



ALABAMA'S GRAND HOTEL NAMES NEW GM; MAKES *TRAVEL + LEISURE'S* "TOP 500 HOTELS IN THE WORLD" LIST

Point Clear, AL – January 8, 2013 – The 166th year of the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort Golf Club & Spa is off to an exciting start. Bruce Smith was named the resort's new general manager and The Grand made *Travel + Leisure Magazine's* "Top 500 Hotels in the World" for 2013. The Grand Hotel is the only hotel in Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle on the prestigious list.

New General Manager, Bruce R. Smith

Having worked in the hospitality industry more than 25 years, Bruce Smith brings a great deal of national experience with Marriott to his new position at the Grand Hotel. Smith was previously the general manager of the Newport News Marriott Hotel in Virginia and also has been the GM of Marriott hotels in Kentucky, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

"I continue to be impressed by the great team at the Grand Hotel and the Southern Hospitality offered by the local community," Smith said. "In my career, I have worked in resorts and hotels around the country and have a real appreciation for this historic treasure. I am thrilled with this exciting opportunity. As the *Travel + Leisure* recognition indicates, the Grand Hotel is world-class and we look forward to keeping her that way for generations to come." A graduate of Cornell University, Smith and his wife have relocated to Fairhope and have a daughter attending James Madison University.

Travel + Leisure Top 500 Hotels in the World

The January 2013 issue of *Travel + Leisure* magazine highlights the top 500 Hotels in the World and the Grand Hotel has reappeared on the list. In 2011 the Grand Hotel also received this honor.

Almost half of the winners are from the United States and Canada, with other winners spread throughout exotic locations around the globe. The Grand Hotel was recognized as a new addition to the list and also was showcased with 61 other hotels as a real value.

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“Making the Top 500 List from *Travel + Leisure* magazine again is a real honor for our resort, the local area and the entire state of Alabama,” said Bruce Smith, general manager of the Grand Hotel. “The more I study the results, the more humbling this honor is. Our associates and the overall resort scored higher than any other hotels in Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle. Additionally, The Grand scored higher than many other prestigious properties including the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, the Ritz-Carlton Lodge Reynolds Plantation, the JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa in Phoenix and the Manua Kea Beach Hotel in Hawaii.

The entire list can be found in the January issue of *Travel + Leisure* or online at www.travelandleisure.com. The Grand Hotel had an overall score of 87.64. Mobile’s Battle House Hotel and Birmingham’s Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa were previously on this prestigious list. For more on the Grand Hotel, visit www.marriottgrand.com.

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Media Contact – Bill Lang – bill.lang@pchresorts.com; (205) 965.9574.