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Hilton Orlando Welcomes First Guests

Doors Open to Orlando's Newest Hotel Designed for Business and Leisure

ORLANDO, Fla.—September 2, 2009—The new 1,400-room [Hilton Orlando](#) welcomed two of its first guests yesterday, Jeanne and Russell Hayward, marking the opening of one of the largest new hotels in the country. With its Grand Opening Showcase planned for September 12, the Hilton Orlando is a smart choice for today's business and leisure travelers, offering world-class facilities and amenities for both.

The first hotel to provide a covered open-air walkway to the Orange County Convention Center, the Hilton Orlando features a discreet separation between 175,000 square feet of meeting facilities and its recreational amenities, allowing each type of guest to experience the stay that meets their unique expectations. Today's environment encourages a more serious, business-focused setting, yet the need to have fun and relax remains strong for reasons of health, productivity, and well being. Designed with these important factors in mind, the Hilton Orlando welcomed the Haywards, who are vacationing in Orlando from Ashburn, Va.

"Every year we take a vacation around our anniversary. Since we stay so long – 16 days – we like to relax and be pampered," said Jeanne Hayward, "Having a spa and a nice pool is very important to us. Having the options of the lazy river, the quiet pool, and the main pool was a definite plus. When we learned about the service staff dedicated to guests that will be lounging by the pool, we were sold!"

Located on Destination Parkway at the crossroads of I-4, the Beach Line and International Drive, Hilton Orlando is in the heart of Orlando's famous attractions area and just minutes away from Pointe Orlando, Sea World Orlando, Universal Orlando, Walt Disney World and a 15-minute drive to the Orlando International Airport. For more information, visit www.thehiltonorlando.com.



Photo Caption: Upon their arrival at the new Hilton Orlando, Russell and Jeanne Hayward were greeted with flowers by (left to right) Rida Development Corporation Senior Vice President John Fischer, Hilton Hotels Corporation Area Vice President Olivier Chavy, Hilton Hotels Corporation Senior Vice President Ted R. Ratcliff, and Hilton Orlando General Manager Doug Gehret.



Photo Caption: Russell Hayward, the Hilton Orlando's first guest, checks into the new hotel.



Photo Caption: The staff of the new Hilton Orlando welcome their first guests, Russell and Jeanne Hayward.

About Hilton Orlando

The Hilton Orlando will feature 1,400 well-appointed guestrooms, including 53 suites. The more than 175,000 square feet of function space will include a 50,000-square-foot Orlando Ballroom, a 30,000-square-foot Orange Ballroom, a 15,000-square-foot Florida Ballroom, 21 meeting rooms and 9 boardrooms. The property will include seven creative dining options including Spencer's for Steaks and Chops, David's Club bar and grill, and a marketplace. Onsite recreational amenities will include a resort pool, quiet pool, whirlpools, cabanas, lazy river, 15,000-square-foot spa and fitness center, jogging track, and basketball/tennis/volleyball/bocce ball courts. The Hilton Orlando is being designed by HKS Architects in Orlando and will be built by Welbro Construction Company.

About Hilton Hotels

Hilton Hotels is the stylish, forward-thinking global leader of hospitality that welcomes guests in more countries than any other full-service hotel brand. The Hilton brand currently includes more than 500 hotels and resorts in 76 countries, and plans to serve travelers in 78 countries by the end of 2009. By offering innovative products, services and amenities, Hilton enables travelers to be at their best 24/7, whether traveling for business or leisure. Start your journey at www.hilton.com.

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Note: All photos, and many others, available in high resolution upon request.