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HAWKEYE HOTELS MAKES A SPLASH IN ST. LOUIS WITH THE DEBUT OF THE LE MÉRIDIEN DOWNTOWN

Le Méridien St. Louis Downtown Brings the Glamour of Travel to the Gateway City with May 5 Grand Opening, featuring Mayor Tishuara Jones

St. Louis - Paris-based <u>Le Méridien Hotels & Resorts</u>, part of Marriott International, along with Hawkeye Hotels, is excited to announce the grand opening of *Le Méridien St. Louis Downtown*. Press is invited to attend our ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Tishuara Jones at 3 pm on May 5.

This 96-room hotel reflects the city's French heritage and offers stunning views of St. Louis' magnificent architecture: the famous Gateway Arch, the Civil Courts Building, St. Louis City Hall, and more. Built in 1913, this hotel is one of the city's oldest landmarks; it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The former *Hotel Majestic* was converted to showcase *Le Méridien's* mid-century design. With a nostalgic nod to the elegance of the 1960s French Riviera, *Le Méridien* inspires travelers to explore the world in style, savor the good life and enjoy experiences that offer something more than meets the eye. Once known as the "Paris of the West," St. Louis has a rich French heritage and is an ideal location to appreciate the allure of the Côte d'Azur.

Located at 1019 Pine Street, guests are steps away from must-see attractions including the Dome at America's Center, America's Center Convention Complex, Busch Stadium, Gateway Arch National Park, Citygarden Sculpture Park, City Museum, and Stifel Theater. Additionally, the St. Louis Cardinals and the St. Louis Blues, two successful major-league sports teams, attract millions of visitors to the city each year. The city is home to a vibrant performing arts community: the Fabulous Fox Theater, for instance, features a number of Broadway shows each year. "To watch the deep history of this hotel and the French heritage of St. Louis come to life through an unprecedented rehabilitation has been truly special," said Om Patel, VP of Development for Hawkeye Hotels. "It has been important to our team to honor the hotel's unique history while also incorporating the mid-century modern design that is signature to Le Méridien. We can't wait for guests to experience that combination of modernized amenities with timeless elegance."

The hotel's façade elegantly blends traditional elements with a modern flair, while the interior features a combination of custom designs with vintage details. The guest rooms are outfitted with Le Méridien's signature bed, HD Samsung SmartTVs, illy espresso machines, Mondaine work spaces and lightning-fast Wi-Fi. Guests also will enjoy a revamped, state-of-the-art 24/7 fitness center.

Inside the hotel, *Prime 55 Restaurant & Lounge* is a fine dining restaurant and bar that blends traditional American cuisine with both French Creole and Cajun influences. The full-service restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and - at all times - for room service. *Le Scoop by Le Méridien,* featuring locally-sourced gelato, will also be available. This is the second location of *Prime 55 Restaurant & Lounge*.

To meet the needs of business travelers and small groups, the hotel also provides 1,210 square feet of meeting and event space, equipped with Samsung SmartBoard technology. The Majestic Room accommodates around 100 guests and can be converted into two separate event spaces.

Hawkeye Hotels, one of the nation's largest privately owned hotel companies, will operate the hotel.

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About Hawkeye Hotels

Founded in 1982 with one roadside hotel in Mena, Arkansas, Hawkeye Hotels has become one of the fastest-growing hospitality companies in the United States. Today, the firm owns and operates over 60 hotels across the country, with additional properties under development. Hawkeye Hotels employs over 1,000 staff across its portfolio of hotels and corporate offices. The firm maintains lasting affiliations with leading brands, including Marriott, Hilton and InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG).