

Hotel Orrington

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**VA-VA-VOOM!
AFTER \$30 MILLION 'EXTREME MAKEOVER,'
THE CROWN JEWEL OF EVANSTON SHINES LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

Hotel Orrington's 10-Month Renovation Mixes Classic Elegance with Technology

EVANSTON, Ill. (September 2004) -- Its renaissance complete, the new Hotel Orrington reopened on October 29, 2004, after completion of a \$30 million renovation that began in January 2004. Once again the jewel of Evanston, the hotel has undergone a dramatic facelift that has combined the property's classic, timeless charm with modern elegance and upscale amenities perfect for business travelers, meeting attendees, weekend guests and social clientele.

The renovated property contributes up to \$2.6 million to local coffers through room occupancy, liquor, parking and sales taxes as well as license and permit fees.

"Restoring the Orrington to its previous glory was truly been a labor of love," said Russ Abell, general manager of the Hotel Orrington. "Throughout the entire planning and construction, the planners were very careful to respect the hotel's heritage and its reputation in the community. The new Orrington is everything our guests expect and more -- it's elegant, upscale and comfortable, all at the same time. In addition to ensuring it's the best location on the North Shore for a dream wedding or premier social event, we also have created the technologically superior property that today's road warriors require."

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Hotel Orrington Completes \$30 Million Extreme Makeover/Add One

Renovation of the 81-year-old property included:

- ◆ refurbishment of the Grand and Heritage Ballrooms and adjoining pre-function space;
- ◆ restoration of the original Grand Ballroom marble staircase, long a fixture for weddings and social events;
- ◆ complete refurbishment of all 269 guest rooms, including five elegantly-appointed junior suites, in addition to the spectacular Chancellor and Dean suites;
- ◆ introduction of the vibrant, upscale lobby bar *Indigo* -- ideal for socializing after work, relaxing to the live band or just "being seen;"
- ◆ creation of the *Globe Café & Bar*, the property's three-meal, 125-seat restaurant offering continental American cuisine with a European flair;
- ◆ reconfiguration of the front lobby and front desk, and
- ◆ creation of a new 12,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art conference center on the 9th floor, which adheres to the standards of the International Association of Conference Centers (IACC).

“The addition of the Conference Center on the expanded ninth floor repositions the Hotel Orrington to compete directly with other conference center hotels,” Abell said. “Because IACC requires conference space to be used exclusively for meetings, we will have the ability to hold conferences on the ninth floor and separately host social events on the second floor.”

The prestigious Hotel Orrington has been considered the premier locale for upscale parties, bar and bat mitzvahs and glamorous weddings since its opening in 1923. Located in the heart of Evanston, Ill., at 1710 Orrington Avenue, the Hotel Orrington is within walking distance of 186 specialty shops, 72 restaurants, the Northwestern University campus, and beautiful Lake Michigan, and is just 15 minutes from O'Hare International Airport.

Room reservations and event bookings are available via the hotel's web site www.hotelorrington.com or by calling 847/866-8700.

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