG for a job well done," Dreher said. "We accomplished revitalizing a once-prominent hotel in Billings and returned it to a city centerpiece.



(From left) Kevin Kowalski, SVP Global Brand Management for IHG, together with Lara Latture, THG EVP and Principal, and Douglas Dreher, THG President and CEO, during the IHG Americas Investors & Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

-- more --

“This property is the 100th hotel in our portfolio, a significant milestone within 25 years of service,” Dreher added. “We’re extremely proud of the property’s transformation and the collaborative efforts of our operations and renovation teams. We are confident that everyone who enters our doors will be equally as impressed with the transformational renovation to the property. The Crowne Plaza Billings is the city’s premier upscale hotel and ‘the place to meet.’”

Exterior improvements to the Crowne Plaza Billings include an addition of ground-level awnings, color-band accents to the second story, and a deep cleaning of its brickwork. Retail space on the second floor was converted into a 16,000-square-foot conference center. Also added were the Montana Sky Restaurant and the Montana Lounge, a street-level bar and grill with scenic views; and new retail space that includes a Starbuck’s Café. Also new is a Priority Club lounge for frequent guests of InterContinental Hotels. The renovation included nine new guestrooms, bringing the property to its current capacity of 289 rooms.

“Extensive renovations also were performed in the guestrooms,” Latture said. “Each room has contemporary furnishings and décor featuring flat-panel TVs. Additionally, we’ve instituted the ‘Crowne Plaza Sleep Advantage’ program – seven layers of comfort and sleep amenities.”

A new health and fitness center features cardio equipment and weight rooms. Hotel amenities include free high-speed, wireless Internet access and self-service, 24-hour business amenities. All are supported by a complete electrical and plumbing retrofit.

The Hotel Group purchased the former Sheraton Hotel in the fall of 2006. The 18-month renovation began in January of 2007. The hotel remained open during the renovation and more recently displayed it to the public in a grand-opening ceremony in May of 2008.

“This hotel’s renovation, combined with its location in the center of downtown, has poised itself to be the hotel in Billings,” Latture added. “The Crowne Plaza Billings hotel is a first-class facility with top-class service. This is a complete renovation, both structurally and aesthetically. We hope the community and city are as excited as we are about this impressive renovation and its recognition by IHG.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Digital property photos are available upon request*

-- # # # --

About The Hotel Group



THG is a nationally recognized Top 40 hotel company and currently manages and/or owns 25 properties in 9 states, representing 13 brands and employs more than 1,300 people. Since its inception in 1984, THG has managed more than 100 properties in 20 states, directed the design and construction of 35 new hotels, completed the acquisition of more than \$125 million in private investment as the sponsor of Hotel Group Opportunity Funds I, II, III and IV. For more information, visit www.thehotelgroup.com or call 425-771-1788.

About InterContinental Hotels Group

InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)] is the world's largest hotel group by number of rooms. IHG owns, manages, leases or franchises, through various subsidiaries, over 4,300 hotels and almost 630,000 guest rooms in nearly 100 countries and territories around the world. The Group owns a portfolio of well recognized and respected hotel brands including InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Indigo®, Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts, Holiday Inn® Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites® and Candlewood Suites®, and also manages the world's largest hotel loyalty program, Priority Club® Rewards, with 44 million members worldwide.

IHG has nearly 1,600 hotels in its development pipeline, which will create 140,000 jobs worldwide over the next few years.

InterContinental Hotels Group PLC is the Group's holding company and is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales.

IHG offers information and online reservations for all its hotel brands at www.ihg.com and information for the Priority Club Rewards program at www.priorityclub.com. For the latest news from IHG, visit our online Press Office at www.ihg.com/media