

- Press Release -

## ***LeSpa at Sofitel Debuts in South America*** ***Sofitel Santa Clara is Home to Colombia's Newest Upscale Spa Facility, a Lavish Relaxation and Rejuvenation Heaven***

**Paris, December 21, 2006** – Sofitel, the prestige brand of Accor hotels, announces the opening of “**LeSpa at Sofitel**” at the Sofitel Santa Clara in Cartagena, Colombia, the brand’s first spa in South America.

Developed by Sofitel and designed and constructed by Arias, Serna y Saravia S.A., one of Colombia’s most respected architectural firms, **LeSpa at Sofitel** consists of 8,600 square feet of space, featuring a total of eight treatment rooms. There are five luxurious spa cabins, two spa suites and one double spa suite, plus a modern fitness club featuring the latest cardio-vascular equipment, a hammam, Jacuzzi, dressing rooms with individual lockers, a Spa boutique, a tea room and a relaxation terrace facing the Caribbean Sea.

The *LeSpa at Sofitel* experience is custom-designed to engage all the senses, with its relaxing and rejuvenating menu of signature treatments, progressive spa amenities, and unparalleled level of service. Traditional, relaxing, stimulating and invigorating treatments have been carefully designed to bring back natural balance to mind and body.

**LeSpa at Sofitel** will feature products by **Décleor** and **Carita**, both highly respected French cosmetics companies offering all-natural formulas and the finest essential oils. In addition, South American beauty products such as **Amazon Secrets**, rain forest-based products developed under strict sustainable development guidelines, and **Loto**, Colombian spa products, will also be used.

Following their treatments, guests can retreat to Café de Claustro brasserie to enjoy a healthy meal prepared by Executive Chef Simón Karl Bühler, who developed a gourmet menu focusing on natural ingredients and low-fat products.

“**LeSpa at Sofitel**” at the Sofitel Santa Clara will operate Monday to Friday, from 8 AM to 9 PM and on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, from 8 AM to 8 PM.

The fitness club will operate from 6 AM to 9 PM, Monday through Friday and from 6 AM to 8 PM on Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays.

### **About the Sofitel Santa Clara**

Located in the historic heart of Cartagena de Indias, a city declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1984, the hotel, formerly a 17th-century Clarissas monastery, overlooks the Caribbean Sea. Built in both Colonial and Republican architectural styles, the Sofitel Santa Clara features 119 rooms, which includes 17 suites, one Junior Suite and one Presidential Suite. All rooms are tastefully appointed in Colombian furniture, have a view of the old city, the Caribbean Sea or over beautiful interior courtyards.

The chapel of the monastery has been transformed into the Santa Clara meeting room. There are also five smaller rooms for intimate meetings, a business center, two restaurants, one bar and lounge, 24-hour room service, laundry and concierge services.

-----

### **Sofitel's Spa offerings worldwide**

In the same way that each Sofitel hotel must be rooted in a history, a region or a city, each spa must be unique, with its own personality.

Thus, the brand today has **40 spas** throughout the world, **40 exclusive establishments** which are far removed from any notion of standardization: **Sofitel Imperial Mauritius, Sofitel Marrakech, Sofitel Los Angeles, Sofitel Santa Clara...**

Each of these establishments is inspired by the history of its site and its environment, a blend of authenticity and tradition associated with today's trends and needs.

**Sofitel thus wanted to have a specific concept and its own signature for its spa offerings: *LeSpa at Sofitel.***

*LeSpa at Sofitel* draws its richness from difference by offering unique Spas distinguished by the architecture and culture of each country, exclusive treatments inspired by local methods, specific protocols designed for each Spa, etc.

From the authenticity of the Orient to the Zen art of Asia, the modernity of North America or the exoticism of the Indian Ocean, Sofitel features as many worlds as it does Spas.

Sofitel's spa offerings are always evolving, with a desire to anticipate needs and to offer atmospheres which blend traditional rituals with today's trends. The quest for something new and for original sensations is the very essence of the Spa.

-----

### **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 de vivre".*

*Whether their setting is a great business metropolis like Paris, New York or Bangkok, 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 the **Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Suitehotel, Ibis, Red Roof Inn, Etap Hotel, Formule 1 and Motel 6 brands**: over 4,000 hotels and 475,000 rooms in 90 countries, as well as strategically related activities, such as **Lenôtre**, ambassador of the gastronomy 'à la française' worldwide;
- **Services to corporate clients and public institutions**: 21 million people in 35 countries benefit from **Accor Services** products – meal and food vouchers, people care, incentive and loyalty programs.

### **Media Local Contacts:**

- - -

### **Corporate Contacts:**

Anouck Weiss / Rodolphe Moulin-Chabrot  
Sofitel Hotels International Communication Department  
Tel: + 33 (0)1 45 38 19 11  
Anouck.weiss@accor.com / Rodolphe.moulin-chabrot@accor.com