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**KIMPTON GARNERS 100 PERCENT SCORE ON CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX  
*Human Rights Campaign Foundation Awards Top Marks  
to Boutique Hotel Company for the Sixth Consecutive Year***

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., November 4, 2009 – [Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants](http://www.kimptonhotels.com), earned the top rating of 100 percent in the 2010 Corporate Equality Index (CEI), an annual survey administered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. The first hospitality company to earn a 100 percent score in 2004, Kimpton has maintained that perfect ranking for six consecutive years and joins 305 other major U.S. businesses that receive top marks for their treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees and consumers.

“At Kimpton we focus on creating a culture of care where employees are encouraged and inspired to celebrate their individuality,” said Niki Leondakis, chief operating officer, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants. “Earning this top score year after year has been not only an honor but an accomplishment that helps us attract some of the most innovative and talented people in our industry.”

In 2008, Kimpton became the only company in which all hotels were members of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA). All hotels are TAG approved and Kimpton has received “Best Company to Work For” awards from numerous business publications including *FORTUNE*, *The Advocate*, *Crain’s Chicago Business*, *Crain’s New York Business*, *Dallas Business Journal*, *Oregon Business Magazine*, *Phoenix Business Journal*, *San Francisco Business Journal* and *Washington Business Journal*.

The 2010 edition of the Corporate Equality Index, which rated 590 businesses on a scale from 0 to 100 percent, reported 305 businesses achieved top ratings, compared to 260 last year. The 305 top-rated businesses collectively employ more than 9 million full-time employees. These workers are protected from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression because of their employers' policies on diversity and inclusion, training and benefits.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. For more information on the 2009 Corporate Equality Index, or to download a copy of the report, visit [www.hrc.org/cei](http://www.hrc.org/cei).

To learn more about Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, visit [www.KimptonHotels.com](http://www.KimptonHotels.com), [www.Twitter.com/Kimpton](http://www.Twitter.com/Kimpton), or search Kimpton at Facebook.com.

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#### **ABOUT KIMPTON**

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, a collection of boutique hotels and chef-driven restaurants in the US, 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 locally-loved, top-rated, destination, chef-driven restaurants. Kimpton leads the hospitality industry in ecological practices through its innovative EarthCare program that spans all hotels and restaurants. Privately held Kimpton has consistently earned high customer satisfaction scores by the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, exceeding other hotel companies including those in luxury and upscale segments. Among the company's newest properties are the LEED registered Hotel Palomar and LEED registered Square 1682 restaurant by Chef Guillermo Tellez in Philadelphia, PA, which opened in October 2009. Currently, projects are underway in New York City and Chicago. For more information, please visit [www.KimptonHotels.com](http://www.KimptonHotels.com) or call 1-800-KIMPTON.