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**THE WESTIN RESORT & SPA IN WHISTLER SPENDING \$10 MILLION ON GUEST
ROOM REFURBISHMENTS**

Completion slated for November 30 in time for guests arriving for winter

WHISTLER, BC – May 11, 2009 – All 419 suites at The Westin Resort & Spa will be sporting a new look in time for the arrival of guests this winter as well as guests arriving for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The \$10 million spend includes new wall, floor and window coverings, furnishings, fixtures and the latest generation of Westin’s famous *Heavenly Bed*, complete with white linen and the industry’s first five pillows. “It’s an exciting time for us and one that we anxiously look forward to unveiling to our guests this November,” said Trevor Graham, general manager of this twice-named #1 ski resort hotel in North America. “The new colors and fabrics are absolutely stunning and a beautiful complement to our mountain resort destination. There is no doubt that our guests will immediately feel the warmth and comfort when they enter the guest room.”

The CHIL Design Group, based in Vancouver, BC, was selected to undertake this refurbishment program, which in addition to all 419 guest rooms also includes the hallways on each floor. “CHIL was the ideal interior design company to work with us on this project, not only because of their reputation as leader in the hotel and resort design arena but also because of their promotion of “green” design,” added Bryce Beatty, director of operations for The Westin Resort & Spa and the hotel’s ‘green champion’. “Their commitment to reduce the use of non-renewable resources and minimizing the impact on the environment closely aligns with our environmentally-friendly initiatives, so this project is truly a collaboration to reduce our overall carbon footprint.”

The refurbishments, which are being completed floor by floor, have already started in the 192-suite East Tower with the four 1,600 sq. ft. Penthouse Mountain suites on the 11th floor being readied first. By summer, the refurbishments will begin in the 247-suite nine-floor West Tower with an overall hotel completion date of November 30. There are two mock up rooms which guests are invited to view during their stay

“Our inspiration for the color palette we chose was drawn from the hotel’s surroundings and views of the mountains and nature,” explained Danica English, interior designer of CHIL and the lead for this project. “The fireplaces in each suite remain as the focal point, so we chose furniture and fabrics that feel homey, warm and welcoming – very much in keeping with Westin’s commitment that its hotels are ‘places of renewal’ and signature statement of *‘this is how it should feel’*”.

Built on the last remaining mountainside site in Whistler, The Westin Resort & Spa opened its doors in April 2000 and over the years has received numerous awards and kudos for its location, accommodations, service, event space and, most recently, for its green initiatives. Managed by O’Neill Hotels & Resorts, The Westin Resort & Spa is one of the nine celebrated brands of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

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