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The Jefferson, Washington, DC Joins Relais & Châteaux

A New "Route du Bonheur" Takes Shape From Downtown D.C. to the Shenandoah Countryside

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jan. 19, 2010 – The Jefferson, Washington, DC has been accepted into the prestigious ranks of Relais & Châteaux. The announcement comes close on the heels of The Jefferson’s two-year renovation and triumphant August 2009 reopening – a transformation that has earned critical acclaim for the hotel and its new, fine-dining restaurant, Plume. The hotel has the added distinction of being the first Relais & Châteaux member in the nation’s capital in the 55-year history of the organization.



“The Jefferson’s acceptance by Relais & Châteaux, so soon after reopening, is the ultimate validation for the hard work and vision of the past two years. We couldn’t be more delighted,” said managing director Franck Arnold, whose meticulous oversight of the hotel’s top-to-bottom renovation spared no detail in its quest to create Washington’s finest small hotel.

“All of us in the Relais & Châteaux family are delighted to welcome The Jefferson, Washington, DC to our group as a new member in 2010,” said Patrick O’Connell, head of the North American Delegation of Relais & Châteaux and the chef/proprietor of The Inn at Little Washington, a 23-year member of the association. “The Jefferson perfectly epitomizes the ideals of our organization by providing world-class amenities and service in the warmth and intimacy of a private home.”

Relais & Châteaux is an exclusive collection of 480 of the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in 55 countries. Established in France in 1954, the association accepts only the most outstanding properties with truly unique character. Relais & Châteaux is also known for its tradition of “*la Route du Bonheur*,” or “road to happiness,” which connects member hotels and inns in a particular region in a celebration of the true spirit of travel, reflecting Relais & Châteaux’s original portfolio of eight individual hotels and restaurants along the route from Paris to Nice. The Jefferson joins the Inn at Little Washington in creating a new *Route du Bonheur* from downtown D.C. to the picturesque Shenandoah Valley.

The Jefferson is the latest addition to the Relais & Châteaux collection for 2010. Among the other new members for 2010 are The Connaught in London, Cap d’Antibes Beach Resort on the French Riviera, Hotel Raphael in Rome, Riad Fès in Morocco, Esperanza Resort in Cabo San Lucas, and Windham Hill Inn in Vermont. These join an exclusive roster of veteran members that range from Le Relais Bernard Loiseau (member since 1975) in France’s Cote d’Or to The Waterside Inn (member since 1976) in the U.K.’s Berkshire countryside, where The Jefferson’s own executive chef, Damon Gordon, honed his craft. The Jefferson’s sommelier, Michael Scaffidi, hails from yet another Relais & Châteaux restaurant, Napa Valley’s celebrated French Laundry (member since 1998).

About The Jefferson

A 99-room Beaux Arts gem, The Jefferson, Washington, DC has an illustrious history catering to Washington’s elite. It enjoys one of the city’s most prestigious and strategic locations, at the corner of 16th and M Streets – just four blocks from the White House and within a short walk of museums, monuments and embassies. It is convenient to the dining, shops and nightlife of Georgetown and Penn Quarter, as well as the downtown business district and Dupont Circle.

The Jefferson first opened in 1923 as a luxury residential building that was the address of choice in Washington’s diplomatic and social circles, and was converted into a hotel in 1955. It recently completed a full-scale renovation that represents its most significant transformation yet, and reopened August 31, 2009 as Washington’s finest small hotel.

For more information, visit www.jeffersondc.com.

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