



## **IFA HOTELS & RESORTS ANNOUNCE FAIRMONT HOTELS & RESORTS AS NEWLY APPOINTED OPERATORS FOR ZIMBALI LODGE**

*Fairmont Zimbali Lodge Joins Fairmont's Africa Collection*

**02 June 2008**

**Multiple award-winning hotel – the 76-bedroom Fairmont Zimbali Lodge - has joined the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts portfolio with effect from 01 June 2008.**

The Lodge is situated within Zimbali Coastal Resort along the magnificent Dolphin Coast of South Africa's Kwa Zulu Natal province, and is hailed as the undisputed "jewel in the crown" of the east coast of Africa. Zimbali Coastal Resort is a spectacularly beautiful destination and an example of the most environmentally sensitive residential and resort development in South Africa.

IFA Hotels & Resorts (IFA HR) is a global hotel, resort and real estate development company listed on the Kuwait and Johannesburg stock exchanges. IFA HR is committed to its investments in Southern Africa and Phil de Sylva, IFA HR Vice President – Operations (Africa and Indian Ocean), said "Our new Fairmont Zimbali Hotel & Resort is scheduled to open next year, and due to synergies in its operation, we have decided to appoint Fairmont to operate our existing Zimbali Lodge property as well to enable a single operator for our assets within Zimbali. It was a difficult decision made much harder by the current professional operation of the hotel by Sun International, however having both properties managed by the same operator is an important milestone in our long term investment into the area".

Zimbali Lodge's luxury accommodation is complemented by the exquisite experience of gourmet cuisine and award-winning wines, as well as by a spa and top class wedding and conference facilities able to cater for up to 90 guests.

Situated on a hillside, the lodge is designed in a distinctly Asian/Balinese style with an African interpretation. Rich earthy tones have been used in the décor evoking the lush natural influences that surround the lodge. Each room features its own balcony views across the golf course and beautiful coastal forest and waterways. It offers the ultimate in South African hospitality and is a haven of natural elegance with luxury accommodation, excellent service and superior facilities. Guests can also enjoy the signature infinity edge hotel pool.

The Zimbali Country Club provides an additional restaurant opportunity and the beach café is situated at the spectacular valley of the pools. Myriad activities are available, including playing the Tom Weiskopf-designed 18-hole championship golf course, soon to be joined by a second Gary Player signature Zimbali golf course, beach and forest walks, tennis and horseback riding.

Bernard Forster, IFA HR Vice President Asset Management (Africa & Indian Ocean) says "Fairmont's entry into the South African hospitality sector is in line with IFA HR's belief in Kwazulu-Natal's significant tourism potential which will be boosted by direct Durban-Dubai Emirates flights at the end of the year as well as the new King Shaka International airport expected to be in operation in 2010. This augurs well for the general development of tourism in the region."

**For further information contact:**

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