

SOFITEL MINNEAPOLIS

For Immediate Release

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

Enjoy a Chic Picnic at Sofitel Minneapolis

Worldwide Sofitel Hotels offer accessible to summer travelers in Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN (June 23, 2008) – Would you like to be transported away from the hum-drum of daily life this summer but can't afford the gas to take a long road trip, much less the price of a flight to Paris? Then, escape to the Sofitel Minneapolis for a taste of la bonne vie, or the good life.

Sofitel Luxury Hotels worldwide is offering this summer's travelers the opportunity to experience exquisite French living by going on a **Chic Picnic**. Stay at Sofitel for three nights or longer between now and September 15 and enjoy a late checkout of 4:00 pm and a gourmet picnic basket specially prepared by Sofitel's chefs to your liking, filled with hors d'oeuvres, a main course, desserts, and drinks. If you book your reservation before August 15, you'll be able to extend your stay at Sofitel to a fourth night for free.

Take advantage of **Chic Picnic** this summer at Sofitel Minneapolis for a special celebration such as a wedding anniversary, a surprise birthday getaway, or for a girls-only extended shopping spree at the Mall of America, located just a few miles away.

Sofitel Minneapolis is just 20 miles from downtown Minneapolis, a bustling center of cultural and artistic activity. *USA Today* reports that the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area is one of the top 30 most visited cities in the U.S. Home to 22 city lakes and more than 170 parks, Minneapolis is a fantastic city for a picnic. Sofitel Minneapolis guests that are headed downtown might enjoy their chic picnic at the magnificent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden or at Gold Medal Park, the perfect contemporary refuge for a romantic picnic dinner before catching a show at the Guthrie Theatre. Without straying too far from Sofitel Minneapolis, guests can take their gourmet picnic less than two miles away to the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, an area that covers more than 2,600 acres and includes the peaceful Normandale Lake Park where visitors can catch live music and dance performances at the Normandale Lake Bandshell beginning at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and Thursday from June 10 – August 7.

In response to the current economic downturn and high fuel prices, many families are choosing to take "staycations" this summer. In other words, people are taking time off of work and school to enjoy life and explore new things at or near home. **Chic Picnic** at Sofitel Minneapolis offers Minnesota and surrounding state residents a worldly experience close to home.

Sofitel Minneapolis has consistently been ranked one of the top hotels in the Twin Cities for its service, customer care, amenities, and overall appeal. Earlier this year, Sofitel Minneapolis was awarded the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award for the 25th consecutive year. It was also recently included in the Expedia® Insiders' Select 2008 list, an annual ranking of the top one percent of hotels and resorts around the world based on customer feedback in terms of value and quality.

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 and the Chic Picnic offer, please visit www.sofitel.com or call 1-800-763-4835.

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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 170,000 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, Red Roof Inn, Etap Hotel, Formule 1, Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands: over 4,100 hotels and 486,000 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 – meal and food vouchers, people care, incentive and loyalty programs.