

THE WESTIN

KEY WEST
RESORT & MARINA



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The Westin Key West Resort & Marina named “Best of the South” for meetings

KEY WEST, Fla. – September 16, 2009 – The Westin Key West Resort & Marina was named a “Best of the South” property in the Southern United States, Caribbean and the Islands by readers of *Meetings South* magazine.

Meetings South readers considered a variety of factors in their voting including quality of meeting space, guest rooms, staff, service, food and beverage, amenities, activities and value.

“Our staff is so proud of this prestigious award from *Meetings South* and their readers,” said General Manager Diane Schmidt. “We are excitedly planning improvements to many of our facilities, including our meeting spaces, so groups will have even better experiences in 2010!”

Meetings South magazine has a circulation of 25,000 meeting planners and event specialists that submitted thousands of entries for the 2009 Best of the South awards.

“Winning a Best of the South Award is a testament to the quality of a hotel or resort from those who know most, the meeting professionals that book programs in the South,” says Tyler Davidson, editorial director of Meetings Media, which publishes *Meetings South* magazine. “Only the properties that are proven in the marketplace as providing the highest level of service and the finest meeting and event facilities are recognized by the *Meetings South* readers who ultimately select the Best of the South winners.”

For more information on booking a group or meeting at The Westin Key West Resort & Marina, please contact Assistant Director of Sales Ken Brown at 305.292.4376 or Ken.Brown@WestinKeyWestResort.com.

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About The Westin Key West Resort & Marina

The Westin Key West Resort & Marina is located on the waterfront, one walking block from fabled Duval Street and next to Mallory Square. The Westin Key West Resort & Marina is one of the Conch Republic's top destination resorts, offering deluxe guestrooms and suites, more than 16,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor function space, multiple dining options, heated pool and a 37-slip marina with a complete range of watersports. In addition, the resort operates one of the country's largest private ports, welcoming cruise ships to the destination daily. For more information on the resort, visit westin.com/keywest. The Westin Key West Resort & Marina and their sister property, Sunset Key Guest Cottages, are owned and managed by Ocean Properties Ltd., and franchised by Starwood Hotels. The resorts have been the only accommodations in Key West designated with the AAA Four-Diamond Full-Service award consecutively since 1999.

About Starwood Hotels

Westin Hotels & Resorts, with over 120 hotels and resorts in more than 30 countries and territories, is owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and was ranked "Highest in Guest Satisfaction Among Upscale Hotels Chains" in the *J.D. Power and Associates' 2004 North America Hotel Guest Satisfaction Study(SM)* and voted Best Domestic Hotel Chain by *Global Traveler Magazine*. Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. is one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with approximately 850 properties in more than 95 countries and 145,000 employees at its owned and managed properties. Starwood® Hotels is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels and resorts with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis®, The Luxury Collection®, Sheraton®, Westin®, Four Points® by Sheraton, W®, Le Méridien® and the recently announced Aloft(SM). Starwood Hotels also owns Starwood Vacation Ownership, Inc., one of the premier developers and operators of high quality vacation interval ownership resorts. For more information, please visit www.starwoodhotels.com.

About Ocean Properties, Ltd. Hotels and Resorts

With corporate headquarters in Delray Beach, Florida; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Montreal and Toronto, Canada; Ocean Properties, Ltd. Hotels & Resorts is one of the country's largest privately-owned franchisors of hotels and resorts. The company currently owns and operates properties throughout North America including franchised hotels such as: Marriott, Westin, Hilton, Sheraton, Holiday Inn, Courtyard by Marriott, Residence Inn by Marriott, Springhill Suites by Marriott, Days Inn, Fairfield Inn by Marriott, Holiday Inn Express and Ramada. For more information on Ocean Properties Ltd., please click to www.oplhotels.com.