



GERMAIN GROUP ACQUIRES AUBERGE HATLEY

Montreal, November 12, 2002. “We have always loved Auberge Hatley and are very proud to count it among our hotels,” enthused Germain Group president Christiane Germain in confirming that the Group had acquired famous Auberge Hatley in the Eastern Townships village of North Hatley.

“Innkeeper Robert Gagnon, chef Alain Labrie, and the entire Auberge team will remain with the Germain Group,” added Ms Germain. “They’re the soul—and the pride—of the inn.” In fact, the Gagnons have so much faith in the Germain Group’s flair and expertise for continuing the development of Auberge Hatley that they have retained a financial interest. The Germain Group will continue to offer the same level of service and guest care to the inn’s regular customers as well as to the guests of its own hotels, who may be less familiar with the charm and extraordinary quality that once again this year have earned the inn the coveted CAA/AAA Five Diamond rating. Only 0.05% of the 41,000 establishments listed in the CAA/AAA directory have been awarded this distinction.

Under proprietor Robert Gagnon, Auberge Hatley was welcomed into the prestigious international Relais & Châteaux chain in 1985. Today, Mr. Gagnon is the chain’s international vice president. He and his team of enthusiasts earned the added “Relais Gourmand” distinction in 2000 for the excellence of their restaurant fare, and have won an outstanding Five Star rating from Hébergement Québec as well as numerous “Table d’or” awards over the years. The hotel’s “Relais Gourmand” restaurant also has many other awards to its credit, including from Société des alcools du Québec, the Québec Grand Prix of Tourism, and leading restaurant associations in Canada and abroad.

“Auberge Hatley is truly unique,” stated Christiane Germain. “It stands for the ultimate in quality and refinement, both for its lodgings and the gourmet dining so appreciated by connoisseurs. Auberge Hatley is a shining star among Québec resorts.”

Chef Alain Labrie has concocted an innovative and original menu featuring local produce and a wealth of fine herbs that lend his cuisine that flavor that attracts such acclaim. Auberge Hatley’s impressive wine cellar counts over 1,200 labels and has won the Wine Spectator’s coveted “Best of Award of Excellence” designation. A new tasting room is available for all manner of wine-related events.



Nestled on the shores of Lac Massawipi, North Hatley is a gateway to Quebec for American tourists. The Auberge's setting, facilities, and reputation for excellence are all incredible assets for the Germain Group. Located 90 minutes from Montreal, Auberge Hatley offers 25 uniquely appointed rooms in the heart of a picture-perfect English village full of boutiques and antique shops. The area's microclimate offers the best of all four seasons and is ideal for enjoying the region's many attractions, including outdoor activities like fishing and skiing, the International Naive Art Competition, or simply the gorgeous sunsets over Lac Massawipi.

The Germain Group is owned by Quebec City's Germain family. It owns and operates three internationally reputed boutique hotels in Quebec City and Montreal. A new Germain hotel will open its doors in Toronto's arts and entertainment district in February 2003. The Germain Group's motto is ongoing improvement.

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