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THE RITZ-CARLTON, KAPALUA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR A \$125 MILLION TRANSFORMATION

KAPALUA, MAUI, HI – World-renowned for its outstanding location and services, the AAA Five-Diamond Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is proud to announce a detailed transformation of the entire hotel, which will further enhance the celebrated resort and maintain its reputation as one of Hawaii’s top destinations.

The \$125 million transformation will feature new amenities, enhanced food and beverage outlets, upgrades and expansion to The Spa, additional activities for children and teenagers, 363 renovated guestrooms and 107 one and two-bedroom full-ownership Residential Suites, which will also be available to hotel guests. The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua will close on July 2 to begin the project, which is slated for completion by January 2008.

SB Architects, known worldwide for the design of high-end hospitality destinations and vibrant residential communities, along with noted Philpotts & Associates Interior Designer Jon Staub, celebrated for his expertise in Hawaiian culture and design, and EDG, one of the country’s leading restaurant design firms, are responsible for the transformation. Their combined vision for the re-design will infuse Ritz-Carlton elegance with contemporary furnishings with a native Hawaiian sense of place. The interior design concept will incorporate the area’s vibrant colors of the lush mountains, natural rainforests and ocean. Beautiful woods and rich earthy tones of deep green, brown and cream hues will mix seamlessly with elegant furnishings to create warm, serene and relaxing living spaces.

Inspired by the natural beauty of the islands, the hotel will use indigenous materials in the design such as coconut and sea shell accents with rich wood grains, area rug designs with Hawaiian Kapa motifs with Kukui florals and Hawaiian print artwork framed with koa wood, showcasing culturally iconic patterns and traditional crafts. Steeped in traditional Hawaiian culture, kitchens in each Residential Suite unit will feature a handsome gathering “Calabash” table, named after the traditional wooden bowls for storing poi, where families can come together and forge new traditions and memories.

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The Ritz-Carlton Spa design scheme will draw from the concept of Waihua, which the ancient Hawaiians believed was the most pure form of water which was captured by the leaves of the taro plant before it touched the earth. The kahuna gathered this water to use in various medicines, ceremony and protocol. The Spa will be 14,000 square feet and feature 15 treatment rooms, including two outdoor couples' cabanas, a fitness center and yoga/movement studio. Most of the treatment rooms will open to private outdoor shower gardens, while water walls and Hawaiian artwork will be present throughout the public corridors. There will also be steam rooms, saunas and hot tubs, with private and co-ed relaxation areas.

The design of new and existing food venues will interpret particular aspects of Maui's spectacular geography, using natural Hawaiian materials and imagery. The Banyan Tree, the hotel's current signature seafood restaurant, will reflect Maui's undersea life, with colors and fanciful blown-glass light fixtures inspired by sea urchins and vibrant corals. On the covered terrace, a destination bar and lounge will open toward the pool and enjoy sweeping ocean views. The new lobby bar will be constructed of black lava stone and lighted amber glass. Across the room, the seaside rainforest is the muse for a sushi restaurant that will present the island's pristine harvest. The Terrace bar and grill downstairs will use the images and architectural details of Maui's plantations to enhance the guest's comfort.

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua continually strives to be culturally sensitive to the Hawaiian culture. It proudly maintains the Honokahua Preservation Site, which lies adjacent to the hotel. The Honokahua Site is recognized as a "wahi pana" (sacred site) and continues to serve as a place where Native Hawaiians can gather to conduct ceremony and protocol. A variety of cultural programs and activities, led by Hawaiian Cultural Advisor Clifford Nae'ole, are available for all guests, uniting them with Hawaiian practitioners, Kupuna (elders) and kama'aina (local community members). The re-invention of the property will serve to further culturally unify the hotel with the guest experience and Nae'ole has been instrumental in working closely with the design team to ensure the transformation will fundamentally incorporate the Hawaiian culture throughout the resort.

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is an AAA Five-Diamond oceanfront property located on 54 acres of Maui's lush northwest shore. The plantation-style hotel is part of the 23,000 acre master-planned Kapalua resort on Maui, home to the season-opening, champions only, PGA TOUR event, the Mercedes-Benz Championship. The resort is renowned for its world-class golf courses, an award-winning tennis facility, white sandy beaches including America's Best Beach, and a myriad of restaurants and shops. For more information visit www.kapalua.com or call (800) KAPALUA.

For information or reservations at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, please call (800) 262-8440, the hotel directly at (808) 669-6200, a travel professional, or visit The Ritz-Carlton Web site at www.ritzcarlton.com.

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