

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWO DUCK PROPERTIES RECEIVE 2012 AAA FOUR DIAMOND  
DISTINCTION**

**CHARLOTTE (Jan. 23, 2012)** - AAA will present two Duck properties with the prestigious AAA Four Diamond award at a ceremony in Durham tonight. Those properties, with the number of years they have won, are: the **Sanderling Resort and Spa** (first year) and **The Left Bank** (8 years).

In total, AAA Carolinas will honor 14 accommodations and eight restaurants in eastern and central North Carolina for superior quality and service tonight. This year three new properties have achieved the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Rating: The King's Daughter Inn in Durham, the Renaissance Raleigh North Hills Hotel in Raleigh and The Sanderling Resort and Spa in Duck.

AAA Four Diamond awards, given out in three separate ceremonies around the state, continue tonight with an awards ceremony for central and eastern North Carolina at the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club in Durham, NC. A total of 14 restaurants and 34 accommodations throughout the entire state have achieved this rating for a combined total of 461 years of service.

Central and eastern North Carolina Four Diamond accommodation winners receiving their awards tonight, listed with number of years won, include: the **Carolina Inn** (15 years), the **Siena Hotel** (16 years) in Chapel Hill, **The King's Daughters Inn** (first

year), the **Arrowhead Inn Bed and Breakfast** (9 years) and the **Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club** (12 years) in Durham, the **Renaissance Raleigh North Hills Hotel** (first year) in Raleigh, the **Proximity Hotel** (4 years), the **O. Henry Hotel** (13 years) and **The Grandover Resort and Conference Center** (13 years) in Greensboro, the **Graystone Inn** (13 years) and **The Verandas** (10 years) in Wilmington, and **The Holly Inn** (10 years) and **The Carolina Hotel** (30 years) in Pinehurst.

Central and eastern North Carolina Four Diamond restaurants receiving their awards tonight, listed with number of years won, include: **Il Palio Ristorante** (22 years) and **Carolina Crossroads** (10 years) in Chapel Hill, **Second Empire Restaurant & Tavern** (8 years) in Raleigh, **The Fairview Dining Room** (20 years) and **Four Square Restaurant** (11 years) in Durham, **1895 Grille** (11 years) in Pinehurst, and **Chef and The Farmer** (2 years) in Kinston.

“AAA’s requirements for a Four Diamond rating are rigorous, and those that win it are among the best hotels and restaurants in the world,” said Dave Parsons, president and CEO of AAA Carolinas. “Only 3.5 percent of the more than 58,000 annual inspections conducted nationally result in a Four Diamond rating.”

AAA gives the Four Diamond awards annually to qualified hotels and restaurants in North America. More than 2,000 properties nationally earn the Four Diamond ratings after specially trained evaluators conduct anonymous overnight stays or dine incognito. Lodgings include eight different classifications, such as bed and breakfast, hotel, cottage and country inn with four sub-classifications such as historic, classic, resort and casino.

Restaurants have varying cuisines and ambiances. Each restaurant and lodging that receives any level of diamond rating from AAA is listed in AAA’s TourBooks that are distributed free to any of the organization’s 53 million members nationwide.

Western North Carolina awards were distributed on January 16th and Charlotte area recipients will be honored on January 27th.

AAA Carolinas, an affiliate of the American Automobile Association, is a not-for-profit organization that serves more than 1.8 million members with travel, automobile and insurance services while being an advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

Media invited: please contact Tom Crosby or Janean Flowe at 704-569-7733.

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