

# THE WESTIN

AUSTIN  
AT THE DOMAIN

## **Media Contacts:**

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### **Westin Makes its Debut in Austin, Texas**

*Designed to Refresh Mind, Body and Spirit, The Westin Austin at the Domain is on Track to Become the Area's Premier Lifestyle Center*

**Austin, TX (December 3, 2008)** – A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled today to officially kickoff the beginning of construction on the Westin Austin at The Domain in Austin, Texas – an eye-catching, modern landmark and sophisticated lifestyle center. The property, which is owned by affiliation of Merrillville, IN-based White Lodging and Indianapolis, IN-based Simon Property Group, marks the introduction of the Westin brand to Austin, Texas. Expected to open in early Summer 2010, The Westin Austin at the Domain will offer luxurious accommodations and a sensory-rich environment designed to create an oasis of effortless style, efficient service and complete serenity.

Located in northwest Austin, within The Domain – Austin's newest and prestigious lifestyle and residential center, guests will be steps away from over 700,000 square feet of high-end shopping including Niemen Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and Tiffany's and an abundance of restaurants like Joe DiMaggio's, Kona Grill and McCormick and Schmicks. Nearby businesses include Dell, IBM, Tokyo Electron, Apple, Pearson, Advanced Micro Devices and more. The hotel will feature 340 guestrooms and suites, indoor pool, fitness center, full-service restaurant and over 13,000 square feet of meeting space.

We are excited to announce the ground breaking of this iconic project," said White Lodging's Deno Yiankes, president and ceo of investments and development. "The Westin Austin at The Domain brings to the area tremendous, luxury and prestige - qualities that are synonymous with the Westin name. The amenity-driven brand has an international vision for high quality, and that concept will be reflected in this hotel."

"The Westin Hotel brand is the perfect complement to the first-class, mixed-used center Simon has developed," stated Senior Vice President of Development for Simon Property Group, Kathy Shields. "We believe that the hotel, combined with the relaxing and elegant retail and dining environment of The Domain will make The Westin the preferred hotel destination for visitors to Austin. We could not be happier."

In the lobby, the Westin Sensory Welcome will evoke a sense of tranquility and well-being by weaving together white tea scent, music and mood lighting. In their rooms, hotel guests will refresh in the

Heavenly Bath® and restore in the Heavenly Bed®, a custom ensemble featuring a pillow-top mattress set, a cozy down blanket, three crisp sheets, a comforter, duvet and five plush pillows.

Guests of the Westin Austin at the Domain will have a chance to maintain their wellness routine while on the road in hotel's WestinWorkout® fitness center, while business travelers will appreciate the more than 13,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. Unwind: A Westin Evening Ritual will feature the tastes, sights and sounds of Austin, giving guests a chance to socialize and transition from day to night in the lobby each night. In their rooms, guests can relax in 10-layers of luxurious comfort in Westin's signature Heavenly Bed® and awaken their senses with the Westin Heavenly Bath® experience.

For advance sales information regarding the Westin Austin at the Domain, please call 512-782-8317. Employment inquiries should be directed to [careers.whitelodging.com](http://careers.whitelodging.com).

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### **About White Lodging**

Established in 1985 and headquartered in Merrillville, IN, White Lodging is a fully integrated developer, owner and manager of premium brand hotels – a trusted leader that consistently delivers superior leading brand hotel experiences and premium returns on investment among mid-to-large scale hotels across the country. With over 20 years of expertise and future development projects in excess of \$1.5 billion opening over the next five years, White Lodging continues to break ground as one of the fastest growing independent hospitality companies in the country. They currently employ over 6,500 associates and are looking to add an additional 2,500 managers in the next five years. Their managed portfolio of 138 hotels in seventeen states encompasses representation of the following leading brands: Marriott, Hilton; Radisson Hotels; Intercontinental Hotel Group; and Starwood Hotels & Resorts. For more information about White Lodging, visit [www.whitelodging.com](http://www.whitelodging.com).

### **About Simon Property Group**

Simon Property Group, Inc. is an S&P 500 company and the largest public U.S. real estate company. Simon is a fully integrated real estate company which operates from five retail real estate platforms: regional malls, Premium Outlet Centers®, The Mills®, community/lifestyle centers and international properties. It currently owns or has an interest in 387 properties comprising 263 million square feet of gross leasable area in North America, Europe and Asia. The Company is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana and employs more than 5,000 people worldwide. Simon Property Group, Inc. is publicly traded on the NYSE under the symbol SPG. For further information, visit the Company's website at [www.simon.com](http://www.simon.com).

### **About Westin Hotels & Resorts**

With a portfolio of more than 150 properties around the world, Westin Hotels & Resorts is in the midst of the most robust growth period in the brand's 77-year history. Westin Hotels is the fastest growing upper-upscale brand in the world with plans to expand to more than 250 hotels in the next five years. Westin Hotels & Resorts is owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. (NYSE: HOT). Starwood Hotels is one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with approximately 850 properties in more than 95 countries and 145,000 employees at its owned and managed properties. Starwood® Hotels is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels and resorts with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis®, The Luxury Collection®, Sheraton®, Westin®, Four Points® by Sheraton, W®, Le Méridien® and the recently announced Aloft<sup>SM</sup> and Element<sup>SM</sup> Hotels. Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. 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).