

LE MÉRIDIEN PORT VILA WINS TOP INDUSTRY AWARD

Bangalore India, 3 November 2007

Le **MÉRIDIEN**

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Vanuatu's supreme resort has done it again. Le Méridien Port Vila Resort, Spa & Casino has in been voted "Vanuatu's Leading Resort" at the 2007 World Travel Awards Ceremony held in Bangalore, India. The resort's General Manager Lachlan Walker said that back-to-back wins in 2006 and 2007 confirmed Le Méridien's position as the ultimate getaway for visitors to this exotic and relaxed South Pacific destination.

'This is the award we want to win. It means we've been recognised by fellow travel professionals who really understand what we've achieved. With tens of thousands of votes cast by experts from over 160 countries, these awards have become extremely coveted. I'm absolutely delighted with the result, not just for the resort, but for all the people who work so tirelessly to make our guests' stay so memorable.'

Since winning the sought-after award in 2006, the team at Le Méridien have found several more innovative ways for guests to experience the cultural richness and native splendour of Vanuatu's 83 islands. At the same time, an ongoing commitment to excellence ensures every guest arrives at a truly pristine resort.

For Lachlan Walker, however, even that is not enough. A number of renovations already underway and an ongoing upgrade of facilities in 2008 should ensure that Le Méridien retains its number one position in the Vanuatu travel industry.

Just steps away from the sights and sounds of Port Vila, a private world awaits Le Méridien's guests from the moment they enter the hotel's spectacular Melanesian lobby. There are lush surroundings to explore including a tropical lagoon and a private beach, not to mention two swimming pools. A unique experience with a local touch is a visit to Le Méridien's Namele Day Spa where traditional Ni-Vanuatu healing remedies are combined with classic French spa therapies. 'It's a truly cross-cultural experience and not to be missed,' said Lachlan Walker, 'but it's just one of many indulgences our guests can enjoy.'



Le Méridien is also becoming recognised as a conference venue, and offers the advantage of two quite different meeting areas. The Erakor Ballroom provides the indoor meeting facilities you would expect from a resort of this calibre, the Valea Room offers a sophisticated meeting venue with an outdoors ambiance. There's even a "rumble in the jungle" paintball experience, a teambuilding exercise with a tropical difference!

From April 2008, travellers will find even more to delight them at Le Méridien. The changes include a comprehensive update of the hotel's Melanesian-style rooms and ten over-water villas ensuring Le Méridien offers the latest technology available in Vanuatu. Every room will offer high speed Internet connection and data port facilities, voicemail messaging, electronic key locks for added security and even an in-room safe, just the right size for a laptop. The over-water villas will also include 32" flat screen LCD television receivers and DVD players.

At the same time, interior designer Joseph Pang is the mastermind behind inspiring new décor at Le Méridien. 'The new décor is a modern interpretation of the island culture, and was inspired by the tropical forests and lagoon that lie beyond them,' said Lachlan Walker. 'A sense of serenity will help international travellers relax and unwind in a setting where island culture, traditional timbers and local woven fabrics live in perfect harmony with modern comforts and technology.'

The team at Le Méridien are dedicated to ensuring every aspect of their well travelled guests' time at the resort leaves them with wonderful memories. Whether it's leaving the hotel's lagoon aboard a seaplane and heading for a private beach, or a stylish departure for the airport via helicopter, it's hard to think of a better venue for a holiday or company conference, not just in Vanuatu, but throughout the South Pacific.

With another win in the World Travel Awards under their belt, everyone at Le Méridien is justifiably proud. So if those well-known South Pacific smiles of the Ni-Vanuatu people who welcome you seem just a little wider now, you'll understand why.

Notes

The World Travel Awards: Conceived in 1993 to acknowledge and celebrate excellence in the world's travel and tourism industry. Now in their fourteenth year, travel professionals and discerning travellers have come to regard the World Travel Awards as the very best endorsement that a travel product could hope to receive. With thousands of votes cast by travel professionals from 167,000 travel agencies, tour & transport companies and tourism organizations in over 160 countries across the globe, winning a World Travel Award has become one of the highest accolades a travel product or organization can achieve. World Travel Awards are especially coveted as, uniquely; the votes are cast globally by fellow professionals. With trophies awarded in over 1,000 different categories, the World Travel Awards are undoubtedly the worlds most comprehensive awards celebration and well established as a forum that brings together all areas of travel and tourism in recognition of their achievements.

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For more information please contact;
Elizabeth Youdale
Sales & Marketing Manager
Le Meridien Port Vila
P: 678 22040
E: Elizabeth.knowler@lemeridien.com

