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DRAFT FOR REVIEW

***LACROIX AT THE RITTENHOUSE IS THE 'WORLD'S BEST'
SAYS CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER 2004 HOT LIST***

6th Annual 'Hot Tables' List Selects the World's Best and Newest Restaurants

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (April 26, 2004) – Lacroix at The Rittenhouse, a French-American restaurant created by Chef Jean-Marie Lacroix, has been honored as one of the World's Best places to eat according to Condé Nast Traveler's "2004 Hot Tables List." Located in The Rittenhouse Hotel, a luxury boutique hotel in the heart of Philadelphia, the restaurant is known for its culinary excellence, ambience and renowned service. Only sixty-six restaurants in the world were named in the "Hot List," which is compiled by seasoned restaurant critics for Conde Nast.

Lacroix at The Rittenhouse is the vision of Chef Lacroix, a leader of the Philadelphia culinary scene for two decades. An internationally acclaimed chef and a member of the prestigious Mâitres Cuisiniers de France, Lacroix was the first Philadelphian to receive the Robert Mondavi Award for Culinary Excellence in 1998, and in 2001 he received the James Beard Award for Best Chef, Mid-Atlantic United States.

"It is an honor for Lacroix at The Rittenhouse to be recognized as one of the best restaurants in the world by Condé Nast Traveler. This distinction reflects the hard work and dedication of Chef Lacroix and his extraordinary staff," said David G. Benton, vice president and general manager of The Rittenhouse Hotel. "Lacroix at The Rittenhouse, raises the guest experience to new levels of quality, service, and luxury at The Rittenhouse Hotel."

"I am deeply honored that Condé Nast has bestowed this distinction on our restaurant and on the many talented and professional staff who work beside me everyday," said Chef Lacroix. "As a team, we strive to create an inviting and relaxing dining experience with the highest quality, freshest food and best service for our guests. This recent honor gives me great pride that our hard work has been recognized."

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The 6th Annual “Hot Tables” list takes a comprehensive look at the top restaurants in the world. Each restaurant is listed by geographic region including: United States, Canada, Atlantic & Caribbean, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific, Mexico, Central and South America, Africa and the Middle East, and Asia.

About The Rittenhouse Hotel:

The Rittenhouse Hotel is ideally located in the heart of Philadelphia, overlooking historic Rittenhouse Square. Major museums, cultural attractions, world class shopping and the city’s business center are all just walking distance from the hotel. The Rittenhouse is a member of Leading Hotels of the World and has received the AAA Five Diamond Award since 1991. Condé Nast Traveler in its annual Gold List has continuously recognized The Rittenhouse since 1995 and *Esquire Magazine* named the Hotel’s renowned restaurant *Lacroix at The Rittenhouse* “Restaurant of the Year” in 2003. In 2004, the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences bestowed the prestigious Five Star Diamond Award on both The Rittenhouse and the *Lacroix at The Rittenhouse*; and *Departures* magazine named The Rittenhouse as the sixth best boutique hotel in North America. In addition, *Official Hotel Guide* named The Rittenhouse the only Philadelphia hotel among its list of 101 Superior Deluxe Hotels worldwide in 2002. For more information, please visit www.rittenhousehotel.com.

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