

EPIC CELEBRATES ITS OFFICIAL OPENING IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI AND THE AREA'S CONTINUED REVITALIZATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE CULTURAL ARTS

MIAMI, January 22, 2009.

Downtown Miami's new lifestyle boutique hotel, EPIC, managed by San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, celebrated its official opening today with a special ceremony that included a 54-cork salute. The epic occasion marked the introduction of Kimpton's first Miami hotel, as well as the first partnership between owners Lionstone Development, Ugo Colombo and Grupo Ponte Gadea. The event paid tribute to the continuing revitalization of downtown by recognizing arts patron Adrienne Arsht and her contribution to the area's cultural arts scene, with special honors presented by EPIC and renowned jazz trumpeter and composer, Wynton Marsalis.

Held on the hotel's stunning 16th floor wrap-around pool deck, which provided glimmering views of Biscayne Bay and downtown Miami, the event began with a roster of speakers who included Miami Mayor Manuel A. Diaz; Kimpton President and CEO, Mike Depatie; Kimpton COO, Niki Leondakis; EPIC General Manager and Kimpton Regional Director of Operations, Joe Schwingler; and owners Diego Lowenstein, Lionstone Development; and Roberto Cibeira Moreira, Grupo Ponte Gadea. Eric Jellson, area director of sales and marketing, EPIC, served as the event's emcee.

"EPIC is in a category all its own," said Schwingler. "As a Kimpton hotel, we have a heart and soul that drives us to serve our guests with the utmost attention and care. Our guests will come to look forward to the larger-than-life moments we create that make a travel experience the best it can be. The backdrop for our level of service is the timeless style of this cosmopolitan boutique hotel with the amenities of a resort – all working together to create a sophisticated oasis for our business and leisure guests."

In addition to being the first Kimpton hotel to enter the Miami market, the opening of EPIC marked another significant milestone. EPIC represents the first partnership between Alfredo and Diego Lowenstein of Lionstone Development, Ugo Colombo of CMC and Spanish real estate company Grupo Ponte Gadea. Lionstone Development is a family-owned hospitality and real estate firm responsible for elite properties such as The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, South Beach. Ugo Colombo is the creator of the landmarks Bristol Tower and Santa Maria condominiums on Brickell Avenue.

"My partners and I are thrilled to see our vision for Downtown Miami come to life with the opening of EPIC," said Diego Lowenstein, CEO of Lionstone Development. "Lionstone is fortunate to have partners who share our passion for bringing top quality and resources to this project. Together we have created EPIC, the embodiment of modern urban living, offering residents and hotel guests unparalleled luxury, unique design and an outstanding waterfront location in the heart of the city."

As the "new kid on the block" in downtown Miami, EPIC's opening also recognized the continuing revitalization taking place in the area, in particular its re-energized cultural arts scene.

Nationally respected business leader and hands-on philanthropist, Adrienne Arsht, received special honors during the event in recognition of the one-year anniversary of her \$30 million contribution to Miami's Performing Arts Center, which secured the venue's financial footing. Her contribution led to the center's renaming to the Adrienne Arsht Performing Arts Center of Miami-Dade County, and ensured the future of quality cultural programming for future generations. Event special guest Wynton Marsalis, Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, joined EPIC's opening celebration and expressed thanks to Arsht for her many contributions and continuous support of the arts.

A 54-cork salute – marking EPIC's 54-floors – capped off the event; with EPIC staff, executives and owners simultaneously popping 54 champagne bottles under a spray of streamers to mark the hotel's official opening.

To further celebrate its opening, EPIC is offering a Grand Opening introductory rate of 33 percent off on stays of three nights or more through March 31, 2009. With this special offer, rates start from \$267 per night plus tax. To book, call 866/760-3742 or visit www.epichotel.com.

EPIC guests can enjoy a range of amenities that evoke the ultimate Miami fusion – a blend of sensual energy and sophisticated ambiance. Sitting 16 floors above sea level overlooking the "Magic City" is the 13,752-square-foot wrap-around pool deck with two swimming pools and 10 private cabanas, providing a relaxing atmosphere by day and a pulsating hotspot at night. EPIC also features a private marina that offers charter departures directly from the hotel and is available for one-of-a-kind yacht parties and events. Area 31, the adjacent restaurant, offers premium seafood with a Mediterranean influence. A waterfront lounge, 11,000 square feet of meeting space and a full-service spa and fitness center operated by Exhale are also part of the EPIC experience.

The hotel's 411 spacious guestrooms and suites feature private balconies with inspiring views of the bay and city, and are artfully designed by Cheryl Rowley, with calming earth tones, custom furnishings and fine fabrics. Rooms offer a wide range of amenities to provide a relaxing and indulgent experience, including fine Italian linens with luxurious triple sheeting and throw blankets, LCD flat screen TVs, and spa-inspired luxury bath amenities – with many of the guestrooms offering hydrotherapy air bath tubs. Additional services and amenities include complimentary morning newspaper, coffee and tea in the hotel's Living Room lobby, Hosted Evening Wine Hour, twice-daily housekeeping service, as well as high-speed wireless Internet access.

Located at the edge of the Miami River and Biscayne Bay, EPIC is positioned amidst the energy and pulse of Miami within minutes of city's best dining, shopping and nightlife. EPIC is located at 270 Biscayne Blvd Way. For more information or reservations, please call (866) 760-3742 or (305) 424-5226 or visit www.epichotel.com.

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ABOUT EPIC

A member of the award-winning San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, EPIC is located at the edge of the Miami River and Biscayne Bay, and combines the style of a cosmopolitan boutique hotel with the amenities of a resort to create a sophisticated oasis for guests amidst the energy and pulse of Miami. The hotel's 411 rooms and suites are artfully designed by Cheryl Rowley, with furnishings that convey an understated sense of cool, and all feature private balconies that provide inspiring views of the city and bay.

Hotel offerings include a 13,752-square-foot wrap-around pool deck with private cabanas; Area 31 restaurant, offering premium seafood with a Mediterranean influence; a spa and fitness center operated by Exhale; a waterfront lounge; 11,000 square feet of indoor meeting and event space; and a private marina.

ABOUT KIMPTON

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, a collection of boutique hotels and chef-driven restaurants in the US and Canada, is an acknowledged industry pioneer and was the first to bring the boutique hotel concept to America. Founded in 1981 by Bill Kimpton, the company is well-known for making travelers feel welcomed and comfortable while away from home through intuitive and unscripted customer care, stylish ambience and having a certain playfulness in its approach to programs and amenities. Each hotel provides a range of exciting culinary experiences through affiliated, top-rated, destination chef-driven restaurants. Kimpton leads the hospitality industry in ecological practices through its innovative EarthCare practices that span all hotels and restaurants. Privately held Kimpton has consistently earned the highest ranking customer satisfaction scores by the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, exceeding all other hotel companies including those in luxury and upscale segments. Among the company's newest properties is EPIC Hotel and Area 31 restaurant in Miami, which opened December 2008. Currently, projects are underway in New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago and Virginia. For more information, please visit www.KimptonHotels.com or call 1-800-KIMPTON.