

SOFITEL MINNEAPOLIS

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Jennie Roberts
Elmore Public Relations
Tel: 713-524-0661
jennie@elmorepr.com

Sofitel Minneapolis Welcomes the Autumn Season with Women & Wine

Wine Flight Program and Hors D'Oeuvres Paired by Executive Chef Serge Devesa Delight Guests

Minneapolis, MN (October X, 2007) – Sofitel Minneapolis brought autumn into full swing with the food and wine experience “Say Hello to Autumn” presented by Women & Wine, www.WomenWine.com, a lifestyle community for women who love wine, food, travel and living well. . The event introduced Sofitel’s Take Flight wine program, designed by Women & Wine, to the 40 women who attended the event on September 25 at La Fougasse, one of the hotel’s restaurants. The guests enjoyed three, themed wine flights paired with specially selected hors d’oeuvres from Sofitel Minneapolis’ Executive Chef Serge Devesa.

“Working with Women & Wine was a natural fit for Sofitel Minneapolis since we both enjoy sharing the pleasure of fine food and wine pairings,” said Antoine Winckler, Food and Beverage Director for Sofitel Minneapolis. “It was such a pleasure to be part of this unique event and expand the palettes of this wonderful group of women.”

Women & Wine co-founder Sharon Boorstin mingled with guests and encouraged them to try the variety of wines and embrace the flavors brought out by the accompanying food. Women & Wine is an online company that creates offline experiences empowering women to make knowledgeable, personalized choices when looking at wine and other aspects of fine living.

Guests enjoyed the unusual open kitchen in La Fougasse while trying three different wine flights: the “Queen of Whites,” “Springtime in a Glass” and the “*Grande Cuvée*.” The **Queen of Whites** featured the Boschandal *Sauvignon Blanc* paired with a smoked salmon roulade and a chives and lemon cream cheese mousse; the *Laboure-Roi* “*les Sangliers*” *Chardonnay* paired with a tuna tartar with avocado salsa and wasabi dressing; and the *Castillo de Molina Chardonnay* paired with a sesame seed kebab in a spicy Thai peanut sauce.

Springtime in a Glass gave tasters a last sampling of the warmer seasons with the Trinchero family *Chardonnay* and a sautéed scallop on a crustini tapenade in a red pepper couli; the Geyser Peak *Sauvignon Blanc* with crab filo in saffron mayonnaise and babaganouge purée; and the *Remy Pannier Rose d’Anjou* paired with a mini beef burger and *foie gras* on a *brioche* bun.

The **Grande Cuvée** flight brought more traditional French flavors to the event. Guests sampled the *Château Beau-Site, St Estephe* 2001, the *Château Hortevie, St. Julien* 2004 and the *Château Laplagnotte Bellevue, St. Emilion Grand Cru* 1999 paired with *brochette d’escargôts Bourguignons, tartine au paté de campagne* and *petite quiche Lorraine*.

To find out more about Sofitel Minneapolis, its restaurants or the wine flight experience, please call 952-835-1900 or visit www.sofitelmplsdining.com.

Sofitel Hotels are in major destinations across North America: Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Montreal, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Miami and Washington, D.C.

For more information on Sofitel, please visit www.sofitel.com.

Women & Wine, www.WomenWine.com is based in Los Angeles, CA. For additional information please email customerservice@womenwine.com or call 1-877-804-WINE (9463).

#

Sofitel: 200 premium hotels around the world

Because no one country or city is the same, Sofitel has made each of its 200 hotels around the world a truly unique establishment. Combining the spirit of each place with the values of modernity, refinement and absolute comfort, they are all imbued in their inimitable way with the French "art de vivre".

Whether their setting is a great business metropolis like Paris, New York or Bangkok, or nestling in the landscape in Indonesia, Polynesia or Brazil, each Sofitel hotel offers travelers a genuine haven of peace. So that each guest, for an overnight stay or longer, during a business trip or for a holiday, can enjoy the rich variety of these unique places in comfort and tranquillity.

Accor, the European leader in hotels and tourism, and a global leader in corporate services, operates in nearly 100 countries with 166,000 employees. It offers to its individual and corporate clients 40 years of expertise in its two core businesses:

- **Hotels**, with the **Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Suitehotel, Ibis, All Seasons, Etap Hotel, Formule 1** and **Motel 6 brands**: around 3.800 hotels and 450,000 rooms in 90 countries, as well as strategically related activities, such as **Lenôtre** ;
- **Services to corporate clients and public institutions**: 23 million people in 35 countries benefit from **Accor Services** products (human resources, marketing services, expense management).

About Women & Wine:

Women & Wine has hosted events across the country from New York to Los Angeles. Event themes have focused on a range of topics, including books, movies, travel and wellness. The company has received national attention for its events, having been featured on CBS, NBC, CNN, and in *TIME Magazine, USA Today, O Oprah Magazine, Bon Appetit* and *Travel + Leisure*.

According to Women & Wine, 60 percent of all U.S. wine purchases are being made by women, though many resources about wine still cater mainly to men. Women & Wine uses its experiential events and travel opportunities to empower women to make knowledgeable, personalized choices when looking at wine and other aspects of fine living.