

**UNDER THE NAPA VALLEY SUN: AUBERGE DU SOLEIL TO UNVEIL LUXE
NEW POOL AND OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM**

*'Al Fresco' Playground For Hotel Guests Will Bring The Laid-Back Elegance of
The Riviera To Napa Valley*

RUTHERFORD, CALIF. (March 19, 2007) – Secluded, discreet and elegant, Auberge du Soleil has always been a hotel that could just as easily belong in the South of France as it does in the Napa Valley. With the reinterpretation of its outdoor pool space as an exotic outdoor living room set to be unveiled in May, the acclaimed “Inn of the Sun” will once again blur the lines between California Wine Country and the French Riviera.

Inspired by the famed small luxury hotels of the Mediterranean, including the Château de la Chèvre d’Or on the Côte d’Azur and Il Pellicano in Tuscany, designer Suzanne Tucker of San Francisco’s Tucker & Marks will transform the pool area into an extended outdoor living room that takes in the sweeping views and glorious sunsets of Napa Valley.

Tucker has given the iconic Michael Taylor-designed inn a stylish update in recent years, beginning with the Michelin-starred restaurant and bar, followed by the 50 guestrooms in 2005 and the two spacious private *maisons* in 2006. Interiors featuring rich woods, limestone and custom-designed French linens reflect her taste for oversized furnishings, natural textures and European-influenced accents.

Tucker’s vision for the pool space is of a sexy, laid-back venue, where guests will spend lazy hours lounging on oversized chaises or underneath gauze-draped canopies on day beds for two, sipping signature cocktails or wine from a neighboring vineyard. Middle-Eastern-styled Dedon lounge furniture imported from Germany will be upholstered in the Auberge’s signature shade of persimmon, matching the two-toned oversized market umbrellas scattered throughout the four-tiered lounge area.

Rough-hewn Egyptian and Moroccan limestone in varying textures and honey, gold and walnut patinas will give the pool area’s four hillside terraces a Provençal look. Two

upper terraces, trellised for shade, will overlook the pool. Lighter fare and cocktails will be enjoyed in a dining area clustered around a rustic fountain imported from France. Two

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additional lounge areas will terrace down the hillside below the pool. Perfect for discreet sunbathing, this area will feature oversized chaises and a Michael Taylor Designs fountain as homage to the inn's original designer. Custom-designed Moroccan-tile tables throughout the seating areas will lend an Old-World atmosphere, while handcrafted Italian planters filled with rosemary, olive and lemon trees perfume the air.

“We’re creating a little playground for our esteemed hotel guests -- somewhere sensual and intimate,” said Managing Partner George Goeggel. “After a day of wine tasting in the Valley, there will be no better place to indulge in the sheer decadence of doing nothing at all.”

The centerpiece of the \$1 million project will, of course, be the pool itself, glowing under the warm California sun to reveal a pebble-sheen floor inlaid with an Italian mosaic, an iridescent Auberge sun crafted in mother-of-pearl. Honey-colored limestone accented with South American *ipe* wood will create a rustically elegant deck surrounding the pool.

Hotel guests will enjoy a host of poolside amenities, including Wifi and a DJ-mixed pool soundtrack heard through custom-designed sound system, cocktails and lounge food from Auberge du Soleil's award-winning restaurant. Upon arrival poolside, guests will be greeted with a signature Auberge Bellini, the first of an array of refreshing amenities, such as gourmet Italian ices, sorbets, gelées, chilled eucalyptus-infused towels and iPods, to be offered by doting attendants. Poolside dining from the Auberge's award-winning restaurant will be available. Even the pool water will depart from the ordinary, thanks to a new eco-friendly ozone-and-salt-based system that reduces chlorine usage and is gentle on both swimmers and the environment.

Auberge du Soleil is a distinctive property that captures the international atmosphere of today's Napa Valley. Its restaurant, one of the first great Wine Country destination restaurants, pays tribute to its legacy with an award-winning menu and wine list. Luxurious accommodations, a renowned spa, exceptional cuisine and service earn Auberge du Soleil recognition year after year as one of the world's most renowned small luxury hotels.

About Auberge Resorts

Auberge du Soleil is the flagship property of **Auberge Resorts**, a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a

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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.; and Rancho Encantado, Santa Fe (opening in 2008), 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.

Auberge du Soleil is also a member of **Relais & Châteaux**, the prestigious global hospitality association of intimate, elegant and independently owned hotels and acclaimed restaurants. Founded in 1954 in France, the association is comprised of 456 luxurious establishments in 51 countries.

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