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North Texas Elite Travel Destinations 'Topped Off' With Hilton Bella Harbor in Rockwall

One-of-a-kind lakeside resort in Texas celebrates topping-off construction

(ROCKWALL, Texas) – Someone may not consider rural Texas as a true travel destination, but that is changing in Rockwall, Texas as the awaited 231-room, 25,000 square-foot resort-style hotel, **Hilton Bella Harbor**, directs elite travelers to the sunny shores of Lake Ray Hubbard, only 22 miles east of downtown Dallas. This upper-upscale, full-service destination, opening Valentine's Day Weekend in 2008, has been under construction since October 2006 and on **July 18**, celebrates its 'topping off'.

"Hilton Bella Harbor will become the central focal point of a new destination resting along the shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard," said General Manager of Hilton Bella Harbor, **Andy Papoutsis**. "From breathtaking views to full-service spa treatments, outdoor recreation with water sports to fine dining in our signature eatery *Mistra*, we hope to create a new standard in Texas hospitality."

The landmark development will be the focus of a masterplanned 31-acre waterfront retail project created by **Whittle Development** and managed by **Gateway Hospitality Group**. Amenities and surrounding features will include:

- Captivating waterfront views in most of the 231 rooms
- Conference center with 16 meeting rooms including a 1,200-person capacity ballroom
- Natural beauty (manicured lakefront landscaping), state-of-the-art technology (mp3 docking stations, plasma HDTVs in every room) and world-class hospitality
- Wireless, high-speed Internet throughout the hotel
- Specialty eatery, *Mistra*, featuring cuisine from throughout the Mediterranean region
- Full-service spa designed for holistic rest and relaxation
- Golf privileges at Buffalo Creek Course
- Exotic wine selections in the rotunda "Bar C&B Scene" and 2nd-story, outdoor terrace Outsln

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- Sculpted fountains, boardwalks and other water features surrounding the lake
- Anticipated opening of Blue Canyon Steaks, Seafood and Wine Bar, home of “Creative American Cuisine” and Celebrity Executive Chef Brandt Evans
- Noted restaurants and eateries including Cold Stone Creamery, Dodie’s Seafood, Gloria’s and Ruby Tuesday
- A state-of-the-art Cinemark 12 theatre
- Parking spaces for boats and cruisers of all sizes

“This project has been a labor of love to make tourism, travel and leisure a reality in Rockwall,” said **Rob Whittle**, president of Whittle Development. “My wife Sara and I have always loved the water and the view found in Rockwall, and now we hope to bring that lifestyle to many families for rest and relaxation.”

Hilton Bella Harbor has invited many notable business owners, general managers, regional political representatives and top-tier travel writers to capture and understand the views and luxury that awaits travelers to North Texas. The hotel is located at **2055 Summer Lee Drive at The Harbor** directly off the shore of Lake Ray Hubbard in Rockwall.

About Hilton Hotels

Hilton Hotels has been and continues to be a pioneering innovator in the full-service hospitality segment, operating under the belief that Travel is more than just A to B... Travel Should Take You Places®. With a name that is synonymous with excellence in hospitality and respected throughout the world, Hilton celebrates the accomplishment, enlightenment, renewal and celebration that travel enables. This commitment to personal guest achievement influences all decisions about products, programs and amenities, and is underscored by the belief that travel can and should be transformative. For more information, please visit our website at www.hilton.com and to learn more about our innovations for your own personal journey, please www.hiltonjourneys.com.

About Gateway Hospitality Group

Gateway Hospitality Group actively promotes and provides a core principle of familiarity and friendship for all of its guests as witnessed across the country. Gateway Hospitality Group, the hospitality company for Hilton Bella Harbor on Lake Ray Hubbard, is the hospitality management company for Hilton properties through the United States, including Indiana, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and across North Texas. Gateway has recently taken charge of the birthplace of ‘creative American cuisine’ with Blue Canyon Steaks, Seafood and Wine Bar, with locations in Missoula and Kalispell, Montana, Twinsburg, Ohio and opening soon at Hilton Bella Harbor in Rockwall, Texas. For more information about Gateway Hospitality Group, visit online at www.ghghotels.net.

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