



**A NEW LIGHT SHINES IN SANTA FE: AUBERGE RESORTS
OPENS THE DOORS TO ITS NEW LUXURY RESORT, ENCANTADO**
*The Newest Auberge Resort Marries Characteristic Soft-Spoken Luxury
With
The Majesty Of The Southwest*

SANTA FE, N.M. (August 7, 2008) – Santa Fe, New Mexico, can now consider the luxury resort operator Auberge Resorts among those who have followed the light to this enchanting region. Encantado, Auberge Resorts’ newest property, sister to famed Auberge du Soleil and Esperanza Resort, opens today as the first-ever full-service luxury resort to grace this cultural mecca and spiritual epicenter. The property features 65 casitas, a world-class spa, signature restaurant and bar that rest upon 57 acres of stunning Tesuque, N.M., landscape, just outside of Santa Fe, on the site formerly occupied by Rancho Encantado.

“Encantado represents our vision of the perfect Santa Fe experience: sweeping mountain views, peaceful wide-open spaces and the tastes and textures of the region woven throughout,” said Mark Harmon, Principal & CEO of Auberge Resorts. “We have relished this opportunity to bring our style of soft-spoken luxury, fine cuisine and exceptional spa experiences to New Mexico.”

The 65 Encantado casitas display a contemporary interpretation of traditional Santa Fe design. Stucco exteriors in soft, earthy tones with rich chocolate wood trim lead into the contemporary adobe-style casitas with oversized windows, square-cut wood beams, polished cement flooring, stone detailing and kiva-style fireplaces, all of which spill into the indulgent bathroom with deep soaking tubs and heated floors. Private terraces with plush furniture set the stage for admiring magnificent vistas.

Texas-based Wilson Associates, interior designers for iconic properties such as Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Esperanza Resort and Montage Resort & Spa, have infused regional elements and a natural flow of original artwork throughout the resort. Architects Hart/Howerton have assured that the natural environment weaves effortlessly throughout the property. Showcasing an essential Auberge hallmark, Encantado incorporates a rich collection of contemporary artwork with regional undertones. Furthering the cultural experience on property, Encantado

features an on-site art gallery, expansive outdoor sculpture garden and art and photography programs for inspired guests.

- more -

The Spa at Encantado features an innovative selection of spa and wellness services that honor healing traditions indigenous to the region while paying tribute to Santa Fe's contemporary appreciation of health and well-being. The 10,000-square-foot spa incorporates the outdoors with pools, fountains, courtyards, and outdoor garden soaking tubs and showers. With 15 treatment rooms and suites, the healing arts offered at The Spa at Encantado include massage and bodywork, Ayurvedic rituals, Asian medicine traditions, regionally inspired treatments and Western herbalism featuring organically grown local herbs. The Spa at Encantado's signature treatment is *The Encantado Purification Ritual*, which draws inspiration from the nearby Ojo Caliente Springs offering a remarkable combination of four different healing minerals.

The Spa at Encantado features a results-oriented skincare program utilizing the Naturopathica line of botanical-based products. Naturopathica founder and Santa Fe native Barbara Close developed a collection of facials expressly for Encantado. Additionally, Encantado is the first to offer Naturopathica facials featuring the ULTRA, a sophisticated aesthetic system that uses micro-currents to amplify the skin's natural production of elasticity and collagen, soften deep lines, lift skin and stimulate circulation.

True to Auberge Resorts' legacy, fine cuisine and wine are central to the character and experience of Encantado. The resort's fine-dining restaurant, **Terra**, features modern rustic cuisine utilizing ingredients from an onsite kitchen garden created by award-winning **Chef Charles Dale**. Additionally, with an impeccable pedigree honed by years of experience with The Thomas Keller Restaurant Group and the internationally acclaimed Guy Savoy in Paris, France, Food & Beverage Director **Michel Darmon** brings the highest of culinary standards to this new property. Drawing upon Santa Fe's intersection of cultures and organic seasonal produce, Dale puts his stamp on regional cuisine. Guests will enjoy a sophisticated

wine program and separate bar menu of shared comfort food at **The Bar at Encantado** and may opt to dine in the dining room, expansive outdoor dining area, by the pool or at the communal fire pits. Terra benefits from a plethora of heirloom vegetables and herbs grown in the resort's 10,000-square-foot biodynamic kitchen garden, embracing the "farm to table" dining philosophy and allowing for interactive guest experiences and programs.

James Beard Award-winning restaurant design firm, **AvroKO**, whose work includes New York restaurants Public and the seasonally varying Park Avenue Restaurant, has created a warm modern space for the 60-seat dining room and adjacent 40-seat bar. Inspired by Santa Fe's many churches, the Native American influences seen throughout the region and the Mission-style architecture, AvroKO's design team created a series of distinct spaces that ultimately flow throughout the whole of Terra. Custom lighting is featured throughout the restaurant along with saturated candlelight and a fireplace with stone hearth in each room.

- more -

Encantado's 57 acres border the 1.6 million-acre Santa Fe National Forest, offering ample opportunities for hiking, biking and horseback riding nearby. Central to the resort experience are the dramatic pool, 1,200-square-foot Fitness Center and 800 square-foot movement studio for yoga, Pilates and meditation. For guests wishing to explore the many attractions of Santa Fe, Encantado grants them easy access to the city's famed art galleries and restaurants with its centrally located Concierge Lounge offering VIP services in the heart of Santa Fe. Guests will enjoy complimentary car service to and from this downtown respite courtesy of Encantado's private Mercedes Benz GL. Additionally, guests are afforded with the opportunity to experience the storied Santa Fe Opera House and navigate the stunning views and rolling countryside courtesy of Encantado's fleet of Mercedes Benz vehicles.

For more information, call 877-262-4666 or visit www.encantadorresort.com

About Auberge Resorts

Auberge Resorts is a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a memorable guest experience. Among the distinctive properties are Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Bluffton, S.C., Encantado, Santa Fe, N.M. and Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., with several others in development. While Auberge Resorts nurtures the individuality of each establishment, all are characterized by a set of communal elements: intimate, understated elegance; captivating locations that inspire exceptional cuisine and spa experiences; and gracious yet unobtrusive service. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit www.aubergeresorts.com.

#

MEDIA

CONTACT:

Murphy O'Brien, Inc.

Kurstin Faraone 310-586-7104 kfarone@muphyobrien.com

Leah Goldstein 310-586-7124 lgoldstein@murphyobrien.com