



## **Grace Hotels expands into USA with acquisition of historic Vanderbilt Hall Hotel in Newport Rhode Island**

*London, 8 December 2010:* Grace Hotels Group ([www.gracehotels.com](http://www.gracehotels.com)), the award-winning luxury boutique hotels group has announced its entry into the US market with the acquisition of the historic Vanderbilt Hall hotel and spa in Newport, Rhode Island. Grace Hotels is a collection of luxury boutique hotels that have won international critical acclaim. The group is set for global expansion including more Grace hotels in South, Central and North America. The company recently announced its development of a hotel and villa complex in northwest Argentina. Grace Hotels is part of a family-owned business that also owns a collection of hotels, conference facilities and restaurants in Maine and Vermont, including the celebrated White Barn Inn & Spa.

The Vanderbilt Hall is a magnificent hotel with 33 luxurious rooms and suites plus a spa and fitness centre with indoor and outdoor swimming pools. There is a gourmet restaurant and cocktail bar as well as a conservatory dining room serving breakfast and lighter meals both indoors and outdoors. The building dates from 1909 and was one of many mansions in the area owned by the Vanderbilt family. A century after its creation the hotel was acquired by British philanthropist and hotelier, Peter de Savary, before its sale to Grace Hotels. Recently the property operated as a hotel and private members club but under Grace management it will operate solely as a luxury hotel and restaurant as well as a stylish venue for parties, banqueting and conferences. All of its facilities are now open to the public.

In the coming months Grace Hotels will add its signature style and service touches while, under the direction of Chef Jonathan Cartwright of the White Barn Inn, the restaurant and wine cellar will be transformed with a scheduled re-launch in spring 2011.

**~ENDS~**

***For further information please contact Allison Kline: +1 212 957 4433***

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Grace Hotels Group** ([www.gracehotels.com](http://www.gracehotels.com)) is an award-winning luxury boutique hotel group that offers sanctuary and quality for discerning guests in the world's most sought after resorts and cities. The company's hotels have attracted critical acclaim since the first opened in Greece's Cyclades Islands in 2007. In managing the Vanderbilt Hall Grace Hotels will be working

closely with its sister company, US Hotels ([www.ushotelsgroup.com](http://www.ushotelsgroup.com)), a collection of eight New England hotels, restaurants, spas and conference facilities which include two Relais & Châteaux properties: the renowned White Barn Inn in Kennebunk, Maine and the Windham Hill Inn in South Vermont. In 2010 Grace Hotels announced its first hotel in the Americas, the Grace Cafayate hotel and residential villas development in northwest Argentina. Grace Hotels and US Hotels are both part of the Libra Group, a global conglomerate owned by the Logothetis family.

**The Vanderbilt Hall** was commissioned in 1909 by Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt for his glamorous mistress, Agnes O'Brien Ruiz, the wife of the Cuban attaché to the USA. After Agnes's death Alfred donated the newly-built mansion to the people of Newport. Alfred himself died aboard the ill-fated RMS Lusitania in 1915 while trying to save the lives of others. For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the building was a hotel and before its acquisition by Grace Hotels formed part of a collection of hotels and private clubs owned by British entrepreneur and philanthropist, Peter de Savary.