



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUBERGE RESORTS CREATES THE ST. KITTS FOUNDATION TO FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON ST. KITTS

MILL VALLEY, CALIF. (March 13, 2007) – Auberge Resorts, a leading resort development and management company, in partnership with the Firesky Ventures and The Ocean Foundation, today announced the creation of the St. Kitts Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the natural coastal environment of St. Kitts and supporting social and economic programs of benefit to the community. Auberge and Firesky Ventures, led by developer J.B. Turbidy, are currently master-planning 2,400 acres on the island’s southeast peninsula as a sustainably developed luxury resort community.

Auberge Firesky, in partnership with the Washington D.C.-based Ocean Foundation, has outlined a schedule of immediate priorities for the St. Kitts Foundation throughout the next 18 months, during which time Auberge will be funding its operation. Eventually, the foundation will be funded in perpetuity through a percentage of residential real estate sales and hotel operations throughout the development. The St. Kitts Foundation’s initial environmental priorities will include:

- Conservation of the peninsula’s surrounding coral reefs threatened by climate change and human interaction;
- Reduction of coral-damaging sediment and decades of land erosion caused by invasive species; and
- The creation of marine parks and protected areas around the island of St. Kitts.

“Our goal as developer of the peninsula and Sandy Bank Bay is to tread as lightly as possible on this stunning coastal site; where we make a mark on the environment, we want it to be a positive one,” said Mark Harmon, Principal and CEO, Auberge Resorts. “We’re grateful to the government and the people of St. Kitts for supporting our conservation efforts. We firmly believe that the St. Kitts Peninsula can be a global model of sustainable luxury resort development, which is why we’re establishing a culture of conservation by funding the St. Kitts Foundation even before we break ground.”

The St. Kitts Foundation's first local grant of 20,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars (about \$7,500 U.S.) will help fund books, uniforms, equipment and other resources for students at a local school.

The foundation's activities will be supervised by an independent advisory committee of members selected by The Ocean Foundation and will determine charitable initiatives and award grants for conservation and community-based programs. Mark J. Spalding, J.D., President of The Ocean Foundation, will serve as Executive Director of the St. Kitts Foundation. Kaya Freeman, an expert on international marine policy, has been appointed Director. Formerly Regional Manager with the California-based Surfrider Foundation, she is a specialist in ocean-related issues such as marine-protected areas, water quality and desalination.

St. Kitts' southeast peninsula features seven miles of coastline on both the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. The site is marked by three private coves, sandy beaches, an inland lagoon and dramatic peaks, from where it is possible to view both sunrises over the Atlantic and sunsets over the Caribbean Sea. When completed, the Auberge project will feature several luxury resorts, including a 75-room Auberge resort, a championship 18-hole golf course, spas, restaurants, shops, private villas and home sites and a deep-water marina. Construction on the project will begin in early 2007.

For more information on the St. Kitts Foundation, visit www.stkittsfdn.org.

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; and The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina, with several others currently 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.

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