



**RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN SAN FRANCISCO  
AT THE HISTORIC WESTIN ST. FRANCIS**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA – NOVEMBER 2, 2009** – The holiday season is truly magical at the legendary Westin St. Francis. Currently celebrating the completion of an extensive \$40 million transformation, San Francisco’s “Crown Jewel” has never sparkled brighter. From its superb location directly on Union Square in the heart of the glamorous shopping mecca and across the street from the Safeway Holiday Ice Rink, to the elegant holiday decorations, a magnificent 12-foot Sugar Castle, traditional holiday tea service, decadent meals and fun holiday packages, this is the perfect place to celebrate the season in style.

Below is the large array of holiday festivities to enjoy at The Westin St. Francis this season:

**- DECK THE HOLIDAYS AT THE WESTIN ST FRANCIS -**

On Friday, November 27, The Westin St. Francis will be transformed into a festive oasis, embellished with more than \$40,000 in spectacular holiday decorations created by Joe Vincent Designs. Upon entering the newly restored historic Main Lobby, a 15-foot, glimmering white and silver holiday tree decorated in energy saving LED lights will transcend into different colors. Families will delight in the whimsically adorned Tower Lobby, featuring a soaring 18-foot tall “Candyland Tree” with oversized peppermint sticks, lollipops and red and white swirl ornaments. A winter wonderland will be displayed over the front desk adorned with white lights, toy soldiers, drums, teddy bears, building blocks and much more. The Arcade, the perfect spot for holiday shopping, will be illuminated by sparkling holiday trees.

**- SWEETEN THE SEASON -**

On Friday, November 27, San Francisco’s largest Sugar Castle, created by Executive Pastry Chef, Jean-Francois Houdré, will be unveiled in the historic Main Lobby. This magnificent, 12-foot rotating masterpiece grows larger and more spectacular each year. Inspired by a French Chateau from Chef Houdré’s hometown of Bordeaux, the 100% edible castle weighs more than 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.

**- SPREAD GOOD CHEER -**

**HOLIDAY GIVING TREE**

In partnership with the Whitney Young Child Development Center in San Francisco, The Westin St. Francis is helping to make holiday wishes come true for less fortunate children. Throughout the holiday season, families staying at The Westin St. Francis will have the wonderful opportunity to make another child feel special by choosing a name from the holiday giving tree and purchasing an unwrapped gift for him/her. The hotel will provide all necessary supplies to create a personalized card and will deliver the gift just in time for Christmas.

### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

As a special holiday gift, all guests with a confirmed reservation at The Westin St. Francis can save \$10 per ticket on *A Christmas Carol*, a holiday tradition in the Bay Area. Performing at the historic American Conservatory Theater, located just two blocks from the hotel, this sparkling, music-infused production features mean ol' Scrooge, adorable Tiny Tim, spooky Christmas ghosts and a multigenerational cast of dozens. *Details on how to redeem this special discount will be provided with the confirmed reservation. Available December 3-27 for orchestra or balcony seats. Performances sell out, so be sure to order early. Tickets are subject to availability and cannot be combined with any other offer.*

### **ST. FRANCIS HOLIDAY DOLLARS**

This holiday season, treat a favorite friend or family member to some much needed pampering with the purchase of gold-embossed St. Francis Holiday Dollars, valid towards room reservations and in all hotel outlets including dining and spa services (excluding Restaurant Michael Mina and Clock Bar). *St. Francis Holiday Dollars can be purchased in increments of \$50 at the front desk.*

### **- SPEND THE NIGHT IN LUXURY AND COMFORT -**

Awaken your holiday spirit with a relaxing stay at The Westin St. Francis. Below are a selection of holiday packages and promotions. *For reservations, please call (888) 625-5144 or visit [www.westinstfrancis.com](http://www.westinstfrancis.com).*

### **EXTRAORDINARY HOLIDAY SAVINGS**

Enjoy a luxurious vacation in the heart of San Francisco this holiday season with incredible savings up to 30% off your visit with rates starting as low as \$104.30 for a three night stay. Rates start at \$111.75 for a two night stay (a 25% savings) and \$149 for a one night stay. *Offer valid November 13 through January 7, 2010. Rates exclude tax and are subject to blackout dates.*

### **MACY'S SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP PACKAGE**

After a day of shopping with a \$100 gift certificate to the West Coast's largest Macy's, return to the hotel to spend the night in luxurious comfort. Rates start at just \$130.96 for a three night stay (a 30% savings); \$151.75 for a two night stay (a 25% savings); and \$229 for a one night stay. *Valid November 11 through January 7, 2010. Rates exclude tax and are subject to blackout dates.*

### **GLIDE INTO THE HOLIDAYS**

Skate into the center of all the holiday magic at Union Square's annual Safeway Holiday Ice Rink. Guests will enjoy an overnight stay, admission for two to the ice rink and complimentary skate rentals for two, with rates starting as low as \$107.63 for a three night stay (a 30% savings). Rates start at \$116.75 for a two night stay (a 25% savings) and \$159 for a one night stay. *Valid November 11 through January 7, 2010. Rates exclude tax and are subject to blackout dates.*

### **- HOLIDAY COCKTAILS -**

#### **SPECIALTY HOLIDAY DRINKS**

After a day of fun gliding around the Safeway Holiday Ice Rink, head to Caruso's, located in the Tower Lobby, to relax with a delicious holiday drink or a flight of local wines. Warm up with peppermint mocha or sip a gingerbread or eggnog latte while nibbling on a freshly baked pastry. Wine lovers can sample a rotating flight of premier vintages paired with fine hors d'oeuvres

during Unwind Hour. *Held every Tuesday through Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.; \$15 per person, excluding tax and gratuity. Caruso's is open daily from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.*

#### **SEASONAL CELEBRATION**

Enjoy fresh seasonal cocktails at award-winning chef Michael Mina's cocktail lounge CLOCK BAR. With a dark palette and luxurious materials, this warm, candlelit environment is the perfect spot to toast the holiday season.

#### **- DINE IN STYLE -**

The Westin St. Francis is featuring several holiday meals with all of the trimmings prepared by Executive Chef Bernd Liebergesell and Chef de Cuisine Thomas H. Rimpel served in the historic Oak Room Restaurant & Lounge. All holiday dinners will feature live piano music. *For holiday dining reservations, please call (415) 774-0264.*

#### **THANKSGIVING DINNER**

***Thursday, November 26; 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.***

Gather with family and friends to indulge in an extravagant Thanksgiving buffet filled with a vast array of appetizers, fresh seafood, an assortment of salads and luscious desserts. A sampling of items include: Monterey corn chowder; sushi; specialty cheeses and cured meats; Alaskan snow crab; oysters on the half shell; a selection of salads; pastries, pies and much more. In addition, guests have their choice of five entrées which include: slow roasted turkey with whipped potatoes and chestnut stuffing; seared halibut with corn puree and roasted winter squash; sea salt and herb rubbed prime rib of angus beef with asiago potatoes; wild mushroom ravioli with spinach truffle cream; and seafood bouillabaisse. *Cost: \$79 Adults; \$37, Children 12 and under (exclusive of tax and gratuity).*

#### **TREE LIGHTING DINNER**

***Friday, November 27; 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.***

After enjoying the holiday festivities and taking in the spectacular Macy's Tree Lighting Ceremony on Union Square, head across the street to toast the holiday season with a gourmet meal in the conveniently located historic Oak Room & Lounge. This exclusive, one-night only three-course dinner includes Caesar salad, black angus prime rib roast with asiago custard potatoes and roasted vegetables and a seasonal cassis-poached Bartlett pear baked in almond frangipane. *Cost: \$42 per person.*

#### **ST. FRANCIS HOLIDAY TEA**

***December 4 – 20; available Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.***

The elegant St. Francis Holiday Tea begins with a choice of fine Artisan teas from Mighty Leaf or Red Blossom Tea Company, followed by a selection of tea sandwiches, freshly baked scones and seasonal berries with Devonshire-blend cream, preserves and assorted petit fours. Guests may also choose the Royal Tea, which includes the complete tea service with a glass of Perrier Jouet, or the Elite Tea that includes a 375 ml. bottle of Perrier Jouet. *Cost: St. Francis Holiday Tea \$39, Children 12 and under \$20; with Red Blossom Tea \$42. Royal Tea \$45; with Red Blossom Tea \$48. Elite Tea for two \$88; with Red Blossom Tea \$95. (exclusive of tax and gratuity). Reservations are required. Please be sure to book early.*

#### **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

***Friday, December 25; 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.***

Celebrate Christmas dinner with an expansive buffet overflowing with scrumptious appetizers, fresh seafood, salads and delectable desserts. Offering countless tantalizing choices for every

taste, a sampling of items include cheeses and cured meats, seafood favorites such as rock shrimp salad, Alaskan snow crab and oysters on the half shell, seasonal salads and pastries, pies and tarts. Additionally, guests have a choice of five holiday favorites such as slow roasted turkey with herb and pine nut dressing; pistachio-crusting salmon filet with rice; pan-seared Muscovy duck breast with wild mushroom risotto; pepper-crusting prime rib of Angus beef with sour cream & chive potatoes; and butternut squash ravioli with sautéed spinach. *Cost: \$79 Adults; \$37 Children 12 and under (exclusive of tax and gratuity).*

#### **NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER**

***Thursday, December 31; 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.***

There's no better way to ring in the New Year than with a celebratory four-course tasting meal featuring mouthwatering items such as seared Hawaiian Ahi, Dungeness crab chowder, butter-roasted Maine lobster with Dungeness crab stuffing, grilled Muscovy duck breast with foie gras risotto, and a decadent pot de crème trio. Toast the New Year with a complimentary glass of Perrier Jouet champagne. *Cost: \$79 Adults; \$37 Children 12 and under (exclusive of tax and gratuity).*

#### **RESTAURANT MICHAEL MINA**

Restaurant Michael Mina will offer a special three-course Thanksgiving menu. *Cost: \$125 per person; available 4:30 to 9 p.m.* For extraordinary Christmas Eve, enjoy the "Feast of the Seven Fishes" tasting menu. *Cost \$135 per person.* Ring in the New Year with an exquisite dinner accompanied by live music and dancing. *First seating is \$175 per person (dinner only); second seating is \$325 per person.*

#### **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](http://www.westinstitfrancis.com).

#### **About Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.**

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. is one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with 982 properties in more than 100 countries and 145,000 employees at its owned and managed properties. Starwood Hotels is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels, resorts and residences with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis®, The Luxury Collection®, W®, Westin®, Le Méridien®, Sheraton®, Four Points® by Sheraton, and the recently launched Aloft®, and Element<sup>SM</sup>. Starwood Hotels also owns Starwood Vacation Ownership, Inc., one of the premier developers and operators of high quality vacation interval ownership resorts. For more information, please visit [www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com).

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**Holiday Images are available upon request.**

#### **Media Contacts:**

Gena Egelston

Marketing & Communications Manager  
The Westin St. Francis  
(415) 774-0118  
[gena.egelston@westin.com](mailto:gena.egelston@westin.com)

Kelly Chamberlin  
Chamberlin Public Relations  
(415) 336-4332  
[kelly@chamberlinpr.com](mailto:kelly@chamberlinpr.com)