

**GRAVES 601 HOTEL MINNEAPOLIS HAS ‘BLING BLING’;
AWARDED EIGHT DIAMONDS FROM AAA**

*The Only Four-Diamond Rated Hotel/Restaurant Complex in Minnesota;
Cosmos is the State’s Only Four-Diamond Restaurant*

MINNEAPOLIS – Nov. 14, 2005 – Graves Hotels Resorts, a Minneapolis-based hotel ownership, development and management company, today announced that its flagship hotel, the Graves 601 Hotel Minneapolis, has been awarded two AAA Four Diamond ratings: one for its luxury hotel’s world-class service, extensive array of amenities and refined surrounding, and the other for the distinctive fine-dining experience offered at Cosmos restaurant. According to AAA Minneapolis, this is the only establishment in Minnesota to be awarded a Four-Diamond rating for both its hotel and restaurant. Cosmo is the only Four-Diamond restaurant in the entire state.

“Earning two separate Four-Diamond awards at one property is extremely rare,” said Benjamin Graves, president of Graves Hotels Resorts and managing director of the Graves 601 Hotel Minneapolis. “In fact, our research indicates that only about 3 percent of all AAA-approved hotels (32,000 in North America and the Caribbean) and restaurants (23,000) earn a Four-Diamond rating. We’re extremely proud to be counted among such an elite group, and know that we are on target with our mission of providing sophisticated modern luxury to both our overnight guests and those enjoying the fine dining experience offered at Cosmos.”

About the AAA Rating System

To be considered for approval and rating by AAA, hotels and restaurants must first apply for an evaluation to determine if they meet the 27 basic lodging requirements or 12 basic restaurant requirements expected by AAA's 48 million members.

If the application is approved by AAA, one of the organization’s 65 full-time, highly trained, professional evaluators visits the establishment. All evaluations are unannounced to ensure that the experience will be similar to what AAA members will encounter.

After a thorough inspection is conducted, an establishment that meets AAA member requirements will become AAA Approved – indicating its proven ability to provide a quality experience for members.

AAA describes Four Diamond hotels as upscale in all areas. 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.

Restaurants earning a Four Diamond rating are described by AAA as those best suited for individuals in search of a distinctive fine-dining experience. Orchestrated by an executive chef and an accomplished staff, menus reflect a high degree of creativity and complexity, using imaginative presentations to enhance high quality, market-fresh ingredients. The equally proficient service staff demonstrates a strong desire to meet or exceed guest expectations. A wine steward is typically available to provide menu-specific knowledge. The ambiance is highly refined, comfortable and well-coordinated, incorporating quality materials and a variety of upscale design enhancements to give a first-class impression.

About the Graves 601 Hotel Minneapolis

Conveniently located at 601 First Ave. N. in the heart of downtown Minneapolis' business, entertainment, shopping and theater districts, the Graves 601 Hotel Minneapolis is the perfect choice for business or leisure travel.

The guestrooms at the 21-story, 255-room luxury hotel feature exclusive bedding, including a top-of-the-line, pillow-top mattress atop a modern, wooden bed frame; crisp, 350-count 100-percent Egyptian cotton Frette duvets and linens; and a choice of feather or anti-allergic pillows.

In-room technology enhancements include a T1 high-speed Internet connection; a wall-mounted, 42-inch plasma screen TV; a DVD/CD player; and a wireless digital keyboard for accessing a library of movies and music, checking e-mail and viewing hotel information (including online billing).

Guestroom bathrooms feature wall-mounted plasma TVs, contemporary vessel sinks, and an ultimate "power shower" experience featuring rain showers, shower towers incorporating five body jets, or whirlpools with integrated freestanding showers.

Global cuisine is served in the award-winning, 80-seat Cosmos restaurant or through room service at any time of the day or night. The hotel's wine list has repeatedly earned awards from prestigious magazines such as *Wine Spectator*. Executive chef Seth Bixby Daugherty, selected in 2005 by *Food & Wine* magazine as one of the top 10 new chefs in North America, offers a continually changing seasonal menu, featuring fresh hand-picked ingredients.

The Infinity Room is the hotel's street-level bar and lounge, which is tucked discreetly inside the hotel and offers a special VIP area.

The hotel also features more than 13,000 square feet of meeting space equipped with wireless, high-speed Internet access, video conferencing and other sophisticated

telecommunications technology. The award-winning foodservice staff offers custom menus and service for intimate groups of eight up to functions for 1,500 people. A business center is available with computers, printers, fax machines, a copier and printing services. All public areas of the hotel offer wireless Internet connectivity.

All guests have access to a wealth of amenities, such as around-the-clock concierge service, 24-hour room service, safe-deposit boxes, laundry service, and spa treatments. High-level security enhances the guest experience through private guest room elevator banks with key-only access.

This flagship hotel has earned Graves Hotels Resorts many awards, including one of the World's Best Business Hotels by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine, Best Roll Out Concept Hotel by *Hospitality Design*, the Gold List Reserve of Top Hotels in the World by *Condé Nast Traveler*, and three Gold Key awards from *Interior Design* and *Hospitality Design*.

For more information or to make reservations at the Graves 601 Hotel Minneapolis, visit online at www.graves601hotel.com, or call toll free at 1-866-523-1100 in the U.S. and Canada.

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About Graves Hotels Resorts

Founded in 1979 as a real estate development and management company, Graves Hotels Resort is focused on cultivating niche markets of development in upscale urban core and leisure destination markets. In 2003, the company opened its flagship, sophisticated modern luxury hotel the Graves 601 Hotel Minneapolis. Development plan call for the addition of five Graves-branded hotels in Chicago, New York City, Coronado, Calif. (2) and Costa Rica. Visit online at www.graves601hotel.com for more information.

About AAA

Since 1902, the **American Automobile Association** (an association of independent clubs) is a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying organization with more than 48 million members. AAA is well respected for its credibility and integrity. Known primarily for providing emergency road service, maps and travel publications, AAA also has a broad range of travel services, member-benefit programs and public service activities. The organization has been in the forefront of the movement for adequate roads and safe use of those roads. It has fought for equitable taxation and stood constant watch over the rights and prerogatives of America's travelers. For more information, visit online at www.aaa.com (national), www.aaaminnesota-iowa.com (Minnesota and Iowa residents), or www.aaaminneapolis.com (Minneapolis residents).

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Note to Editors: High-resolution interior and exterior images of the hotel are available upon request.

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