

Sofitel Palais Jamaï Chosen as “Best Hotel in Africa” by the Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*

New York (October 17, 2006) – The votes are in and the luxurious Sofitel Palais Jamaï in Fez, Morocco has been chosen by the discerning readers of ***Condé Nast Traveler*** magazine as the “**Best Hotel in Africa.**” The news was announced at an award ceremony in New York on October 16th, where President and CEO for Accor North America, George LeMener, accepted the award on behalf of Sofitel, the prestige brand of Accor hotels.

“This is a truly an exciting honor. We are thrilled that the readers have given the Sofitel Palais Jamaï such high praise, and we hope that even more people will now discover this enchanting hotel,” said Mr. LeMener.

The Sofitel Palais Jamaï is one of the most lavish hotels in all of Sofitel’s diverse collection. Originally built in 1859 as the palace of the Grand Vizir of Sultan Moulay el-Hassan, the hotel is perched above Fez’s famous Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its grand Moorish architecture and exquisite Moroccan-tiled interiors are stunning reminders of the palace’s royal past. Most guestrooms offer a balcony or terrace to admire the sweeping views of the Medina and Andalusian gardens.

The 142-room hotel offers several restaurants, ranging from Moroccan to Mediterranean cuisine, as well as a heated outdoor pool, piano bar, clay tennis court, fitness center and meeting space.

For information or reservations at a Sofitel Hotel, please visit www.sofitel.com or call 800-SOFITEL (763-4835) if calling from the US.

PALAIS JAMAÏ...

142 rooms including 1 duplex and 18 suites: 1 Royal suite, 1 Grand Vizir suite, 4 Old Palace suites and 12 Ambassador suites. The majority have a balcony or terrace and offer a view over the medina, the gardens or the ramparts.

2 gastronomic restaurants

Al Fassia: the riches and subtleties of Moroccan cuisine served in a room of the old palace

Al Joumania: a high point of international gastronomy

1 restaurant-buffet

L’Oliveraie: Mediterranean flavors and meat grilled over a wood fire on the terrace overlooking the gardens and swimming pool.

1 piano-bar

Al Mandar: an intimate atmosphere in which to relax, listen to music or on the panoramic terrace, simply to dream...

4,306 square feet of meeting spaces composed of a plenary room and four rooms equipped for meetings and conferences.

The Spa: a restful and serene space offering traditional treatments, relaxing and soothing treatments, tonic and energising treatments, hammam, beauty care and hairdressing.

An outside **swimming pool** heated in winter
An illuminated clay **tennis court**
A **fitness room**

... CULTURAL RICHES, CURIOSITIES AND LEISURE

Fez is Morocco's fourth largest city and also one of its cultural capitals. At the end of May and beginning of June each year, the city puts on the **World Sacred Music Festival**. Concerts, sound and light shows animate the town, but also other places like the archaeological site of **Volubilis**. At all times of the year, travelers can visit the medina of Fez, the imperial city of **Meknes**, the **Moulay Yacoub thermal springs**. Palais Jamaï also proposes **dinner under the Caidal tent**, with typical local gastronomy and folklore, attending a **concert by an Andalou orchestra** and for sports enthusiasts, **horse-riding** in the vicinity of Palais Jamaï and **golf** on a green that stretches across the slopes of an ancient olive orchard, offering players an unforgettable view of the peaks of the Middle Atlas.

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About the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Survey:

Condé Nast Traveler has conducted its annual Readers' Choice Survey since 1988. For the survey, readers fill out questionnaires containing lists of candidates for several categories, including hotels. They then evaluate the hotels (which are subdivided by geography) based on a list of criteria chosen by the magazine and give a numerical score for each criteria, with 100 being the highest score possible. The hotel with the highest numerical score is deemed the winner.

Sofitel: 200 premium hotels around the world

Because no one country or city is the same, Sofitel has made each of its 200 hotels around the world a truly unique establishment. Combining the spirit of each place with the values of modernity, refinement and absolute comfort, they are all imbued in their inimitable way with the French art of stylish living.

Whether their setting is a great business metropolis like Paris, New York or Tokyo, or nestling in the landscape in Indonesia, Polynesia or Brazil, each Sofitel hotel offers travelers a genuine haven of peace. So that each guest, for an overnight stay or longer, during a business trip or for a holiday, can enjoy the rich variety of these unique places in comfort and tranquility.

Accor, European leader in hotels and tourism, global leader in corporate services, operates in nearly 100 countries with 160,000 employees. It offers to its individual and corporate clients nearly 40 years of expertise in its two core businesses:

- **Hotels**, with its brands, **Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Suitehotel, Ibis, Red Roof Inn, Etap Hotel, Formule 1** and **Motel 6** representing over 4,000 hotels and 475,000 rooms in 90 countries, along with its complementary activities, notably **Lenôtre**.
- **Services to companies and municipalities**: 21 million people in 35 countries benefit from the services of **Accor Services** (restaurant and food vouchers and cards, home services and assistance, incentives, loyalty programs).

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