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**LUXURY LIFESTYLE PUBLICATION GIVES MONTAGE RESORT & SPA
TOP HONORS IN ITS ANNUAL "BEST OF" ISSUE**

New Laguna Beach Resort Earns Further Acclaim with Latest Accolade

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (May 20, 2003) -- Open for just three months, Montage Resort & Spa -- Laguna Beach's luxurious new oceanfront retreat -- has been selected as the "Best of the Best Resorts" in the *Robb Report's* much-anticipated annual ranking of luxury products and services.

Scheduled to hit newsstands on May 22, the luxury lifestyle magazine's June issue is devoted to its annual "Best of the Best" survey, which spotlights the very finest in domestic and international travel, as determined by its editorial staff.

In its 15th annual quest for the world's top airlines, hotels and dining, the *Robb Report* lauds Montage's exquisite guest rooms, which offer a "wealth of amenities" and "stunning views" of the Pacific Ocean. "The Montage Resort & Spa is a unique combination of sophisticated glamour and beach-casual elegance," the publication continues. Additional resort highlights noted in the magazine include the spa -- a glass-walled wellness center overlooking the ocean -- and dining on Chef James Boyce's Mediterranean cuisine at the resort's signature restaurant, Studio.

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MONTAGE NAMED "BEST OF THE BEST RESORTS" -- 2

"We are thrilled to be recognized by this prestigious publication so soon after opening," says Alan Fuerstman, founder, president and chief executive officer of Montage Hotels & Resorts. "Our staff has done a phenomenal job of delivering gracious hospitality, and I am extremely proud of their accomplishments. We will continue to stay focused on each and every guest experience."

The 262-room Montage Resort & Spa -- which opened its doors February 22 -- features striking turn-of-the-century-style architecture, pristine white sand beaches and breathtaking ocean views. Among its myriad amenities and activities are a 20,000-square-foot beachfront spa; three sparkling swimming pools; distinctive, regional dining and Paintbox, which features a kids club and activities. Centrally located, the resort is just two miles from the heart of Laguna Beach and its numerous shops, museums and galleries,

Paying tribute to Laguna Beach's rich cultural heritage, Montage also houses a museum quality collection of fine art and ceramics inspired by the Early California Arts and Crafts movement. Traditional touches such as classic wood and stone architecture, rich dark wood, copper gutters, and shingle-style roofing -- combined with the Arts and Crafts-style artwork and décor -- capture this bygone era.

For information and reservations, please contact Montage Resort & Spa, toll-free, at 1-888-715-6700; or visit the website at www.montagelagunabeach.com.

Now in its 27th year, *Robb Report* is the international authority on the luxury lifestyle. Additional information can be accessed through the magazine's Web site, www.robbreport.com.

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