



ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
TRAINS & CRUISES

## CHARLESTON PLACE

### FACT SHEET

#### DESCRIPTION:

Ranked among the "Top 10 Hotels in North America" by *Condé Nast Traveler*, Charleston Place evokes the feeling of a grand, 17<sup>th</sup> century residence, from the Italian marble lobby with its signature Georgian Open Arm staircase and 12-foot crystal chandelier to lush personal suites. The staff of Charleston Place is dedicated to entertaining its guests with the finest in Southern hospitality, and has become the choice of celebrities, princes and politicians, including Richard Gere, Prince Charles, Mel Gibson, Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Streisand, to name a few. Guests can enjoy the hotel's full service European style spa and a horizon edge swimming pool with a retractable glass roof. Charleston Place is centrally located, surrounded by historic homes and buildings, and within strolling distance of antique shops, galleries and restaurants.

#### HOTEL LOCATION:

The hotel is located in the heart of the city's historic district, on the corners of King, Market and Meeting Streets, two miles south of the intersection of I-26 and S.C. Highway 17, and only 12 miles from the Charleston International Airport.

Charleston offers a unique urban resort experience for the discriminating traveler. Narrow cobble-stoned streets, continental ambiance and Old World-style architecture add to the city's European flair. Antique shops, award-winning dining, art galleries and shopping are all part of the Charleston experience, with plantations, historic gardens, beaches, golf courses, the South Carolina Aquarium, Fort Sumter, the Yorktown WWII aircraft carrier, and the H.S. Hunley counted among the many attractions.

#### GUEST SERVICES:

A dedicated staff is committed to the anticipation and fulfillment of guests' needs, including: tours, customized sightseeing itineraries, baby sitting services, transportation, overnight valet, laundry, shoe shine, and 24-hour room service.

A full service Business Center provides photocopiers, fax machines, desktop and laptop computers, high-speed internet connection, laser printers, cellular phones, pagers, teleconferencing, clerical and technical support.

**GUEST ROOMS:**

The hotel features 441 luxurious guest rooms, including 43 suites featuring period fabrics – rich in substance, yet judiciously understated. Tapestries, lace, chintz and damask are carefully chosen to provide each room with a sense of history and an individual sense of bliss. Artwork by local prominent artists reflects Charleston's ingenious architecture and diverse, multi-generational past. Each Guest room features an opulent bath with Botticino marble and brass fixtures, separate work space and seating areas, individual temperature controls, cable television, direct dial telephone with voice messaging and high speed internet connection.

**CLUB LEVEL:**

The Club Floor at Charleston Place offers the hotel's most distinctive level of service, exclusively available on the top two floors of the property. With 79 guestrooms, "The Club" offers a private personal concierge, an internet connection in each room and an array of culinary offerings, including complimentary continental breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and after dinner cordials and desserts.

**DINING:****Charleston Grill**

Recognized by *USA Today*, *Town and Country*, *Gourmet*, *Food & Wine* and *Saveur* as one of the best restaurants in the nation, Charleston Grill is the recipient of the coveted Mobil Four-Star, the AAA Four-Diamond and the Distinguished Restaurants of North America designations. The Charleston Grill offers contemporary Lowcountry cuisine, with a live jazz accompaniment, from 6:00 p.m. daily.

**Palmetto Cafe**

Set amidst a central garden and fountain, the hotel's Palmetto Cafe is open for breakfast and lunch daily from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The menu features indigenous Lowcountry favorites with a Mediterranean flair. A continental breakfast buffet is served on weekdays and a special buffet brunch can be enjoyed on Weekends. The Palmetto Cafe is also known for its spectacular holiday brunches on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Mother's Day.

**The Thoroughbred Club**

Home to the oldest Jockey Club in America, founded in 1792, it is no wonder that wealthy Charlestonians used to flock to the races, placing their bets on the sleek horses that dashed around the Planter's Race course, which reigned within present-day Hampton Park. Although the track closed in 1882, the Thoroughbred Club recaptures some of its spirit with a lounge that exudes the casual sophistication of a social club where horse-racing aficionados and betting men would gather for a day at the derby. Surrounded by an array of racing memorabilia, guests can enjoy an extensive racing-themed tapas menu including delectables like Golden Gate Park Wontons and Mint Julep Lamb Chops, while sipping on a French Mare Martini or a Seattle Slew cocktail.

In the afternoon, guests tend to don hats and sometimes gloves to enjoy what *Southern Living Magazine* says is, “The Best Tea in Charleston.” This traditional, English-style afternoon tea is available from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and features a selection of imported loose leaf teas served with an assortment of finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones with jams, fresh cream and lemon tarts, tea cookies and truffles.

## **RECREATION:**

The Spa at Charleston Place offers a full range of services to relax and unwind you. Facials, pedicures, manicures, a full range of exotic body scrubs and wraps, hot stone therapy and aromatherapy, Swedish, deep tissue, reflexology and pregnancy massage are all available.

After a little pampering, guests can lounge by the horizon edge fresh water swimming pool with its retractable glass roof, which guarantees the best weather, rain or shine, or soak away any tension in the spacious Jacuzzi while stargazing through the glass roof above. Small kids will especially enjoy the children’s splash pool located on the rooftop sun terrace.

The Spa also features a fully equipped gym, complete with free weights and state-of-the-art Cyber, Life Fitness and Stairmaster equipment. Professional trainers are on hand to provide instruction, as well as to lead classes in aerobics, body sculpting, yoga and even power walking through the historic district.

In addition to onsite recreational activities, golf, fishing, water sports and beach activities are as close as a 10-minute drive away and can be arranged through the concierge. Golfers can select from more than 21 courses including Kiawah Island’s Ocean Course, home of the fiercely contested Ryder Cup.

For beach lovers, the area’s beautiful shorelines of white sand are a favorite for surfing, sailing and dolphin watching. The hotel can provide beach accessories and picnics to ensure a pleasant, stress-free day.

The rich ecological system also makes Charleston a perfect destination for kayak adventures in the ocean or in the ACE Basin. For anglers, deep sea fishing or shrimping can easily be arranged.

## **SHOPPING:**

The Shops at Charleston Place include a collection of 32 upscale shops and boutiques, including Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Tommy Bahama, Crabtree & Evelyn, Godiva Chocolatiers and more. The hotel’s signature VSOE shop features unique gifts that celebrate their sister property the renowned Venice Simplon- Orient-Express train, as well as one-of-a-kind items from local artists and a limited edition collection of Charleston Limoges gift boxes. The gift shop is a replica of the famous train’s amenities shop with its convex windows, brass luggage rack along the roof, hardwood floors and mahogany marquetry panels.

Additionally, the hotel is located in the center of what has been the premiere shopping district for more than two hundred years. Today, boutique shops, elegant clothiers, antique merchants and local crafts people, nestled in

buildings dating back to the 1700's, offer their wares, including the true Charleston sweetgrass basket.

For discerning shoppers who prefer private consultations, Charleston Place can arrange for personal shoppers, in-room fittings, or guided antique and silver tours.

**MEETING FACILITIES:**

Charleston Place features the most comprehensive banquet and conference services in the area. The hotel features 23 meeting rooms, for a combined total of 22,000 square feet of function space. All conference, banquet and seminar facilities are located on the second floor for the convenience of meeting planners and attendees. The 14,432 square-foot ballroom with its 16-foot ceiling accommodates up to 1,500 people. The Grand Hall, adjacent to the Ballroom, is a 4,000 square-foot pre-assembly space ideal for receptions. Additional function rooms range in size from 400 to 1,200 square feet and can accommodate smaller meetings, breakout sessions and seminars. Six residentially appointed hospitality suites and a two room conference lounge are fully furnished with a wet bar and bathrooms. In addition, the hotel's full service destination management company can produce unforgettable events at a variety of venues from beach front oyster roasts to "Gone with the Wind" plantation soirees.

**THE RIVIERA:**

The hotel's Riviera Theater represents a new level of conference capabilities. Located directly across the street from the west entrance of Charleston Place, the Riviera's 1930's Art Deco style represents one of the most unique conference centers in the nation. A registered historic landmark, it has been lovingly restored and combines state-of-the-art meeting technology with original historic detail ranging from the lush theatre seating to a 'Hollywood-esque' ticket booth and marquee.

Chosen for the site of A&E's remake of the film classic "The Great Gatsby," The ballroom space is capable of hosting dinner parties for up to 300 people, while the Conference Theater seats 300 in a fixed amphitheater arrangement.

**AWARDS:**

In addition to the AAA four-diamond and Mobil four-star designation, Charleston Place has had the great honor of being recognized in virtually every leading travel, leisure, business and trade publication in America, including: *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Southern Living*, *Opulence*, *America's Elite 1000's Millennium Issue*, *Medical Meetings*, *Insurance Conference Planner Meetings & Conventions*, *Meeting News*, *Successful Meetings*, *Corporate Meetings & Incentives*, and *Meetings South*.

**AIRPORT ACCESS:**

Serviced by ComAir, TWA, Delta, US Airways, Continental, United Express, Independence Air, AirTran and Midway Connection airlines, 115 non-stop daily flights are available from Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Chicago, Houston, Raleigh, Newark, New York (LaGuardia), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington Dulles and Washington National. An airport shuttle service is available through Lowcountry Limo (800) 222-4771.

**ADDRESS:** Charleston Place  
205 Meeting Street  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401-3133

Telephone (843) 722-4900  
Toll free Reservations (800) 611-5545

**2009 PUBLISHED RATES (single/double occupancy):**

Executive Level (318):	\$399 to \$589
Club Level (73):	\$569 to \$699
Junior Suites (23)	\$499 to \$739
Junior Executives (8)	\$619 to \$1,040
Senior Suites (11)	\$699 to \$1,090
Manager Suites - Club Level (3)	\$1,350 to \$2,100
Parlor Suites (5)	\$819 to \$1,359

All rates plus State and local taxes currently total 12%.

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Paul Stracey

**DIRECTOR MARKETING:** Michael Cady

**DIRECTOR OF SALES:** Charlie Wellman

Owned and operated by Orient-Express Hotels, Charleston Place is also represented by Associated Luxury Hotels, Inc and American Express Platinum Card Fine Hotels & Resorts.

Based in London and founded in 1976, Orient-Express Hotels owns and operates leading hotels, trains and cruises around the world. Each Orient-Express Hotels entity, famous in its own right, offers a distinctive style and heritage, and is known for an unparalleled commitment to luxurious accommodations, personalized service and award-winning cuisine.

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## FACT SHEET

### CHARLESTON GRILL

*Charleston Place Hotel*

**EXECUTIVE CHEF:** Michelle Weaver

**EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF:** Andy Champion

**PASTRY CHEF:** Emily Cookson

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Mickey Bakst

**WINE SOMMELIER:** Rick Rubel

**ADDRESS:** 224 King Street  
Charleston, SC 29401  
(Located in the Charleston Place Hotel)

**TELEPHONE:** 843-577-4522

**FAX:** 843-724-8405

**OWNERS:** Orient-Express Hotels, Trains & Cruises

**AMBIANCE:** Light paneled walls, herringbone floors, softly padded carver chairs and local art blend with live music to create an elegant, yet relaxed setting. The private Vintner's Room features walls of glass-fronted wine cellars showcasing its impressive stock of vintages from around the world. The enclosed outdoor courtyard provides an oasis for romantic dining on balmy Southern nights.

**SEATING:** Main Dining Room: 125  
Vintner's Room: 40

**HOURS OF OPERATION:** **Restaurant:** Sunday - Thursday: 6 - 10 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday: 6 - 10:30 p.m.

**Bar:** Daily: 5 p.m. - 12 a.m.

**CUISINE:** Contemporary Southern cuisine featuring fresh local produce, seafood and game, prepared using four different styles: Southern, Pure, Lush and Cosmopolitan. Emphasis is placed on the quality of the ingredients, unique presentations and sophisticated textures.

**MENUS:**

The menu is divided into Chef Weaver's four inspirations and diners can select appetizers, entrees and desserts from each menu section.

The **Southern** dishes are contemporary interpretations of Southern regional favorites; such as *skillet seared flounder with red beans, rice grits, Andouille sausage and shrimp gravy or duck confit and dirty grits baby turnips and bacon sage gravy.*

With the **Pure**, menu items are impressively simple inspired by the elegance of the ingredients. *sautéed pheasant breast with winter root vegetables and lemon rosemary jus* is a local favorite.

For the **Lush** menu, the dishes come from the French tradition of extravagance and are lavish, substantial and satisfying. Selections include *diver scallops and wild American shrimp with white asparagus, shrimp jus, white wine lemon basil gnocchi or dry aged Colorado lamb chops wild mushroom risotto and black trumpet jus.*

Under the **Cosmopolitan** heading, dishes are exotic and imaginative, inspired by the flavors found while traveling the globe. Diners will enjoy *Lisbon seafood soup or niçoise vegetable tart with heirloom tomatoes, young vegetables, basil and Oil.*

**Pricing:**

Appetizers:	\$10 - \$18
Entrees:	\$28 - \$48
Desserts:	\$9 - \$15

**WINE & SPIRITS:**

The 1,300-label wine list is centered on a core selection of the finest wines available from the United States and Europe. The cellar, at over 7,000 bottles, has an estimated retail value of over \$1 million dollars. The focus of the domestic selections is single vineyard, estate-grown, limited production wines from California, Oregon and Washington. French selections include vintage offerings from the finest Chateaux of Bordeaux, leading negociants and smaller estate producers in Burgundy, as well as top offerings from the Alsace, Loire and Rhone valleys. To accommodate a variety of food and wine pairings, the Charleston Grill offers more than 30 wines, including six champagnes, by the glass. To further assist guests in their selections, and ensure the highest level of service, Charleston Grill has three full-time Sommeliers on staff.

**ATTIRE:**

Casual elegance, no athletic shoes or shorts

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

Live, nightly music with various jazz or guitar headliners

**CREDIT CARDS:**

All major cards accepted

**PARKING:**

Valet at Charleston Place Hotel

**SMOKING**

Charleston Grill is a non-smoking restaurant and bar.

**PRIVATE DINING:**

The Vintners Room is available for private functions featuring prix fixe dining paired with fine wines.

**RESERVATIONS:**

Reservations are recommended. Please call 843-577-4522

**AWARDS AND  
RECOGNITIONS:**

**THE CHARLESTON GRILL**

- The *Wine Spectator's* "Best of Award" 2002-2004 and "Best of Award of Excellence" 2007, 2008
- AAA Four-Diamond Award, 1998 - 2008
- *Robb Report* "57 Favorite Restaurants in the Country" March 2007
- Mobil Four-Star Dining Award, 1998 – 2008
- Ivy Award from *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine, 1998 - 2003
- Distinguished Restaurants of North America Award, 1998 - 2004
- *Opulence* magazine Ten Star dining award
- *Food & Wine's* "America's 50 Best Hotel Restaurants"
- *Nations Restaurant News* Fine Dining Hall of Fame
- Five Stars in each category (food, service and ambiance) from the *Charleston Post and Courier*
- Restaurant of the Year, *Post and Courier*, 2003

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## **MICHELLE WEAVER**

*Executive Chef*

*Charleston Grill at Charleston Place*

*"I am inspired by nature and you will experience this in my dishes. My cooking style takes the freshest ingredients and uses them in the most minimalist way, letting the quality of the product stand for itself. My job is to bring those ingredients together to create a truly spectacular dining experience."*

Chef Michelle Weaver creates contemporary Southern cuisine for Charleston Grill featuring fresh local produce, seafood and game, prepared using four different styles: *Southern, Pure, Lush* and *Cosmopolitan*. Diners may select appetizers, entrees and desserts from each menu section. Emphasis is placed on the quality of the ingredients, unique presentations and sophisticated textures.

The **Southern** dishes are contemporary interpretations of Southern regional favorites; such as *flounder with red beans, rice grits, andouille sausage and shrimp gravy, Charleston Grill crab cake, chicken and dumplings* and *braised collard greens with crispy bacon*.

With the **Pure**, menu items are impressively simple inspired by the elegance of the ingredients. Favorites include *chilled Maine lobster with avocado and heirloom tomatoes* or *prime ribeye with grilled Vidalia onions*.

For the **Lush** menu, the dishes come from the French tradition of extravagance and are lavish, substantial and satisfying. Selections include *prime beef tenderloin with baked potatoes and a bourguignon sauce* or *cured goose liver with white asparagus, baby chanterelles, duck confit and a dried cherry hazelnut vinaigrette*.

Under the **Cosmopolitan** heading, dishes are exotic and imaginative, inspired by the flavors found while traveling the globe. Diners will enjoy *carnitas* or *tuna sashimi with pomegranate molasses*.

Capturing critics' and diners' attention by producing menus that combine unusual ingredients with classic techniques, Chef Weaver continues to enhance and expand Charleston's appreciation for fine cuisine. She has a strong commitment to supporting local farmers and encouraging them to cultivate new and unusual products which she incorporates in her cuisine.

Chef Weaver has been working as the Executive Sous Chef under the direction of award-winning Chef Bob Waggoner for the past 11 years. As her friend and mentor moves into another chapter of his career focusing on television, Chef Weaver has naturally and elegantly stepped into the spotlight as the hotel's Executive Chef of the Charleston Grill, part of the Charleston Place Hotel, an Orient-Express property.

Since she first joined Charleston Place in 1997 as part of the culinary team, the Charleston Grill has received the AAA Four-Diamond Award and the Mobil Four-Star Award. The restaurant was the only one in the area to be included in the *Nations Restaurant News* "Fine Dining Hall of Fame" and in the book, *The Elite 1000*. Charleston Grill has received *Wine Spectator's* "Best of Award" since 2003 and the Distinguished Restaurants of North America Award beginning in 1997.

An Alabama native, Chef Weaver was raised with a passion for cooking, learning at an early age the importance of farm-to-table. She grew up cooking with the freshest ingredients from her mother's extensive garden and farm, experiencing the true taste of the soil. Upon realizing her true love of cooking, she received her formal training from the New England Culinary Institute immersing herself in the New England culture and drawing from the intimate hands-on teaching approach.

Chef Weaver moved to New Orleans to work in the French-style kitchen of Chef Daniel Bonnot as an intern, gaining invaluable skills for both cooking and working in a demanding restaurant kitchen. Following school, Chef Weaver began cooking in the kitchen of Chef Bob Waggoner at The Wild Boar restaurant in Nashville and subsequently moved with him in 1997 when he took over at Charleston Grill.

Now, 11 years later, Chef Weaver steps to the front of the helm at Charleston Grill and looks forward to continuing the reputation of culinary excellence that has been accomplished and create her own lasting legacy.

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## CHARLESTON PLACE HOTEL

### *Tidbits*

- As part of the earthquake-monitoring program by the National Earthquake Information Service, an accelerometer was installed in the foundation pilings of Charleston Place during construction in 1985. On average, the accelerometer detects 11 earthquakes a year; all have been so mild that most have gone unnoticed by residents and visitors.
- Charleston Place's exterior was designed with history in mind. The building strives to capture 18<sup>th</sup> century craftsmanship and even features faux earthquake bolts that mimic the ones used in the late 1800's that are seen throughout the historic district.
- The hotel orders an average of 400 roses per week, which are used in arrangements throughout the hotel.
- There are 32 upscale shops located within the two galleries flanking the hotel including: Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Godiva, Brookstone and St. Johns.
- The hotel's signature VSOE shop features unique gifts that celebrate their sister property, the renowned Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train. The gift shop is a replica of the famous train's amenities shop with its convex windows, brass luggage rack along the roof, hardwood floors and mahogany marquetry panels.
- Visitors to Charleston are often artistically inspired by the antebellum architecture, intricate iron gates and centuries-old gardens of this historic City. Charleston Place is catering to both the beginner and expert artist with an Inspired Artist Kit (A portable easel, sketch paper and charcoal) they can borrow on a complimentary basis. In addition, the concierge can arrange for medium specific art supplies (oils, watercolors, pastels, etc.) to be delivered to the guest's room.
- Although completed in 1986, the décor of the hotel captures the destination experience. Guest rooms and suites feature period fabrics – opulent in substance, yet judiciously understated. Tapestries, lace, chintz and damask are chosen to provide each room with a sense of history and grandeur. Artwork by local prominent artists reflects Charleston's ingenious architecture and diverse, multi-generational past. The guest rooms' wood floor foyers were stenciled by the local artisan, Karl Beckwith Smith III.
- The fountain at the front entrance (between Meeting and Hazell Street) is named "Quadriga." The hotel commissioned sculptor John Mills, a member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors and the Royal Society of Arts, to create a signature piece that would complement the hotel and the destination. When Mills visited Charleston, he was struck by the history and architecture with its many references to ancient Greek and Roman styles. Quadriga features a 14-foot Greek revival column in the center surrounded by four 9-foot bronze horses representing the

significance of the horse in Charleston's history, as well its present day role. At the top of the sculpture is a Carolina bird of prey, which was long ago prevalent in the Charleston Market.

- The hotel has eight floors, with the top four floors set back, giving the illusion of only a four-story building.
- On the top two floors of the hotel is the exclusive Club Level, featuring a private lounge and concierge, along with complimentary Continental breakfast, afternoon tea, evening cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and after-dinner cordials and desserts. It is a favorite among visiting celebrities, including Mel Gibson, Oprah Winfrey, and Barbra Streisand, and most recently Jude Law and Natalie Portman during the filming of "Cold Mountain."
- In an average year, more than 8,000 pounds of chocolates will be placed on guest pillows for turndown.
- The hotel features a full service European style spa on the fourth floor of the hotel. The Spa at Charleston Place features ten treatment rooms, fitness facilities, and a spectacular horizon edge swimming pool with a retractable ceiling. The New York Knicks use the facility extensively while staying at the hotel during spring training.
- Spa services including massages, facials and a signature treatment that utilizes Magnolia essence and oils for a massage and body wrap treatment.
- On average, the Spa at Charleston Place gives 6,000 massages a year.
- The Art Deco Riviera Theatre is owned by Charleston Place and is a National Historic Landmark. Built in 1939, it was one of the first movie theatres in the city; admission prices were 25¢ for adults and 10¢ for children. The theatre eventually fell into disrepair and closed in 1977. Charleston Place purchased the theatre in 1995 and spent \$5.5 million restoring the Art Deco landmark, uncovering beautiful murals, intricate moldings and magnificent light fixtures; even the original plush theatre seats, marquee and ticket booth were preserved. The Riviera is now used for elegant weddings and meetings.
- Charleston Grill is ranked as a Mobil four-star restaurant and received a AAA four-diamond and Distinguished Restaurants of America award. In addition, it was selected as one of the top 50 best hotel restaurants in America by *Food & Wine* and has been highlighted in *Wine Spectator*, *Gourmet* and *Bon Appetit* magazines.
- Charleston Grill features live jazz nightly in their lounge, making it an excellent option for appetizers and desserts.
- Charleston Grill's wine cellar features more than 1,000 different labels and 7,000 bottles, with an estimated value of more than \$2 million. The collection did not go unnoticed by *Wine Spectator* magazine, which awarded Charleston Grill with the only "Best of" award in the city.
- The lobby of the hotel features a hand-blown Venetian chandelier set between a Georgian open arm staircase. At 12 feet in diameter and in height, the chandelier is comprised of more than 3,000 individual pieces of glass; hand blown in Murano, Italy. It weighs approximately two and one-half tons.

- Many Southerners believe that the design of the Georgian open-arm staircase not only welcomed visitors into their homes, but it set the tone for conduct, given that single men were not expected to follow ladies up the stairs for fear they would catch a glimpse of a bare ankle; therefore, men ascended on one side and women the other. The acoustics created by the staircase's placement and the domed ceiling from which it hangs, enables guests to carry on a conversation in a whisper while on opposite landings.
- *Southern Living* magazine recognized Charleston Place's afternoon tea as the "best tea in the South." Served daily in the recently renovated lounge, The Thoroughbred Club, it features imported loose leaf teas in hand painted china from Austria, with tea sandwiches, scones, lemon curd, strawberries and cream, and live performances by a classic pianist or guitarist.
- An average of 110,000 bags are carried by the hotel's porters every year.
- Bed linens for Charleston Place are custom-made in Italy and are 440 thread count Egyptian cotton.
- Heirloom vegetables are specially grown by local farmers for the Charleston Place hotel.
- Every Christmas the hotel spends thousands of dollars on holiday decorations; the highlight being a miniature replica of an Orient-Express train set between the hotel's signature Georgian open-arm staircase. The fully operational replica of the famous Orient-Express luxury train was custom designed for Charleston Place in honor of the company's "flagship". It is on display throughout the holiday season and features miniature European Alpine homes, tiny churches, realistic stables, and a blacksmith shop. The train, complete with smokestack, whistle, and other true-to-life particulars, covers more than 300 feet of track and travels at average scale speeds of 70 MPH.
- The hotel offers special programs for their younger guests, with amenities just for children, including a special welcome package with pint size robes, free meals in the Palmetto Café, and summer programs that vary from summer sea camps to etiquette lessons.

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## THE SPA AT CHARLESTON PLACE HOTEL FACT SHEET

**Address:** The Spa at Charleston Place,  
205 Meeting Street  
Charleston, SC 29401  
(Located in the Charleston Place Hotel)  
tel: (843) 937-8522 fax: (843) 937-9078  
Toll free: 1-800-860-4095  
[www.charlestonplacehotel.com](http://www.charlestonplacehotel.com)

**Spa Director:** Annette Sandford-Lopez  
**Fitness Coordinator:** Vickie Talley  
**Owners:** Orient-Express Hotels

Opened in the January of 1999, The Spa at Charleston Place is a multi-million dollar, full-service European-style retreat offering the highest quality of massage, body wraps, facials, pedicures and manicures, as well as a full service Health Club. The Health Club provides complete fitness programming, including personal evaluations, weight training, yoga, a variety of exercise classes and personal training. The Spa features a 50-foot horizon-edge fresh water pool with retractable roof, sauna, steam room, Jacuzzi, and a healthy spa menu that can be served poolside or on the rooftop deck. Owned and operated by Orient-Express Hotels, the Spa is set on the fourth floor of Charleston Place, a luxury hotel and retail center located in the heart of Charleston, South Carolina, one of the most romantic and exciting cities in the world.

Charleston Place offers unparalleled accommodations, a host of five-star amenities and unique services, fine cuisine at the Mobil Four-Star Charleston Grill, and an exclusive collection of world-famous shops. Charleston dates back to the 1600's and is one of the most beautifully preserved living cities in the United States. The city is renowned for its architecture, historic tours, golf, tennis, beaches and world-class dining. For nine years running *Condé Nast Traveler* ranked Charleston Place as one of the best hotels in North America. In fact, The Charleston Place Spa was voted the "**Best Spa in a City Hotel in North America**" by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine 2004-2005.

**Ambiance:** Natural sunlight streams onto antique Mexican stone tile floors, while blond wood fixtures with gold accents create welcoming warmth. The walls are graced with black and white seashell prints, creating a naturally soothing environment.

**Amenities:**

- Ten treatment rooms including a wet room for Hydro-Kinetic Vichy Water treatments.
- 50-foot horizon-edge, retractable-roof fresh water pool that remains 84 degrees, year round

- Eucalyptus dry sauna
- Jacuzzi
- Weight room, which includes: Cybex machines, bikes, cross trainers, Arc trainer, treadmills and free weights.
- Individual lockers
- Plush 100% cotton towels
- Plush cotton bathrobes
- Full range of toiletries including the spa's own shampoo and conditioner, body wash, and lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, razors, deodorant and combs.

**Spa Cuisine:**

Healthy gourmet food can be enjoyed poolside or rooftop. The highest quality ingredients are combined with fresh herbs and vegetable and fruit reductions to create rich flavors that defy the traditional expectations of “low calorie.” The menu includes Banana Wrapped Sea Bass steamed in spicy coconut saffron broth, Heirloom Tomato Gazpacho, and Grilled Lamb Tortilla with wilted greens, spiced onions, and balsamic vinegar, to name a few.

**Spa Services:**

Body Treatments: Signature Magnolia Moments body treatment, Seaweed Detox Body Wrap, Customized Body Scrubs (Peppermint Rosemary Herbal Salt, Magnolia, Chocolate Cake, Lavender, Tangerine)

Massage: Swedish, Deep Tissue, Mother-to-be, Warm Stone Massage, Foot Reflexology, Aromatherapy, Couples Massage

Skin Care: Charleston Place Facial, CleanSweeps Micro-Dermabrasion Facial, Glycolic Glow, Red Alert, Beyond Botox Age-Defying Facial, Spa Prestige Facial, Acne Facial Treatment, and Back Buff. Waxing for facial and body.

Hand and Foot Therapy: Spa Pedicure and Manicure, The Energy Surge, Champagne of the Sea Pedicure, Flavor of the Month Pedicure, French Manicure and Pedicure, Polish Change

Men's Treats: Oil Change Facial, Time Out Facial, Gentlemen's Facial, Private Eyes Treat, Relaxing Body Scrub, Total Detox Treatment, Man-i-Cure, & Feet First.

Junior Treats: Lollipop Manicure & Pedicure, The Cinderella, Boys About Face, Fit Kids.

Day Spa Packages: Mother-to-Be, Mini Get-Away, Ultimate Spa Day, Aqua Man, Mother-Daughter Getaway, Bride-to-Be, Groom-to-Be & Champagne Dreams And Caviar Wishes.

**I Will Reflect:**

The Spa at Charleston Place, with an endorsement by MUSC, is bringing guests the “I Will Reflect” Melanoma Prevention Initiative. The goal is to increase awareness of skin protection, thus aiding in the prevention of skin cancer. With coastal Charleston's beautiful and famously hot summers, melanoma skin cancer is becoming increasingly prevalent in the Lowcountry. The Spa at Charleston

Place reminds guests to reflect: Reflect on enjoying the beautiful city while Reflecting on these skin protection affirmations:

### **I WILL REFLECT**

- ... and wear sunscreen year round
- ... and use a minimum of 15 SPF sunscreen
- ... and seek the shade between 10am and 4pm
- ... and have an annual full-body skin check
- ... and share this important message with others

Ask the Spa about the “I Will Reflect” bracelet that glows every time skin is exposed to harmful sun rays, reminding guests to follow the rules of sun safety and skin protection. The Spa has developed an “I Will Reflect” facial and “I Will Reflect” massage. Guests will experience the luxury of the Spa, while receiving sun safety tips and a skin consultation by a therapist.

**Fitness Services:** Fitness Analysis and Personal Training; Aqua Aerobics; Yoga; Power Walk through the Historic District; East Meets West - a combination of Tai-Chi and stretching and yoga; Sports Play- an intensive cross training program using traditional athletic moves; and Fit Kids, a program for 3 -5 year olds that combines fun games and exercise designed to help develop motor skills.

**Product Lines:** Specialty spa product lines include a Magnolia Essence bodycare line created exclusively for the Spa at Charleston Place.

**Hours of Operation:** Fitness Center: 6.00A.M. -----9.00P.M. Mon-Fri  
7.00A.M. -----9.00P.M. Sat-Sun  
Spa: 8.00A.M. -----8.00P.M. Mon-Fri  
8.00A.M. -----7.00P.M. Sat-Sun  
Open to guests of the hotel, members and general public\*.

\*Non-hotel guests may use pool and Jacuzzi only with purchase of spa services of \$400 or more.

**Credit Cards:** All major cards accepted

**Parking:** Valet

**Celebrity Clients:** Mel Gibson, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Chamberlain, Jimmy Buffet, Harry Connick, Jr., Joel Richardson, and the New York Knicks.

**Accommodation & Spa Packages:** Spa packages that combine luxurious deluxe or club floor accommodation and a variety of spa services are available and include:

### **Luxury Spa and Stay Package**

Indulge in a little pampering Southern style with a two night package with luxury accommodations. The package includes two night accommodations on the exclusive Club Level (King or Two Double Beds) and the ultimate experience with complimentary Club Cuisine throughout the day, Club Concierge and luxury room amenities. Guests will also enjoy one gourmet dinner for two from the Charleston Grill's special "Dinner at Dusk" menu. Two pampering spa treatments from the Spa at Charleston Place include a Swedish massage and a Charleston Place Facial. Rates start at \$999 for Club Level accommodation which include all day complimentary beverage service, continental breakfast, afternoon tea, hors d'oeuvres, and after dinner cordials with dessert all served in the comfort of the exclusive two-story Club Level Lounge. Rates do not include tax and gratuities, and are subject to availability.

### **De-Stress in Charleston**

Melt away the stress while saying oooh and ahhh with a relaxing and luxurious spa getaway. The package includes overnight accommodations in an Executive King or Double Room and a choice of either a Swedish massage or Charleston Place Facial at The Spa at Charleston Place. Package rates begin at \$299 per night for Executive Level accommodations. Rates do not include tax and gratuities, and are subject to availability.

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ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
TRAINS & CRUISES

## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

*America's Most Historic City*

Charleston is America's most beautifully preserved architectural and historic treasure, a city of unhurried grace with a rich, 300-year history just waiting to be discovered. Church bells toll the hour as history unfolds around every corner. In no other place are the past and present more intertwined.

Settled in 1680 by English colonists on land granted by King Charles II, Charles Town became a flourishing seaport. By the early 1800's, Charleston was living in its second century as one of the most fashionable cities in the New World. In fact, the bustling, cosmopolitan seaport city was second in importance only to New York. During this heyday, giant clipper ships laden with exotic cargo from China, Europe, Barbados and the West Indies regularly visited the city, exchanging foreign wares for indigo, prized Carolina Gold rice and cotton.

In April of 1861, confederate soldiers fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, thus signaling the beginning of a devastating war. Charleston was slow to recover from the events of the War Between the States; but its pace of recovery became the foundation of the City's greatest assets. Short on capital through the mid-twentieth century, Charleston hung on to its vast inventory of buildings, reusing them instead of replacing them with newer structures. After the war, the City gradually lessened its dependence on agriculture and rebuilt its economy through trade, industry and tourism. In 1980, an estimated 2.1 million tourists visited Charleston; by 1995 that figure soared to 5 million.

The entire Charleston area is a never-ending feast for the senses, with history serving as the main course. Charles Towne Landing is the site of the original settlement in 1670. The Charleston Museum is our nation's first museum and Patriot's Point is the largest naval and maritime museum in the world and home of WWII's "Fighting Lady," the aircraft carrier Yorktown. Fort Moultrie, located only five minutes from downtown, is the scene of the first decisive American victory of the Revolution, and a mainstay of shore defense until 1947. Guests can also take a scenic boat tour to Fort Sumter, the man-made island fortress

where the Civil War began and world-famous plantations and gardens offer visitors a fascinating glimpse into life during the antebellum era.

For more modern recreation and relaxation, the area's lush Sea Islands and sun-drenched beaches are minutes from downtown. World-class golf can be found on a number of challenging courses reflecting the natural beauty of the South Carolina Lowcountry and charter fishing on the Gulf Stream or inshore waters is readily available.

Shopping is another passionate pursuit of visitors. Marvel at the native sweetgrass baskets and handmade crafts found in Charleston's famous open-air market, or browse through inviting boutiques, art galleries and antique shops found throughout the Charleston area.

When it comes to dining, a guest's biggest decision may just be what to try next. Every meal is a celebration of tastes, with variety that ranges from traditional oyster roasts to fine continental dining.

Throughout its history, Charleston has stood as a cultural capital of the South. The performing arts are well represented here with a symphony orchestra, community theater groups and several local ballet companies. The Gibbes Museum of Art and numerous art galleries, along with the abundant examples of architectural excellence and craftsmanship, expose residents and guests to a wonderfully diverse range of visual arts.

Each spring, Charleston hosts Spoleto Festival U.S.A., the most comprehensive arts festival in the country. For more than two weeks, the world's finest dancers, musicians and actors take the stage in a spirited homage to the arts, culminating in a splendid finale at Middleton Plantation - complete with symphonic fanfare and fireworks. Simultaneous with Spoleto, the City's Office of Cultural Affairs offers a highly evolved and sophisticated companion festival, Piccolo Spoleto, which showcases the best of regional talent. Informal, affordable and often a little zany and offbeat, the typical Piccolo program includes sidewalk art shows, jazz, classical music, film, crafts, theater, dance and a long list of daily activities for children.

Other cultural events bringing visitors from afar are the annual Charleston Food + Wine Festival, the Moja African-American Arts Festival, Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, the Historic Foundation Festival of Houses and Gardens, the Preservation Society's Fall Candlelight Home and Garden Tour, the Christmas Parade of Boats in Charleston Harbor and the Christmas in Charleston Celebration on King Street

At any time of year, visitors to Charleston will always find more to see, do and experience than ever imagined.

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ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
TRAINS & CRUISES

## **AFTERNOON TEA AT CHARLESTON PLACE**

*A Tradition with a Lowcountry History*

Charleston, South Carolina's connection to tea began more than 200 years ago and continues to be celebrated today with Afternoon Tea at the luxurious Charleston Place Hotel's Thoroughbred Club, where guests can enjoy what is recognized by *Southern Living* magazine as the "Best Tea in the South."

The history of tea in Charleston began in 1799 when French botanist, Andre Michaux, brought tea plants to grow at Middleton Place Gardens. The city gained further fame for tea during the start of the American Revolution when it, like Boston, was the site for "tea parties." It was during this period, that Charleston leaders confiscated the British tea chests in the harbor, then cleverly hid the tea in the Old Exchange Building only to later sell it to sympathizers of independence in order to purchase munitions for the Revolutionary war effort.

Today, in addition to afternoon tea at the hotel, Charleston is home to the Charleston Tea Plantation, open for tours from May through to October -- it is the only tea farm in the United States. Their *American Classic Tea* is a big seller throughout the South and enormously popular in Japan, and has been named the official hospitality beverage of the State of South Carolina.

The Classic Afternoon Tea at Charleston Place includes a properly brewed pot of tea served in hand painted china from Austria, an assortment of classic tea sandwiches, scones with preserves and honey, crumpets with whipped cream and lemon curd fresh cakes, tarts and tea cookies. A special South of Broad Tea also includes open-faced tea sandwiches with smoked salmon and smoked duck topped with fig. A classical pianist or guitarist is featured during afternoon tea, adding an additional touch of elegance to what is already one of the best places for a celebrity sighting.

Charleston Place serves afternoon tea at The Thoroughbred Club, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Tea is served Monday through Saturday for groups of 8 or more by reservation only. For reservations, Call 843-722-4900 or toll free 1-800- 860-4095. The price for Afternoon Tea is \$32 for the Classic Charleston Tea and \$38 for the South of Broad Tea. In addition to the regular tea, special teas are offered to celebrate mother's day, Valentine's and Christmas with a Yuletide and Teddy Bear Tea.

Owned and operated by Orient-Express Hotels, Charleston Place is a luxury hotel located in the heart of one of the most romantic and exciting cities in the world, Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston Place offers unparalleled accommodations, a host of five-star amenities and unique services, fine cuisine at the Mobil Four-Star Charleston Grill, a full service European style spa, and an exclusive collection of world-famous shops.

### **AFTERNOON TEA ETIQUETTE TIPS:**

- Afternoon tea should not be referred to as “high tea,” which is a heavier, early evening meal.
- Milk – never cream – is served to lighten the tea, if desired. Cream is too heavy, and will obscure the delicate nuances of the brewed tea leaves.
- Lemon is served in thin slices rather than wedges. The diner simply places the slice in the cup, without squeezing it. The heat of the water releases just the right amount of essence from the fruit.
- On a correctly set table, the cup and saucer are at the tip of the knife, with the cup handle at the 5 o’clock position. This allows the cup to be picked up smoothly and naturally.
- The pinky finger does not stick out! The practice of having the last finger or two sticking out originated in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when it was viewed as a sign of superior breeding: the elite ate with three fingers, the commoners with all five. That habit has gone the way of the knights, lords and ladies who practiced it.
- The napkin is removed from the table discreetly, kept at tabletop level and gently unfolded onto the lap. No opera-style handkerchief waving!
- To use the napkin correctly: gently blot the corners of the mouth. Save more vigorous use of the napkin for messier occasions, such as barbecues.
- Tea is stirred with the handle of the spoon slanted instead of straight up. Stir back and forth, not in circles. The cup is raised to the lips rather than bent down over.
- Tea sandwiches are small and are meant to be picked up by hand. If so desired, though, using utensils is fine.
- One’s accessories – purses, eyeglasses, bags – are never set on the table. Neither are one’s elbows!
- As in any social situation, it is being merely polite to draw people together in conversation through areas they share in common. A good host or hostess keeps an eye open to make sure no one is dominating the event, or feeling neglected.

For more information and reservations, contact the hotel directly at (800) 860-4095 or (843) 722-4900. Additional information can be found at [www.charlestonplacehotel.com](http://www.charlestonplacehotel.com).

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ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
TRAINS & CRUISES

## **CHARLESTON PLACE OFFERS BUSINESS TRAVELERS MORE**

*A Traveler's Office Away From the Office*

The Charleston Place Business Center is an extension of the business traveler's main office. It houses the latest in computer hardware, software and office equipment, and is conveniently located on the same floor as the hotel's meeting space. A professional staff is available seven days a week to assist with all advance and on-site meeting and presentation needs.

Services include high-resolution scanning, custom printing and design (name badges, letters, business cards, meeting collateral, invitations, etc.), word processing, shipping, and faxing. High-speed copying services include collation and transparencies. Professional report and proposal covers and binding can also be completed in advance simply by having the details faxed or e-mailed to the business center.

Available rental equipment includes the latest computers with complete software packages and high-speed (T-1) Internet access, black & white and color laser printers, video and audio conferencing equipment, cellular phones and pagers.

The services offered by the Business Center complement the personalized amenities and facilities offered throughout Charleston Place. 24-hour room service, separate work areas with voice and data lines in every room, meeting space of every size and configuration, a full-service European style Spa and state-of-the-art Health Club allow guests to be both rested and productive during their stay.

The hotel's special business traveler package combines deluxe accommodation, daily breakfast in-room or in the Palmetto Cafe and complimentary business center services, long-distance access, local phone calls, valet parking, shoe shine and newspaper.

Charleston Place is considered the premiere meeting facility in the southeast, with over 35,000 square feet of meeting space, including six hospitality suites, dozens of meeting rooms and a ballroom that can accommodate up to 2,000. In addition, the hotel's 1930 art deco style Riviera Theater is a registered historic landmark and was chosen to premiere A&E's remake of the film classic "The Great Gatsby." Located directly across the street from the west entrance of the hotel, it has been lovingly restored and combines state-of-the-art meeting technology with original historic details ranging from the lush theatre seating to a 'Hollywood-esque' ticket booth and marquee.

For more information and reservations, contact the hotel directly at (800) 611-5545 or 843-722-4900. Additional information can be found at [www.charlestonplacehotel.com](http://www.charlestonplacehotel.com).

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ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
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## **THE SHOPS AT CHARLESTON PLACE HOTEL**

### **Premier Shopping in the Heart of Historic Charleston**

The Shops at Charleston Place Hotel are an exclusive collection of world-famous retail outlets located on the ground floor of the hotel, offering the finest selection of luxury goods from haute couture, exquisite jewelry, fine linens and extraordinary artwork, to gourmet food items such as imported chocolates and loose leaf teas. Charleston Place is conveniently located in the heart of the city's historic shopping district, making it an ideal base for treasure hunters.

The Shops of Charleston Place, include:

- ❖ Brookstone
- ❖ Montblanc
- ❖ Caché
- ❖ Charleston Grill
- ❖ Chico's
- ❖ Crabtree & Evelyn
- ❖ Dazzles
- ❖ Everything But Water
- ❖ Express
- ❖ Godiva Chocolatier
- ❖ Gucci
- ❖ The Limited
- ❖ Petite Bateau
- ❖ Mori Classics
- ❖ Tommy Bahama
- ❖ St. John
- ❖ Sunglass Hut
- ❖ Talbots
- ❖ Talbots Shoes & Accessories
- ❖ United Colors of Benetton
- ❖ Orient-Express Boutique
- ❖ Waldenbooks
- ❖ The White House / Black Market
- ❖ Lacoste
- ❖ Louis Vuitton
- ❖ Yves Delorme

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ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
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## **EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY**

### **PAUL STRACEY**

#### ***General Manager, Charleston Place Hotel***

Paul Stracey was promoted to general manager of Charleston Place in September 1997, after serving for two years as the hotel's resident general manager. He is responsible for all aspects of hotel operations, from property management and innovative guest services, to staff training and building renovations.

As general manager of the Southeast's most exclusive hotel, renowned for attracting a discerning international clientele, Mr. Stracey creates a memorable guest experience at Charleston Place that is in keeping with Orient-Express Hotel's highest standards of comfort and personalized, attentive service. He and his team of hospitality experts strive to ensure that a Charleston Place stay surpasses all expectations, making certain that visitors experience the visible and hidden charms of this historic city, including its warm Southern hospitality, superb architecture, sumptuous cuisine, and rich heritage and culture.

After two decades of hospitality experience, Stracey has developed a passion for food and wine. Before joining Orient-Express Hotels, he spent several years in San Diego where he worked as food and beverage director for Evans Hotels' two entities, the Bahia Resort Hotel and the Bahia Sternwheeler, a luxury river boat operation. Prior to the Evans group, Stracey held various management positions with the flagship Holiday Inn property, the Holiday Inn-On-The-Bay, including resident manager, and food and beverage director. Stracey also completed a management training program at The Lodge at Vail in Colorado.

He completed his hotel management education at London's Westminster College in 1980, and spent the following years studying culinary arts in the south of England, his native land. Stracey then went on to hone his food and beverage skills in the UK at several restaurants, including Simpson's on the Strand in London, the Market Place Restaurant in Suffolk, and the premier dining outlet of the Angel Hotel, located near the Norfolk border.

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ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
TRAINS & CRUISES

## FAMOUS PEOPLE SERVED BY CHARLESTON PLACE HOTEL

*The Many Musicians, Politicians, Actors, Actresses and other Celebrities Who have Frequented the Charleston*

*Place Hotel*

Hillary Rodham Clinton	Jane Fonda	Martina Navratilova
98 Degrees	Kenny G	New York Knicks
AC/DC	Larry Gatlin	Oliver North
Bob Arnot	Richard Gere	Conan O'Brien
Armand Assante	Charlie Gibson	Marie Osmond
James Baker	Danny Glover	Kyle Petty
Mikhail Baryshnikov	Martha Graham	Tom Petty
Justine Bateman	Andy Griffith	Mary Pierce
Tyson Beckford	Melanie Griffith	George Plimpton
The Beach Boys	Bryant Gumble	Sidney Poitier
Johnny Bench	Deidre Hall	Natalie Portman
Tom Berenger	Faith Hill	Colin Powell
Larry Bird	Gregory Hines	Lou Rawls
Michael Bolton	Phillip Seymour Hoffman	Michael Richards (Kramer)
Brian Boitano	Lauren Holly	Julia Roberts
Supreme Court Justice Steven Breyer	John Hunt	Chris Rock
Jeff Bridges	Lauren Hutton	Andy Roddick
Pat Buchanan	Jeremy Irons	Kenny Rogers
Art Buchwald	Jesse Jackson	Diane Sawyer
Jimmy Buffet	Samuel L. Jackson	Sam Shepard
Delta Burke	Emperor of Japan	Norman Schwartzkopf
President George Bush	Billy Joel	Jerry Seinfeld
Jim Carrey	Don Johnson	Martin Sheen
President Jimmy Carter	James Earl Jones	Mark Shields
David Caruso	Orlando Jones	Kate Shindle (Miss America)
James Carville	Quincy Jones	George Shultz
Richard Chamberlain	Kevin Kline	Christian Slater
Prince Charles	Patty LaBelle	Wesley Snipes
Ray Charles	Bobby Labonte	Deuce Staley
Chicago	Emeril Lagasse	Barbra Streisand
Spencer Christian	Burt Lancaster	Margaret Thatcher
Wesley Clark	Jessica Lange	Isaiah Thomas
President Bill Clinton	Burt Lancaster	Ted Turner
Johnnie Cochran	Jude Law	Tina Turner
Pat Conroy	Heath Ledger	Desmond Tutu
Patricia Cornwell	Lyle Lovett	Luther Vandross
Harry Connick, Jr.	Mary Madeline	Mike Wallace
Bill Cosby	Ann Margaret	Bruce Weber
Kevin Costner	Dave Matthews Band	Bruce Willis
Cindy Crawford	Edwin McCain	Caspar Weinberger
Howard Dean	Senator John McCain	Dr. Ruth Westheimer
Neil Diamond	Andy McDowell	Serena Williams
Patrick Duffy	Tim McGraw	Venus Williams
Mel Gibson	Gerald McRaney	Oprah Winfrey
Dale Earnhardt, Jr.	Edwin Meese	Yanni
Melissa Etheridge	John Mellencamp	Kristi Yamaguchi
Everclear	Carlo Menotti	Renee Zellweger
Albert Finney	Reggie Miller	
	Bill Murray	



ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS  
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## **AWARD-WINNING HISTORY OF CHARLESTON PLACE**

### ***WINE SPECTATOR***

*BEST RESTAURANTS FOR WINE - "Best of Award of Excellence" 2007, 2008*

In the August 2008 issue, Charleston Grill was awarded "Best of Award of Excellence" by *Wine Spectator* Magazine. The award was created to give special recognition to restaurants that clearly exceed the requirements of the Award of Excellence. *Wine Spectator's* Restaurant Awards recognize restaurants whose wine lists offer interesting selections, are appropriate to their cuisine and appeal to a wide range of wine lovers.

### ***CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER***

*GOLD LIST – World's Best Places to Stay" 2003 – 2009 (Number 1 in 2009)*

*"READERS' CHOICE AWARD" 2007, 2008*

The annual "Readers' Choice Award" is presented to the top 100 of the nation's premier city and resort hotels and "The Gold List" awards are presented for World's Best Places to Stay. A reader survey totaling over 32,000 responses gives the *Condé Nast Traveler* poll an authority unique in the world of travel. *Condé Nast Traveler* readers are tough critics, discriminating travelers, and, when satisfied, emphatic in their praise. *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine has ranked Charleston Place as one of the top hotels in North America consecutively for the last 12 years. Also, in their November 2003 issue, Charleston as a destination was selected as one of the best cities in U.S.

Hotel chains were judged on how well the rooms were equipped for working, business services facilities, frequent guest privileges, dining/restaurants, check-in and check-out procedures, and housekeeping and maintenance.

### ***TRAVEL+ LEISURE***

*WORLD'S BEST AWARDS 1997-2006, 2008, 2009*

*500 ULTIMATE GUIDE – The Greatest Hotels in the World 2003-2009*

*TOP CITY HOTEL SPA IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, Ranked # 1, 2004*

*WORLD'S BEST VALUES 2003*

In the January 2009 issue, Charleston Place was selected as one of the hotels for the "T+L 500 "Greatest Hotels in the World" which features hotels that received the highest overall ratings from *Travel + Leisure* readers in the annual "Bests" award survey.

In the August 2006 *Travel + Leisure* magazine ranked Charleston Place as one of the Top 100 hotels in the Continental U.S. and Canada. *Travel + Leisure* is a leading source of information on travel, hotels, resorts, dining and entertainment. The content is geared toward the sophisticated traveler with a circulation of nearly 1 million. Charleston Place has been honored in the World's Best Awards consecutively since 1997.

In a separate issue, readers ranked Charleston Place number 10 in the World's Best Values, number three in the top hotels in the continental United States and Canada, and number seven in the top hotels in its price range. Charleston, as a destination, was also ranked number 24 in the top cities worldwide.

The Spa at Charleston Place, a full service European spa located within the hotel was named by *Travel + Leisure* readers as the “Top City Hotel Spa in the United States and Canada.” The spa took the number one position in overall rankings as well as receiving the highest score for best value in World’s Best Spas Readers’ poll which was published in the October 2004 issue of the magazine.

### ***ROBB REPORT LUXURY HOTELS***

#### ***WORLD’S MOST EXCLUSIVE LUXURY HOTELS – 2006***

Charleston Place has been named as one of the “international luxury world’s most exceptional urban escapes” in *Robb Report Luxury Hotels*, an annual publication from the editors of *Robb Report* magazine. Spanning 42 countries on six continents, the hotels showcased range from historic grand dames in Europe to contemporary boutiques in Asia. According to Editor Bruce Wallin, each property shares at least one common trait: the ability to convey the absolute best of its respective city. “In addition to exceptional locations, these hotels have staffs that are not only highly focused on guest service, but are also thoroughly knowledgeable about everything that makes their city great... First-rate accommodations, amenities and facilities are a given.” In selecting only one property for a given city, the editorial staff focused on determining “which property represented the ultimate address for the luxury traveler.”

### ***MOBIL FOUR STARS***

#### ***2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009***

Achievement of the Mobil Four-Star Award reflects a recipient's commitment to not only provide an exemplary experience in a spectacular setting but also a dedication to anticipate guest needs and surpass guests' expectations. Incognito professional evaluations, along with announced facility inspections, consumer reviews, and independent media reports, are carefully reviewed to determine a property's rating. The Mobil Award is not the result of just one person's opinion but rather the culmination of several objective inputs. Mobil Four-Star Award, which honors properties for outstanding achievement in facilities, service, and provision of a distinctive experience for the discerning consumer.

### ***SOUTHERN LIVING***

#### ***FAVORITES - 1996-2006, 2008***

Since 1996, Southern Living has been polling thousands of their readers and every year Charleston Place has been chosen as one of the best. The awards have included the best city hotel, one of the top hotels in the South, and best Afternoon Tea in the South. In addition, the city of Charleston was chosen in the Dream Vacation, Romantic Getaway and Historic Sites category.

### ***ZAGAT***

#### ***TOP U.S. HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS SURVEY 2003-2006***

With an overall average of 25¼, Zagat’s said of Charleston Place Hotel in their 2006 survey, “Decadence and old-world charm” unite at this “outstanding” hotel set “smack dab in the center of Charleston” that exudes such “class it feels like you should be dropped off at the entrance by horse and carriage”; the “perfect location” is an “excellent” jumping-off “place to explore the city’s historic district” while the “exceptional dining” at Charleston Grill restaurant, “wonderful” “year-round rooftop pool” and a staff that treats you as if “you’re a guest at their home” bespeak “totally unexpected luxury”. The results of this survey are created from the shared experiences of nearly 16,000 people and is based on roughly 600,000 nights at hotels per year. Considered the candid, no punches-pulled guide to where to stay and eat, Zagat Surveys have been called “a necessity second only to a valid credit card” by the *New York Times*. Zagat rates room, service, dining and public spaces/facilities on a scale of 0 to 30. A rating of 20-25 is considered “very good to excellent, with a 26-30 considered “extraordinary to perfection.”

### ***MEDICAL MEETINGS***

The Annual *Medical Meetings’ M & D* (Merit & Distinction) Awards 2003 program honors the 40 hotels, resorts, and conference centers chosen by readers for merit and distinction in serving the needs of medical

meeting planners. Readers voted for the hosts that best handled their meetings or conventions in the previous 12 months, based on each property's guest room quality, meeting rooms, catering and convention services, as well as audiovisual/technical support.

### ***CELEBRATED LIVING***

In 2002, Celebrated Living Magazine recognized Charleston Place with a place in their Top 20 Mainland U.S.

Platinum Hotels list. The Platinum list recognizes excellence in service standards, imaginative amenities and luxurious accommodations. The magazine written for American Airlines Premium Class passengers has a circulation of more than 130,000 and features celebrity profiles, hotels, trips, travel style, restaurants, nightspots, home furnishings, gadgets, golf resorts and products, spas, shopping and events.

### ***LUXURY LINK***

#### ***"WORLD'S BEST HOTELS" 2006***

Charleston Place has been designated as one of only 50 properties throughout the world to receive this prestigious new honor. *Luxury Link's* methodology of selection is based on their editors' determination of service, facilities, location, uniqueness of property, and overall levels of luxury evaluated in conjunction with

the opinions of their users. Founded in 1997, Luxury Link is the world's premier online luxury travel resource. Showcasing more than 1000 extraordinary hotels and resorts, cruises, tours and villas in more than 60 countries, Luxury Link provides unparalleled access to exclusive offers and insider tips for the sophisticated traveler.

### ***OPULENCE***

In 2001, Continental Airlines Opulence magazine awarded Charleston Place a Ten Star Award. "If Rhett had to choose a perfect destination to romance Scarlet, he'd pick Charleston, South Carolina. Most likely, his hotel of choice would be the magnificent Charleston Place, in the heart of America's most fascinating historic district."

### ***AMERICA'S ELITE 1000***

#### ***THE ULTIMATE LIST***

In *America's Elite 1000's* Millennium Issue entitled "The Inside Story Behind America's Top 1000 Names," Charleston Place was voted a distinguished member in the year 2000.

### ***AAA Four Diamond Award***

#### ***1992 - 2009***

In 2006 – 2009, AAA has awarded four diamonds to both restaurants (Charleston Grill and Palmetto Café) and Charleston Place Hotel. The Four Diamond Award is AAA's second-highest award level, behind the Five Diamond Award. AAA bases hotel ratings on the quality of the surroundings, service and food. AAA inspectors conducted unannounced checks of each hotel and restaurant that received the award. Travelers rely on Diamond ratings in the AAA TourBooks to guide them in choosing an establishment. Four Diamond properties offer luxurious accommodations as well as above-average staff and housekeeping, and other quality amenities. AAA's Diamond rating program is the only hotel and restaurant review system in the nation that uses specially trained, full-time field representatives. Inspections of Four- and Five-Diamond hotels include at least two unannounced overnight visits each year. Inspectors review and rate exterior grounds, public areas, guestroom decor and ambience, bathrooms, housekeeping and maintenance. Once the inspection process is complete, the properties that meet all requirements are awarded a rating of one to five Diamonds.

## **THE MERIT & DISTINCTION AWARD**

The Merit & Distinction Award is the most sought after “medical industry” conference service award in the field. It is a tribute to the high regard earned among meeting planners from health care societies, hospitals and biomedical corporations from around the world. More than 13,000 readers of *Medical Meetings* magazine were polled. Only 40 hotels and resorts are named.

#### **PREMIUM CIRCLE AWARD**

Awarded annually by the subscribers of *Insurance Conference Planner* magazine, the Premium Circle Award

recognizes the best performers, the top 30 hotels and resorts in the country. The award helps to define a standard of excellence to which insurance meeting executives can refer.

#### **GOLD KEY AWARD**

2004

Considered by many professional meeting planners as “the” award of excellence, the Gold Key Award from *Meetings & Conventions* magazine is presented to only 75 hotels and resorts in the country and was awarded to Charleston Place. The Gold Key Award signifies excellence in meeting facilities, design and service to the meeting professional.

#### **MEETING NEWS**

*PLANNERS’ CHOICE AWARD 2004*

The Planners’ Choice Award is awarded annually in December’s issue of *Meeting News*. The Planners’ Choice Award program allows *Meeting News* readers -- corporate and association meeting planners -- to recognize their favorite properties in each of five categories. Charleston Place was recognized as the winner in the Urban Hotel category.

#### **SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS**

*PINNACLE AWARD 2004, 2005*

The readers of *Successful Meetings* magazine, who include authorities on meetings and incentive travel management, voted Charleston Place one of the most outstanding meeting and incentive hotels in the country. The award is presented based upon excellence in overall customer service, meeting rooms, conference equipment, recreational facilities, exhibit space, accessibility, social consciousness and quality of food and beverage

#### **CORPORATE MEETINGS & INCENTIVES**

*PARAGON AWARD*

*Corporate Meetings & Incentives* magazine presented a Paragon Award to Charleston Place to recognize outstanding services and facilities. The Paragon Award was established to recognize excellence in the highly competitive hospitality industry with only 40 hotels chosen each year.

#### **MEETINGS**

*SOUTH STAR OF THE SOUTH AWARD 2001*

The “Stars of the South” award is annually given to hotels that exceed expectations in meeting space and guest rooms, efficiency and helpfulness of staff, quality of guest services and amenities, food and beverage service, and the overall value and experience. Charleston Place was nominated, in an open-ended ballot by the magazine’s 20,000 subscribers, which consists of meeting planners and business professionals across the United States, who book Southern State meetings.

### **DESTINATION AWARDS OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER “READERS’ CHOICE AWARD” 2000 - 2004**

*Condé Nast Traveler* magazine has ranked Charleston as one of the top destinations in North America for four years in a row. Keeping company with such metropolitan destinations as San Francisco, New York and New Orleans.

### **TRAVEL HOLIDAY – “ONE OF THE MOST ROMANTIC CITIES”**

In the January 2000 issue of *Travel Holiday* magazine, Charleston was rated as one of the Top Five Most Romantic Destinations in America. In the article, Charleston was described as “...lushly romantic, all you really need to do is stroll along the tree-lined streets of the Historic District, past the antebellum and Colonial houses or the vine-covered churchyards and gardens tucked away off King Street...”

### **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER – TOP 10 PLACES OF A LIFETIME**

In the October 2001 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*, Charleston was named one of the “Top 50 Places of a Lifetime: America.” The city was highlighted as “a must see before you hang up your traveling shoes.”

*National Geographic Traveler* magazine recognizes Charleston as one of the country’s top 10 urban spaces, listing Charleston under the title of “Ten American Cities that have a defining character, a uniqueness and an influence beyond its borders.”

### **SOUTHERN LIVING MAGAZINE’S READER’S CHOICE AWARD**

*Southern Living* magazine’s Fourth Annual Reader’s Choice Awards honored Charleston, South Carolina in the November 2000 issue. In competition with other Southern destinations, Charleston was awarded with honors in two categories – as favorite historic site and favorite romantic getaway.

### **USA TODAY’S TOP 10 BEST PLACES TO VACATION**

Charleston is one of the Top 10 best places to go on a solo vacation in the world. According to the *USA Today*, Charleston is a vacation hot spot if you are single or just going it solo. *USA Today* featured the story in the October 22, 2000, Life section.

### **MOST MANNERLY CITY IN AMERICA**

According to etiquette expert Marjabelle Young Stewart, Southern hospitality starts in Charleston. Charleston was named the most polite city in the United States for the seventh consecutive year in Ms. Stewart’s “Most Mannerly City” list. This is her 24<sup>th</sup> annual poll. Proudly, Charleston has been included every year since the ranking’s inception. Ms. Stewart is recognized as the most published etiquette educator and author in the world.

### **TRAVEL & LEISURE’S WORLD’S BEST CITIES AWARD**

*Travel & Leisure* Reader’s selected Charleston as one of the top ten cities in United States and Canada. Other city’s making the list included New York, San Francisco, Vancouver, & San Fe. Charleston was also selected as one of the Top Ten Best Values in the world according to *Travel & Leisure’s* World’s Best Values poll.

### **BRIDE’S MAGAZINE, TOP 10 HONEYMOON DESTINATION**

Charleston was designated one of the world’s top ten honeymoon destinations in *Bride’s Magazine* annual list of best honeymoon destinations.

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