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**TOP TRAVEL PUBLICATION RECOGNIZES MONTAGE RESORT & SPA
AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S "CHOICE HOTELS"**

New Laguna Beach Resort Continues to Earn Critical Acclaim

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (October 15, 2003) -- Fodor's Travel Publications -- publishers of the venerable gold guidebooks and America's market leader in travel information -- has named the new Montage Resort & Spa as one of its Fodor's Choice Hotels.

After considering nearly 30,000 properties listed in the Fodor's Gold Guides, Montage was selected as one of 20 properties that stand out as "quintessential Fodor's Choice Hotels." To earn this distinction, Fodor's staff selected hotels in a variety of price ranges that they consider to be unique.

Each of the Choice Hotels -- which range from a castle in Ireland to a wilderness lodge in New Zealand -- will be listed in one of the all-new Fodor's 2004 Gold Guides.

According to the guidebooks' editors, some of the Choice properties are "luxurious and some are budget, but all have a style that sets them apart from the others." Montage was lauded for its distinct craftsman style and sophisticated luxury. Every room has a view at this oceanfront getaway and spa, which sits "high upon a bluff overlooking the coves of the Pacific," the editors note.

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"We are thrilled to be recognized by Fodor's, and consider this honor especially important as we have been open less than a year," says Alan Fuerstman, founder and chief executive officer of Montage Hotels & Resorts. "We attribute our remarkable success thus far to our highly talented staff, who have done a terrific job of delivering gracious hospitality and top quality service."

Since its grand opening eight months ago, Montage -- Laguna Beach's first new beachfront property in more than 50 years -- has consistently garnered critical acclaim and recognition, including a coveted ranking as one of the "Best of the Best Resorts" in the *Robb Report's* annual listing of luxury products and services.

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, a kids club. Paying tribute to Laguna Beach's rich cultural heritage, Montage also houses a museum-quality collection of Early California *plein air* paintings.

Centrally located, the resort is just two miles from the heart of Laguna Beach and its numerous shops, museums and galleries.

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

Fodor's Travel Publications offer travelers more than 440 guides -- among them the prestigious gold guide -- to destinations throughout the world. For more information, visit the website at www.fodors.com.