

## Hampton Celebrates 1,400 Hotels and 140,000 Rooms

2007-03-01

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Double Milestone Coincides with the Opening of Hampton Inn - Majestic Chicago Theatre District Hotel Adjoining Landmark Shubert Theatre

Officials of Hampton, the national brand of mid-priced Hampton Inn(R) and Hampton Inn & Suites(R) hotels, today announced the opening of its 1,400th hotel and 140,000th room with the 135-room Hampton Inn-Majestic Chicago Theatre District hotel in downtown Chicago, Ill. In honor of the occasion, the hotel hosted a unique ceremony featuring key appearances by Gene Weygandt, the cast member playing the Wizard in the Chicago company of the hit musical *Wicked*, Lou Raizin, president of Broadway In Chicago, Michael Tobin, managing principal/development of Northern Realty Group, LTD, as well as Stephen Schwartz and Robert Habeeb, CEO and president, respectively, of First Hospitality Group, Inc., the hotel's ownership group.

'This important double milestone reflects all the changes that have taken place over the 20-plus years of the Hampton brand's history,' said Phil Cordell, Hampton senior vice president, Hampton brand management. 'We started as a roadside hotel brand and Hampton guests can now enjoy Hampton Hotels in more than 30 convenient urban markets from Manhattan to Los Angeles, including our most recent hotel opening in downtown Chicago Theatre District. This hotel is in a wonderful, meticulously restored historic building, connected to one of the city's most prominent theatrical venues - the LaSalle Bank Theatre (formerly known as the Shubert Theatre). A location like this would not have been possible for Hampton as recently as 5 years ago.

'Additionally,' he added, 'Hampton has enhanced more than 130 elements of the guest hotel experience in the past two years alone as part of the Make It Hampton initiative, representing the single most rapid, most extensive transformation ever undertaken by a hotel brand. In fact, we just completed the roll-out of more than 210,000 upgraded beds in all of our 1,400 hotels in less than one year.'

Located at 22 W. Monroe Street atop the newly renovated LaSalle Bank Theatre in downtown Chicago, the 21-story Hampton Inn-Majestic Chicago Theatre District hotel is convenient to Soldier Field, the Shedd Aquarium, Michigan Avenue shopping and dining outlets and the Water Tower. Guest rooms feature the new Hampton bedding package, 'Cloud Nine. The New Hampton Bed Experience,' and 32-inch, flat panel televisions, as well as coffee makers, irons and ironing boards. Guests also enjoy free local calls, complimentary high-speed Internet access and complimentary On the House(R) hot breakfast.

'The 18-month restoration process of the Hampton Inn-Majestic Chicago Theatre District hotel that began in 2005 involved an expenditure totaling close to \$20 million, adding guestroom creature comforts and advances in technology for a superb new presentation,' said Bob Habeeb, president of First Hospitality Group, Inc.

The hotel also features specialty suites that share floors with the adjoining theater. Guests in these suites will have special access to the theater. The property also features special theater packages(a), featuring such prominent musicals as *Wicked* and *Jersey Boys*.

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