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*Savannah's Ballastone Inn Awarded Four Diamonds Ninth Year Running
Historic Bed-and-Breakfast Inn Maintains Excellence in Service and Attention to Detail*

SAVANNAH, Ga. (May 7, 2006) – The Ballastone Inn, Savannah's premier bed-and-breakfast inn, has once again been singled out to receive the coveted and prestigious AAA Four-Diamond award. Earning the 2006 award is truly a remarkable accomplishment, as it marks the ninth consecutive year this top-performing historic inn has made the cut for the enviable four diamond rating. Unfaltering service, elegant décor and luxurious amenities such as Gilchrist & Soames English Spa Collection and softly-scented Egyptian 400-thread count linens are just a few of the details that attribute to the consistency of such high ratings. The landmark inn, owned by Jim and Jennifer Salandi since 2002, is an enduring symbol of grace, serenity, and grandeur and has received accolades from happy guests, including many celebrities.

The Ballastone Inn has consistently been ranked by many in the news media as the finest inn in Savannah, and has been voted "Most Romantic Inn" by Savannah Magazine and a 2006 "Top 10 Most Romantic" by Coastal Living Magazine. Actor Paul Newman called it "A delightful slice of the Old South" and Frances Schultz of "Southern Living Presents," declared "The Ballastone Inn serves hospitality on a silver platter, literally!" The Salandis attribute its success to the deep commitment of its staff to give guests the best of the best that a luxury inn has to offer.

In order to receive this incredible achievement of being designated a Four-Diamond rating the property must be, according to AAA standards, “upscale in all areas.” Additionally, AAA states, “Accommodations are progressively more refined and stylish. The physical attributes reflect an obvious enhanced level of quality throughout. The fundamental hallmarks at this level include an extensive array of amenities combined with a high degree of hospitality, service, and attention to detail.”

Built in 1838, this sumptuous Historic District inn occupies a four-story Italianate mansion that once served as a Prohibition Era speakeasy in Savannah, Georgia. Named in historical recognition of the King Cotton-era ship’s ballast stones (balancing stones), which were discharged on the Savannah River docks from international ports, the landmark Inn was fully restored in 1979. Today the elegance and opulence of the Golden Era and the best of legendary southern etiquette are featured at the Ballastone – Savannah’s distinguished first luxury bed & breakfast small hotel featuring 16 private guestrooms and suites. The Inn’s “Table for Two”^(SM) privacy, elevator, handsome Victorian hotel bar, and 24/7 concierge services differentiate the luxury bed and breakfast mansion in the hub of the landmark Savannah Historic District. On the National Register as a city historic site, the Ballastone, in addition to its designation as a AAA 4-Diamond-rated property, is a 2005 Andrew Harper’s Hideaway Grand Award Winner, is recommended by Condé Nast Johansens, Fodor’s, and Frommer’s. For additional information or reservations, contact the Ballastone Inn toll-free at (800) 822-4553 or visit the property’s website at www.ballastone.com.

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