

## **Grand Opening of The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort Extends City Limits**

Company Press Release: Westin Savannah Harbor Resort

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SAVANNAH, GA -- For 266 years, people have viewed the Savannah River as the northern border of the city. Today the city limits will extend across the river with the grand opening of The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort. The \$98 million resort was developed by a partnership of CSX Real Property, Inc. of Jacksonville, FL, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. of White Plains, NY, Troon Golf of Scottsdale, AZ, and several local Savannah investors. Westin Hotels & Resorts will manage the property.

"We are proud to be an active participant in the vibrant tourism community and we look forward to adding the quality and reputation of Westin to the Historic District of Savannah," said John Cottrill, the resort general manager.

The Westin is the first complete component of Savannah Harbor, a resort and residential development on Hutchinson Island, overlooking the Savannah River and Savannah's famed Historic District. Early next year, the development will include the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center, the Club at Savannah Harbor and The Greenbrier® Spa. Eventually, the community will also include a residential component along with marina and retail facilities.

The 16-story, 403-room resort features a full range of amenities, services, and activities including a full-service Greenbrier® Spa, lighted Har-tru tennis courts, a Troon-managed championship 18-hole golf course designed by golf legends Robert Cupp and Sam Snead, 400-foot floating dock, exercise room and two heated outdoor pools.

The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort dominates the view from River Street toward Hutchinson Island. The design recognizes the impact of the hotel on downtown Savannah by adapting the language of Regency Style Savannah landmarks such as the Telfair and Scarbrough Houses to its much grander scale. The tower and two-story podium ensemble are divided into a well-defined base, body, and top using the restrained neoclassical detailing introduced to Savannah by William Jay. Motifs such as the arched windows of the ground level, the doric porte-cochere and the semi-circular lunette windows reinterpret Jay's work for this contemporary resort.

The tower is surmounted by two domed cupolas, which frame the bay-windowed facade of the tower. The towers give Hutchinson Island a romantic skyline, recalling the many towers and domes of old Savannah. At ground level, the hotel's pool and gardens blend seamlessly into a riverwalk, which echoes that on the city side of the river. The hotel's grand lobby and principal public spaces take advantage of the dramatic downtown views, while the interiors echo the historic panorama. Artwork was selected to showcase artists raised or

trained in Savannah at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

The property's proximity to the Savannah River is represented throughout the building not only in AquaStar, the resort's signature restaurant, but also in the meeting and special event spaces with names like the Harbor Ballroom, Moorings, the Boardroom and Riverscape, one of the private dining rooms. Outdoors, spacious lawns, gardens and terraces take advantage of the natural beauty of the waterfront location and views of the Historic District skyline.

AquaStar will delight diners with the incredible natural light and views of the Savannah River. While the views will entice patrons through the doors, the culinary delights will bring guests back for more. Seafood is the primary focus of AquaStar, and the variety of preparation is far from ordinary. Diners will have the choice of lowcountry favorites or other exotic flavors from the sea.

The bar, Midnight Sun, named after a song written by Savannah native Johnny Mercer, features classic cocktails with unique local twists such as the Mercertini, a version of the classic dry martini. The atmosphere is pure Savannah, quaint and homey with dark wood accents and doors that lead out to the terrace overlooking the river and pristine marsh.

Each guest room features all the standard upscale amenities and services provided by Westin including our most recent innovation, the Heavenly Bed. The Heavenly Bed was designed to be the best bed in the industry and consists of a custom-designed Simmons Beautyrest pillowtop mattress set, cozy down blanket, three crisp sheets ranging in thread count from 180-250, comforter, duvet coverlet and five pillows.

Guests at The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort will enjoy additional benefits unique to Westin. The hotel offers Westin Guest Office® accommodations which double as offices. Each room features an in-room multifunction laser printer/fax/copier, dual line speaker phone with data port, Macintosh and IBM-compatible computer printer cable and surge protector, ergonomically correct desk chair, task lamp, complimentary newspaper and free local phone calls. Service Express®, a "one call does it all" concept exclusive to Westin Hotels and Resorts, allows guests to dial one number on their telephone to order room service, call for bell service, a room attendant or any other request.

Guests who stay at The Westin Savannah Harbor Resort are also able to earn their way toward free travel in Starwood's new frequent guest program, Starwood Preferred Guest. With more than 600 participating hotels and resorts in more than 70 countries, including 100 resorts around the world, the new program is the industry's most global and is focused on simplicity and flexibility in redemption options with no blackout periods.

In Georgia, Westin operates three additional properties including The Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, The Westin Atlanta Airport and The Westin Atlanta North at Perimeter.

The resort's first opportunity to welcome the community into the new facility will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 during the St. Joseph's Foundation Cookbook Fair. The event will be held in the Grand Ballroom.

Westin Hotels & Resorts, with more than 110 hotels and resorts in 24 countries, is owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. Starwood through its St. Regis, Luxury Collection, Westin, Sheraton, Four Points and W subsidiaries, is one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with more than 700 hotels in 77 countries and 130,000 employees at its owned and managed companies. For reservations please call (800) WESTIN-1 or visit [www.westinsavannah.com](http://www.westinsavannah.com) .

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