

For release after May 1, 2007



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**SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS RELEASES 2007 LIST OF BEST  
HOTELS, CONFERENCE CENTERS, CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS AND NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICES  
AS SELECTED BY MEETING PLANNERS NATIONWIDE**

*MAY, 2007...NEW YORK, NY- R. David Thomas Executive Conference Center, Duke University, Durham, NC* has been named one of the best conference centers and will receive the prestigious 2007 *Successful Meetings Pinnacle Award*—the mark of excellence for meeting destinations. These organizations that have done an outstanding job servicing their meetings, incentive travel programs, trade shows and conventions during the previous year.

2007 marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> year the Pinnacle Awards have recognized Hotels, the 17<sup>th</sup> year Pinnacle has included the efforts of CVBs and NTOs and the 11<sup>th</sup> year of Conference Center Awards. The Pinnacle Award earned a reputation as the most credible and prestigious symbol of excellence among meeting planners and hoteliers alike. "With all of the hospitality choices that meeting and event planners have these days, any property that wins a Pinnacle Award is obviously in the highest tier of quality in the hospitality field," said Robert Carey, *Successful Meetings'* Editorial Director. "And the best part is that it is planners themselves who are making this distinction, thus giving a credible stamp of approval that others can use when deciding where to host a meeting, incentive, convention, or trade show."

The new Pinnacle format, started last year, now accepts reader reviews, going beyond voting to gather meaningful peer reviews which will be published in August's Pinnacle Registry in print and online at [www.mimegasite.com/pinnaclewinners](http://www.mimegasite.com/pinnaclewinners). Readers of *Successful Meetings* magazine -- corporate and association executives with meeting planning responsibilities -- registered to become Pinnacle Reviewers via online ballots and gave feedback based on professional experiences worldwide. Reviews are based on a scale of 1-10 (10 being best) across four categories.

The four categories for hotels and conference centers:

- Accommodations
- Amenities
- Meeting Facilities and Services
- Food & Beverage

And four unique categories for CVBs and NTOs:

- Area Group Amenities
- Quality/Availability, Information
- Quality/Variety, Services & Facilities
- Service/Responsiveness of Staff

The Pinnacle Awards recognize reader/planner selections of the leading meeting destination venues and support organizations across the United States and internationally.

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All winners will be listed in *Successful Meetings'* annual Pinnacle Registry, published in August. The award-winning *Successful Meetings* magazine has long been respected for industry innovation and authoritative discussion of meeting, special event, incentive, convention and trade show planning and execution. With the largest industry audience, *Successful Meetings* reaches corporate/sales/marketing executives who plan meetings meeting professionals and event planners, trade show directors, and association executives who are involved with planning conventions and meetings. For more information on *Successful Meetings*, please visit [www.mimegasite.com](http://www.mimegasite.com) *Successful Meetings* is owned by Nielsen Business Media, a division of The Nielsen Company.

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Serving seven major market groups, and 30 industries, spanning the entertainment, media and marketing, retail, travel and performance, design, and life sciences industries, Nielsen Business Media provides business-to-business products and services in print, online and in person.

With 42 publications, over 135 trade shows and conferences, and 185 digital products and services, Nielsen Business Media offers insight, analysis and face-to-face contacts to help professionals better understand their markets, serve their customers and grow their businesses.

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