



STARR PASS
RESORT & SPA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Susanna Minegishi

McFadden/Gavender

O: 520-882-6262 M: 520-444-9223

susanna@mcfaddengavender.com

Karen Gavender

McFadden/Gavender

O: 520-882-6262 M: 520-603-4200

karen@mcfaddengavender.com

Amazing Achievement for Starr Pass GM

*JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa General Manager Recognized with
Prestigious 2008 General Manager of the Year Award*

Tucson, AZ (6/16/09) – Since opening in 2005, JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa has set a standard of hospitality excellence, not only Southern Arizona, but throughout the world. This excellence is a direct tribute to the vision, guidance and direction of General Manager Alex Ahluwalia. This year, JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa is proud to announce Ahluwalia as Marriott International's 2008 General Manager of the Year for North American Lodging Operations.



**Alex Ahluwalia, General
Manager**

The General Manager of the Year award is one of Marriott International's most prestigious awards. It is given to those General Managers who inspire, guide and produce results in every resort area, from financial performance to guest satisfaction.

Under Ahluwalia's guidance, JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa has received numerous accolades, from national travel publications, event and meetings magazines, event planners and guests alike.

Since joining JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa in 2007, he has not only grown Starr Pass' market share and positioning to the highest in the resort's history, but has also positioned Starr Pass as one of the world's finest meetings and vacation destinations.

The results of a recent Guest Satisfaction Survey showed Starr Pass ranked #1 in the Western Region for Overall Satisfaction. To supplement this finding, Starr Pass also ranked as the #1 JW brand resort in Overall Event Satisfaction in an Event Satisfaction Survey. The resort is also listed as the #5 Marriott hotel in the world in Overall Event Satisfaction.

In addition to his incredible business skills, Ahluwalia is a strong believer in supporting the community where we live, work and play. The Starr Pass team has helped and donated time to several community organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Tucson Community Food Bank, Tucson Clean and Beautiful, University of Arizona School of Natural Resources, Jobs for Life, Children's Miracle Network, Special Olympics, United Blood Services and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, among others.

Prior to joining the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa team, Ahluwalia served as general manager of the JW Marriott Fiji Resort & Spa at Momi Bay, where he was responsible for the opening and operation of the 320-room resort, destination spa, PGA-spec golf facilities and seven restaurants and bars.

Ahluwalia is extremely committed to furthering JW Marriott Hotels & Resort's mission and philosophy. For more information on JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa, please visit www.jwmarriottstarrpass.com.

About JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa

Having been named to *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Hotels Top 500 List two years running (2008, 2009), Starr Pass draws on the beauty of its mountainous location. The resort incorporates the natural desert as its landscape design theme. With 575 spacious guestrooms, 88,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, five restaurants, a 20,000 sq. ft. spa, four separate pools, a lazy river and water slide, the Audubon Certified Arnold Palmer Signature golf facility consisting of 27 holes and practice facilities, and 888 underground and covered parking spaces, the resort boasts of being not only the largest resort in southern Arizona but also the only true eco-resort in Tucson. This eco theme extends to its Primo restaurant that serves only organic and jet fresh fish, its Hashani Spa, which uses natural desert plant oils and its direct access to the Tucson Mountain Park for fabulous hiking and mountain biking trails. To quote Bill Marriott, "you can build all types of amenities but it would be impossible to duplicate what Starr Pass has, the Tucson Mountain Park." The JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa is located at 3800 W. Starr Pass and can be reached directly by calling (520) 792-3500. Please visit www.jwmarriottstarrpass.com.

###



JW MARRIOTT.
HOTELS & RESORTS