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Tired of Meeting in Big Boxes? New Orleans French Quarter is the Solution

NEW ORLEANS, LA, December 2008 - Convention and meeting planners now have something unique to consider when planning an event in New Orleans - the *Vieux Carré Collection*. Wanting to give meeting planners the chance to provide a genuine French Quarter experience to attendees, four French Quarter properties have come together to offer a large combined group inventory of rooms, now known as the *Vieux Carré Collection*.

Together, the Astor Crowne Plaza, Hotel Monteleone, Omni Royal Orleans and Royal Sonesta hotels can accommodate groups up to 2000 rooms on peak night. The Collection provides a plethora of group concessions, convenient locations, and exemplary service.

Now, with the ease of one phone call, all the resources of four French Quarter hotels are at a client's disposal. In addition to complimentary roundtrip shuttle to and from the Convention Center on peak nights, the *Vieux Carré Collection* offers room blocks, comps & upgrades and value -added concessions such as roundtrip airport transfer, 2 welcome amenities per hotel property, \$100.00 flat fee -use of in-house television channel, and complimentary beverage service in each hotel on major arrival day.

Plus, your attendees get to enjoy the best "Only in New Orleans" perks such as:

- Breathtaking architecture – experience a European flavored destination without leaving the USA.
- Delicious dining – legendary restaurants such as Galatoire's, Arnaud's, Brennan's and Antoine's are steps from the Vieux Carre Collection hotels.
- Exuberant nightlife – featuring live music of all kinds- from Jazz, to Irish or contemporary classics!
- Unique tours – parade from one venue to the next lead by a marching jazz band.
- Shopping galore – take a leisurely stroll down Royal Street and enjoy the galleries, jewelry stores, antique shops filled with treasures spanning the centuries and cultures, or trendy clothing boutiques – all nestled in cozy storefronts.

For information on taking advantage of the Vieux Carré Collection, meeting planners can go to <http://www.vieuxcarrecollection.com> and request a proposal or call.

Vieux Carré Collection Hotels

Astor Crowne Plaza

Featuring 693 newly, renovated guestrooms and suites, the Astor Crowne Plaza is located at the Gateway to the French Quarter where Canal Street meets Bourbon Street. The hotel has just completed an \$11M renovation that has touched every aspect of the Astor. The excitement of the French Quarter awaits you right outside our door. Throughout the property a true sense of modern New Orleans can be seen regarding its spacious design and custom made furnishings. Hotel amenities include special Executive Level services, 24-hour room service, a rooftop pool with a newly expanded fitness room, and Dickie Brennan's "Bourbon House Restaurant." For more information, call (504) 962-0500, or visit the hotel's website at www.astorneworleans.com.

Hotel Monteleone

Since 1886, the Hotel Monteleone has proudly stood as one of the first landmarks in the French Quarter. The Quarter's largest full-service hotel, features 600 luxurious guestrooms and suites, a rooftop pool and fitness room, Spa Aria, and the world-famous Carousel Bar. One of only 3 literary landmark hotels in the United States, the Monteleone was frequented by and immortalized in the works Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams and William Faulkner, among others. Hotel Monteleone is within walking-distance of some of New Orleans most famous attractions and is conveniently located 11 miles from the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The AAA Four Diamond award-winner has also won *Successful Meetings Magazine's* Pinnacle Award 21 times. For more information, call (504) 523-3341, or visit the hotel's website at www.hotelmonteleone.com.

Omni Royal Orleans

The Omni Royal Orleans upholds a long tradition of luxury and sophistication in one of the world's most spirited cities. As previous host to Kings, Heads of State and Presidents, the hotel remains committed to the finest in traditional hotel services complemented by our warm Southern Hospitality. With the Triple AAA Four Diamond designation for over 20 consecutive years, the Omni Royal Orleans has also earned the Pinnacle Award for meeting services. The delightful Poolside Restaurant & Lounge located on the rooftop overlooks the spectacular view of the Mississippi River and skyline of the city, offering a sight to truly remember. The Rib Room restaurant, one of America's Top Restaurants as noted in the 2004 Zagat Survey, has won numerous awards nationally and cherished by locals daily for over 44 years. The Omni Royal Orleans has been ranked "Highest In Guest Satisfaction Among Upscale Hotel Chains" by J.D. Power and Associates for the second consecutive year. For more information, call (504) 529-5333, or visit the hotel's website at www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/NewOrleansRoyalOrleans.aspx.

Royal Sonesta

The 500-room Royal Sonesta is within steps of world-famous restaurants, antique shops, jazz clubs and premier tourist attractions. Its atmosphere reflects a strong European influence and Southern charm. An oasis from the hustle and bustle of Bourbon Street, the hotel surrounds a tropical courtyard, just off an elegant marble lobby. The guestrooms offer views of the beautifully landscaped pool, secluded patios or French Quarter life. The Royal Sonesta features a concierge floor with 30 recently renovated rooms and a private lounge for R Club guests with views overlooking the French Quarter. In addition to comfortable guest rooms, the Sonesta has

35 suites-some with balcony views, others with French doors opening onto private courtyards-all with VIP attention to Guest Services. The Royal Sonesta Presidential Suite on the 7th Floor was just renovated along with the R Club Floor Concierge Rooms, and is truly one of the nicest suites in the City. With an architectural style that includes 4 and 7 story floors-all around open courtyards-the Royal Sonesta is a true French Quarter experience. For more information, call 504-586-0300 or visit their website at www.sonesta.com.

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