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**Travel + Leisure Magazine names
The Umstead Hotel and Spa World's Best**

Cary, North Carolina, December 31, 2009 – The Umstead Hotel and Spa has been named one of Travel + Leisure magazine's Top 500 Hotels in the World for 2010. The Umstead is one of only ten newcomers to this esteemed list. This is a particularly notable honor, as the Cary hotel opened just three years ago, in January, 2007. In this short period, the hotel has also achieved both the AAA Five Diamond and the Forbes Five Star distinctions. The T+L Best Hotels list will debut in the January issue of Travel + Leisure, as well as online. (www.travelandleisure.com/tl500)

“It is a great achievement to be recognized by the experienced and knowledgeable readers of Travel + Leisure Magazine,” says General Manager Jim Beley. “It is validating to know that our guests view The Umstead Hotel in high regard and only strengthens our vision of providing outstanding guest service and memorable travel experiences.”

T+L 500 List (www.travelandleisure.com/tl500) Based on readers' ratings, the 2010 T+L 500 is a guide to the top places to stay in six continents. The complete 2010 T+L 500 guide is based on 2009 World's Best Awards readers' survey results. As part of the survey, T+L readers rated hotels on several characteristics including rooms/facilities, location, service, restaurants/food, and value.

The Umstead Hotel and Spa (www.theumstead.com) is nestled against a beautiful three-acre lake, steps away from walking and jogging trails as well as The Umstead State Park. The 150 oversized guest rooms include luxurious furnishings and signature amenities. Adjacent to the hotel, the plush Umstead Spa features the finest treatment rooms, a meditation courtyard and more. The celebrated food and wine program and cuisine of new Executive Chef Scott Crawford are featured in the signature restaurant, Herons, and throughout the hotel. The independently owned and operated Umstead Hotel and Spa is North Carolina's first full service hotel to receive AAA's coveted Five-Diamond Award and is a Forbes Five-Star rated property, a member of Leading Hotels of the World and Leading Spas of the World. For reservations and information, call toll-free at 1-866-877-4141.

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