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## **Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero WINS IHG® 2015 TORCHBEARER AWARD**

ATLANTA (Sep. 30, 2015) – The **Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero** has done it again with receiving the IHG® (InterContinental Hotels Group) 2015 Torchbearer Award, the company's most prestigious award, for a second time.

The Torchbearer Award was presented to Managing Partner, Amar Sohi, during the 2015 IHG Americas Owners Conference in San Francisco, Calif., Sep. 30 – Oct. 2, 2015, held at Moscone West Convention Center.

The **Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero** is one of only 24 properties chosen from the IHG system of more than 2,300 hotels to receive the Torchbearer award within its Brand in the Americas (Canada, USA, Latin America). Torchbearer awarded properties account for the top 1% of hotels that achieve the highest levels of excellence in all aspects of operation -- from quality and product to customer satisfaction. A 2015 Torchbearer trophy, the company's symbol of top excellence, will be on permanent display at the hotel. Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero was the first hotel in San Luis Obispo County to earn this recognition in 2011. With this second award, Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero continues to be the only hotel in San Luis Obispo County to ever earn this recognition.

"It is my pleasure to name the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero** as a 2015 Torchbearer winner," said Elie W. Maalouf, Chief Executive Officer - the Americas, IHG. "This hotel embodies the heart of our brand promise and continues to make IHG properties known and admired throughout the world, fulfilling our mission to deliver on great brands and outstanding guest experiences."

"We are honored to receive the coveted Torchbearer Award" said Amar Sohi, Managing Partner. "Our goal from the beginning was to be one of the best hotels in the country, and I am proud to see we achieved it not once, but a second time. Our team's dedication to providing the best service experience for our guests truly shows throughout each department of the hotel. Each department head has been on our team for several years and we have continued to grow together. It is truly a team effort. We are all extremely proud."

Owned by H & S Hospitality of San Luis Obispo, the company is also excited about its most recent project: 2,000 sq ft of meeting and event space, and a 3,000 sq ft bar and restaurant which is currently being developed next door to the Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero. The restaurant, slated to feature a full bar and wood-fired oven for flat bread pizzas; and event space are expected to be open in May 2016.

Prior to winning the Torchbearer Award 2015, Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero earned Torchbearer 2011 which marked the first win of this caliber for a hotel in San Luis Obispo County. Additionally, the hotel has continued to receive recognition as achieving the Highest Overall Guest Satisfaction in this Region each year since 2009. The region spans Central and Southern California from Paso Robles to Ontario and east to Bakersfield.

The 80-room hotel opened its doors in July 2008, and is located in the heart of California's Central Coast wine country. Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero offers guests upscale ambiance, customized service, brand consistency and a perfect location to explore the best of the region.

To be eligible for evaluation, hotels must meet basic requirements for cleanliness, comfort, service and safety. Hotel properties must pass multiple inspections during unannounced evaluations and consistently meet a minimum overall guest satisfaction score which is determined by reviews from actual hotel guests. In addition, hotels must ensure each department of the hotel adheres to optimal performance. Over 1,500 franchise owners, operators and company officials attended the 2015 IHG Americas Conference.

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**Notes to Editors:**

*IHG® (InterContinental Hotels Group) [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)] is a global organization with a broad portfolio of hotel brands, including InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts, Kimpton® Hotels & Restaurants, HUALUXE® Hotels and Resorts, Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Indigo®, EVEN™ Hotels, Holiday Inn® Hotels & Resorts, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites® and Candlewood Suites®.*

*IHG franchises, leases, manages or owns more than 4,900 hotels and 724,000 guest rooms in nearly 100 countries, with almost 1,300 hotels in its development pipeline. IHG also manages IHG® Rewards Club, the world's first and largest hotel loyalty programme with more than 88 million members worldwide.*

*InterContinental Hotels Group PLC is the Group's holding company and is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. More than 350,000 people work across IHG's hotels and corporate offices globally.*

*Visit [www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com) for hotel information and reservations and [www.ihgrewardsclub.com](http://www.ihgrewardsclub.com) for more on IHG Rewards Club. For our latest news, visit: [www.ihg.com/media](http://www.ihg.com/media) and follow us on social media at: [www.twitter.com/ihg](http://www.twitter.com/ihg), [www.facebook.com/ihg](http://www.facebook.com/ihg) and [www.youtube.com/ihgplc](http://www.youtube.com/ihgplc).*

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**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES OF ATASCADERO  
WINS IHG 2011 TORCHBEARER AWARD**

ATLANTA (Nov. 9, 2011) – The Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero received the IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) 2011 Torchbearer Award, the company's most prestigious award.

The esteemed Torchbearer Award was presented to Amar Sohi, General Manager/Co-Owner and Jessica Foote-Sohi, Director of Sales & Marketing during the 2011 IHG Americas Investors & Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, Oct. 24–26, 2011.

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero is one of only 24 properties selected from nearly 2,000 hotels to receive the Torchbearer award within its Brand in the Americas (Canada, USA, Latin America). Torchbearer awarded properties account for the top 1% of hotels that achieve the highest levels of excellence in all aspects of operation -- from quality and product to customer satisfaction. A 2011 Torchbearer trophy, the company's symbol of excellence, will be on permanent display at the hotel. Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero is the first hotel in San Luis Obispo County to earn this recognition.

“We are honored to receive the coveted Torchbearer Award” said Amar Sohi, Managing Partner. “Our goal from the beginning was to be one of the best hotels in the country, and I am proud to see we achieved it. Our staff’s dedication to providing the best service experience to our guests truly shows throughout each department of the hotel. We are all extremely proud.”

"It is my pleasure to name the Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero one of the finest hotels in our industry," said Kirk Kinsell, President, the Americas, IHG. "This hotel embodies the spirit, product and service that continue to make IHG properties known and admired throughout the world, continuing our mission to deliver Great Hotels Guests Love."

Prior to winning the Torchbearer Award, Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero earned previous recognition for achieving the Highest Overall Guest Satisfaction in Region 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. The region spans Central and Southern California from Paso Robles to Ontario and east to Bakersfield.

The 80-room hotel opened its doors in July 2008, and is located in the heart of California’s Central Coast wine country. Holiday Inn Express & Suites of Atascadero offers guests boutique ambiance, customized service, brand consistency and a perfect location to explore the best of the region. Owned by H & S

Hospitality of San Luis Obispo, the hotel is also affiliated with local businesses Holland & Knapp Construction; Holland Realty; the Holland Ranch event/wedding venue; and the former owner of the Super 8 Motel on Monterey Street. These businesses, all of San Luis Obispo County, show the same dedication to excellence in their particular trades. The Hotel's Managing Partner, Amar Sohi is the former owner/operator of Sandy's Liquor & Deli in San Luis Obispo. A graduate of San Luis Obispo High School, he honed his hospitality background at some of San Francisco's premiere hotels before returning for this endeavor in 2008.

To be eligible for evaluation, hotels must meet basic requirements for cleanliness, comfort, service and safety. Hotel properties must pass multiple inspections during unannounced evaluations and consistently meet a minimum overall guest satisfaction score which is determined by reviews from actual hotel guests. In addition, hotels must ensure each department of the hotel adheres to optimal performance. Over 6,100 franchise owners, operators and company officials attended the 2011 IHG Americas Investors & Leadership Conference.

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*IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)] is a global company operating seven hotel brands including InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Indigo®, Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts, Holiday Inn® Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites® and Candlewood Suites®. IHG also manages Priority Club® Rewards, the world's first and largest hotel loyalty programme with almost 60 million members worldwide.*

*IHG is the world's largest hotel group by number of rooms and franchises, leases, manages or owns over 4,400 hotels and more than 656,000 guest rooms in 100 countries and territories, and has more than 1,100 hotels in its development pipeline.*

*IHG expects to recruit around 160,000 people worldwide over the next few years and is committed to gender balance throughout its business. We aspire to continue retaining a minimum of 25% female representation on the Board.*

*InterContinental Hotels Group PLC is the Group's holding company and is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales.*

*Visit [www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com) for hotel information and reservations and [www.priorityclub.com](http://www.priorityclub.com) for more on Priority Club Rewards. For our latest news, visit [www.ihg.com/media](http://www.ihg.com/media), [www.twitter.com/ihgplc](http://www.twitter.com/ihgplc) or [www.youtube.com/ihgplc](http://www.youtube.com/ihgplc).*