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SWEET AS SUGAR

**THE HISTORIC WESTIN ST. FRANCIS PROUDLY PRESENTS
ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST HOLIDAY SUGAR CASTLES**

Created By Executive Pastry Chef Jean Francois Houdré

On Display November 27, 2009 – January 3, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – NOVEMBER 5, 2009 – The Westin St. Francis Executive Pastry Chef, Jean-François Houdré, aka “King of the Castle,” is currently hard at work day and night perfecting his signature 12-foot rotating holiday sugar castle, to be unveiled in the historic Main Lobby of The Westin St. Francis in San Francisco on Friday, November 27.

Originally created in 2005, this magnificent castle continually grows larger and more spectacular each year. Resembling a French château, it weighs over 1200 pounds and features more than 20 grand circular towers, approximately 30 rooms, illuminated windows, and is surrounded by a quaint village and a running train.

“I was inspired by the many remarkable châteaux while traveling around the southwestern region of France with my family in 2005,” says Chef Houdré. “My children Henri and Claudia, then ages eight and ten, convinced me that I must build a sugar castle to rival the royal castles in France for display during the holiday season at The Westin St. Francis.” Since then, it has become a holiday tradition for many families to visit the hotel during the holidays to see this magical palace.

The castle is nearly 100% edible and is comprised of the following ingredients:

- 70 pounds of gingerbread
- 130 pounds of pastillage (powdered sugar, egg whites and gelatin dough)
- 40 pounds of pulled and bubble sugar
- Royal icing made of 300 pounds of sugar and egg whites
- 40 pounds of molasses
- 60 pounds of flour
- 100 pounds of assorted Christmas candy
- and*
- 400+ hours of hard work!

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About The Westin St. Francis

Opened more than a century ago on March 21, 1904, The Westin St. Francis still today maintains its preeminence as San Francisco's center of social, theatrical and business life. Renowned for luxury accommodations and excellent service, the hotel completed an extensive \$40 million transformation in 2009 that preserves its rich history and elegance while enhancing the guest experience with fresh, innovative concepts. The only hotel located on San Francisco's famous Union Square, The Westin St. Francis is located right on the classic cable line and is just steps from first-class shopping, world-renowned dining, award-winning theater and a bustling arts district. For reservations and more information, please call (415) 397-7000, toll free (800) 917-7458 or visit www.westinstitfrancis.com.

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ATTN EDITORS: A behind-the-scenes sneak peak/photo opportunity of the Sugar Castle and an interview with Chef Houdré can be arranged. A high-resolution image of The Westin St. Francis Sugar Castle is available upon request.