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**Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants Earns Top Marks in 2009 Corporate Equality Index**  
*Kimpton Receives 100 Percent in Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Seventh Annual Index for Fifth Consecutive Year*

San Francisco, – September 9, 2008 – Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants proudly announces that it has earned the top rating of 100 percent in the 2009 Corporate Equality Index (CEI), an annual survey administered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Kimpton joins the ranks of 259 other major U.S. businesses which receive top marks for their treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees and consumers.

The CEI rated 583 businesses in total, evaluating LGBT-related policies and practices including non-discrimination policies, transgender health benefits and domestic partner benefits. Kimpton's efforts in ensuring LGBT equality in each of the survey's main criterion earned it the prestigious 100 percent ranking. Kimpton was the first hospitality company to score a 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index back in 2004, and has secured that perfect score every year since then.

In 2008, Kimpton became the only company where all hotels were members of the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA) and all hotels are TAG Approved, the largest directory of gay friendly hotels and resorts. Additionally, on May 1, 2008, at the IGLTA Convention in Las Vegas, Kimpton won the PlanetOut 2008 Hotel Group of the Year award.

In keeping with Kimpton's culture of embracing diversity and inclusion, the company maintains progressive personnel policies and is known as a 'Best Place to Work' having won awards in San Francisco, Washington D.C., Chicago and Dallas, as well as the Faces of Diversity Honor by the National Restaurant Association.

"Kimpton strives to create a work force that is diverse, inclusive and multifaceted, with an array of talent, experience, perspective and backgrounds," said Niki Leondakis, chief operating officer, Kimpton. "Just like its employees, Kimpton respects and embraces the cultural and ethnic diversity of its customers."

Like many of Kimpton's programs that anticipate the preferences of its guests, such as women travelers, business travelers, pet owners, health and wellness minded travelers, the company's welcoming stance toward the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community exemplifies its commitment to inclusion.

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For more information on the 2009 Corporate Equality Index, or to download a free copy of the report, visit [www.hrc.org/cei](http://www.hrc.org/cei).

#### ABOUT KIMPTON

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is the first and leading collection of boutique hotels, throughout the United States and Canada. Founded in 1981 by Bill Kimpton, every Kimpton hotel features personalized guest services, comforting in-room amenities, specialty rooms and suites, and provides a range of exciting culinary experiences through affiliated top-rated destination chef-driven restaurants. Kimpton takes pride in its commitment to social responsibility and leads the hospitality industry in ecological practices through its innovative EarthCare programs. Privately held, Kimpton received the highest ranking in customer satisfaction scores by the Market Metrix Hospitality Index for the entire year of 2007, exceeding all other hotel companies, including those in both the luxury and upscale segment. Among the company's newest properties are the Hotel Monaco Alexandria and Jackson 20 restaurant in Virginia, which opened in January 2008, and the Hotel Palomar Los Angeles in Westwood and the adjacent BLVD 16 restaurant. Additional projects are underway in Florida, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago and Virginia. For more information, please visit [www.KimptonHotels.com](http://www.KimptonHotels.com) or call 1-800-KIMPTON.

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