

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU FIJI ISLANDS RESORT & POST RANCH INN TOP TRIPADVISOR'S WORLD'S MOST ECO-FRIENDLY LIST

**SAN FRANCISCO, May 3, 2007** – Sister properties **Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort** and **Post Ranch Inn**, two world-renowned luxury destinations managed by Passport Resorts LLC, are pleased to announce their efforts in environmentally conscious tourism received top spots on **TripAdvisor's "Top 10 Environmentally-Friendly Accommodations"** list. Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort was number one on the list, and Post Ranch Inn was number three. TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel community with more than 5 million unbiased reviews and opinions, covering 250,000+ hotels and attractions, announced results of its eco-tourism survey recently, as well as its list of the most green resorts and hotels.

Under the management of Passport Resorts, both Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort and Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur, Calif., offer a luxurious and environmentally responsible experience. Passport, alongside its resorts, established an ethic: "To take as little from the environment as possible, to give back as much as we can, and to respect others with whom we share this place." This mission has since defined both resorts' efforts in conservation, stewardship, community assistance and sharing the unique experience with guests.

TripAdvisor's top 10 list recognizes the resorts' commitment to the environment and to guests who come from around the world to share in an extraordinary place. "This honor affirms that an environmentally conscious focus, a luxurious guest experience, award-winning cuisine, service and accommodations are not mutually exclusive," said Michael Freed, co-owner of Passport Resorts LLC. "Doing right by the environment does not mean sacrificing quality, as guests of either property would confirm. We are excited to help redefine tourism for today's more discriminating world traveler. We thank TripAdvisor for its support and recognition of environmentally friendly tourism around the world."

Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort balances its dedication to the Fijian environment and culture with luxury and pampering. Conservation and preservation of the natural surroundings are integrated into every aspect of the resort's philosophy and operations. From the use of solar energy, Fiji's first water reclamation plant, eco-sensitive design and landscaping, to composting, organic gardens and community programs, the resort immerses its visitors into an environmentally responsible experience. The resort offers an unprecedented array of eco-activities, many led by the resident Marine Biologist or award-winning Cultural Host. As its name suggests, the resort features one of the top dive operations in Fiji, one dedicated to preserving the delicate reefs.

Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort is located on the island of Vanua Levu on a former 17-acre coconut plantation overlooking the pristine waters of Savusavu Bay. Accommodations are 24 Fijian-style, thatched-roof oceanfront or garden view bures scattered among elegant palm trees, as well as the 2,000-square-foot Villa, considered the most luxurious accommodation in Fiji.

Post Ranch Inn, since its inception 15 years ago, has continued to garner praise from industry critics and travelers alike. It was the first resort to be built in the Big Sur area in two decades and the only resort to meet the stringent environmental standards of the Big Sur Land Use Plan. Today it is known for its organic style and for using natural materials of glass, wood and

stone when possible. Guest rooms blend into the landscape, and the intent behind the stilted tree houses was to protect the fragile root balls of the nearby redwood trees. The hotel also created the first commercial gray water system approved in California.

Guests benefit from local culture. Reflecting the history of the past, the guest rooms are all named after Big Sur pioneers. Ten new rooms will be added summer of 2007 and they will be named after women of the Big Sur area. Bill Post, whose family owned the land on which Post Ranch Inn is built, is active at the resort and hosts several times a week a breakfast to engage guests on the history of the area. In addition, the community benefits. Land was made available for a firehouse for the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade and a local ambulance company. Rare, threatened and endangered species have been identified and are protected at Post Ranch Inn, including the Smith's Blue Butterfly and California Red Legged Frog. The landscape is filled with native and drought-tolerant plants tended with organic fertilizers.

#### **About Passport Resorts**

The Passport Resorts LLC U.S. office is located at 921 Front Street, San Francisco. The award-winning company is recognized as providing a soulful resort experience. Resorts include: Jean Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort, Fiji; Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, California; Hotel Hāna-Maui and Honua Spa, Hāna, Maui; Sea Ranch Lodge, Sea Ranch, California; and the new Cavallo Point, the Lodge at the Golden Gate, located in Sausalito, California, with scheduled opening early summer 2008.

#### **About Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort**

Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Resort, often recognized as one of the top resorts in Fiji, is managed by Passport Resorts, renowned in the hospitality industry for its collection of internationally acclaimed, small, luxury destinations that are operated in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The resort has received several major honors: it was ranked one of the top five resorts in the Pacific Rim and received the highest ranking of any Fiji property by the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards. The resort also received the #1 ranking in the world in Condé Nast Traveler's Green List and was named "Fiji's Leading Resort" by the World Travel Awards. For information, contact the resort at 800-246-3454, via email at [info@fijiresort.com](mailto:info@fijiresort.com) or online at [www.fijiresort.com](http://www.fijiresort.com).

#### **About Post Ranch Inn**

Post Ranch Inn, nestled on the cliffs of Big Sur, California, provides the ultimate in romantic getaway. It is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels and Resorts. In 2007 the resort was named #2 Spa in the U.S. by Condé Nast Traveler Readers' poll, scoring 100 in several categories. In February 2007, Travel + Leisure magazine rated Post Ranch Inn #1 in California for its annual "T +L Top 500 in the World." It also appeared on the front cover of the magazine for the second time in 15 years. Annually, it is consistently rated on Condé Nast Traveler Gold List 700 Best Hotels in the World. In 2006, Condé Nast Johansens named it "Most Excellent Inn – USA." The resort continues to be in the top 10 hotels and resorts recognized by Andrew Harper's acclaimed Hideaway Resort list. It is also one of the few resorts recognized as being #1 twice for US Resort Hotel and US Resort Hideaway. In 2006 Sierra Mar Restaurant ranked #1 Best Hotel Restaurant in California by USA Today. Additional information can be found at [www.postranchinn.com](http://www.postranchinn.com) or by calling (800) 527-2200.

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