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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION®

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**YEAR 2017** 

## Chic, Sophisticated Meetings and Social Events Wrapped in Culinary Splendor at Epicurean Hotel

TAMPA, Fla. – Devoted to providing exceptional culinary experiences, the Epicurean Hotel dazzles and delights meeting and social guests in a chic and sophisticated setting in South Tampa's vibrant SoHo district. From intimate meeting rooms and a private theatre, to an elegant ballroom and second-floor outdoor terrace, the culinary-focused boutique hotel offers unique event and meeting options within its more than 5,200 square feet of adaptable indoor and outdoor function space. A collaborative creation of the legendary Bern's Steak House and Mainsail Lodging & Development Group, the Epicurean is the first newly constructed property in the United States to join the prestigious Autograph Collection® of Marriott International, Inc. (NYSE: MAR). In addition to extraordinary meetings and events, the Epicurean serves guests a feast of nearly 200 personalized services and special amenities, including cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, and classic bicycles to explore the historic and trendy neighborhood. The hotel is also the site of Spa Evangeline, Chocolate Pi and Bern's Fine Wines & Spirits retail outlet.

Divisible by two (Classé A & B), the **Grand Cru Ballroom** provides more than **1,800 square feet** of space to accommodate up to 200 guests for a reception. Adorned in warm natural colors, the ballroom's contemporary design features a simplistic décor, setting off stunning cascading glass chandeliers as a focal point.

Functioning as a state-of-the-art culinary classroom, the meticulously designed **Epicurean Theatre** offers 1,000 square feet of space to accommodate up to 40 guests in an amphitheater setting. The Viking-equipped theatre is ideal for creative presentations and unique team-building experiences, such as the art of wine making, private cooking classes, iron chef competitions and more.

In addition to the captivating indoor meeting space, the hotel's second-floor **outdoor Garden Terrace** accommodates up to 300 for private events and functions. This lushly landscaped pool deck area is a perfect option for a sidebar meeting, networking and gatherings of all kinds.

Led by nationally recognized and award-winning Executive Chef Chad Johnson, the banquet services at the Epicurean are guaranteed to indulge every guest's appetite for the finest of culinary experiences. Featuring only the freshest ingredients, menu items will change to offer seasonal specialties. Private dining experiences for parties of up to 20 are available in the **Meritage Room** located in the hotel's signature restaurant, Élevage, and Bern's Fine Wines & Spirits will also

accommodate group functions for up to 30. In addition, guests are able to savor the sweet delights in the in-house pâtisserie, Chocolate Pi. After hours, guests gather inside at The Lobby Bar at Élevage or head rooftop to EDGE Social Drinkery for signature, hand-crafted cocktails, light bites and to enjoy a sophisticated, upbeat vibe under the night sky.

The Epicurean offers the latest technology to assist meeting planners and their guests, including built-in projectors and screens in the Grand Cru Ballroom and high definition monitors in the Epicurean Theatre, while complimentary high-speed wireless internet is available in guest rooms, meeting rooms, the lobby and other public areas.

Meeting or social guests in search of additional activities can choose from a number of intriguing options, including charter fishing, an Epicurean Bike Scavenger Hunt through historic Hyde Park, on-site cocktail mixology classes, an afternoon of culinary-inspired treatments at the spa and more.

For more information on meetings and social events at the Epicurean Hotel, please visit EpicureanHotel.com or call (813) 999-8702.

## **About Mainsail Lodging & Development LLC**

Mainsail Lodging & Development is a Tampa-based hospitality company that develops and operates lodging products in the Southeastern US and the Caribbean. Their properties include Scrub Island Resort, Spa & Marina (ScrubIsland.com), a private island resort in the British Virgin Islands and member of Autograph Collection® of Marriott International; Mainsail Beach Inn (MainsailBeachInn.com), a boutique beachfront hotel on Anna Maria Island, Florida; and the boutique food-focused Epicurean Hotel (EpicureanHotel.com) in Tampa, Florida. The company also operates corporate housing throughout the Southeast, exclusively managing the Florida market for Oakwood Worldwide® under both its ExecuStay® (ExecuStay.com) and Oakwood® (Oakwood.com) brands, while also operating ExecuStay in Georgia, portions of Alabama, and The Carolinas. Mainsail is developing their fourth hotel, Waterline Marina Resort & Beach Club on Anna Maria Island, Florida, which is under construction and slated to open Fall 2017. Two additional Florida hotels are planned for 2018 and 2019, respectively – Fenway Hotel in Dunedin and Luminary Hotel & Co. in Fort Myers. Just north of Tampa in Pasco County, Mainsail Lodging is also developing a 128-room Residence Inn in conjunction with an indoor sports complex. Mainsail Lodging's corporate charity is Feeding Tampa Bay – the largest food rescue and distribution organization in the community. Mainsail actively supports the cause through a variety of employee and guest programs ranging from packing and sorting at the warehouse to annual events including Epic Chef Showdown.

## About Bern's Steak House

Internationally known for its vast wine collection, perfectly aged steaks and famous dessert room, Bern's Steak House offers a world-class, incomparable dining experience. When Bern Laxer opened in 1956, he envisioned Bern's as Art in Steaks. Today, son David Laxer and Chef de Cuisine Habteab Hamde continue Bern's tradition of excellence with a gastronomic adventure that includes prime dry-aged steaks cut-to-order, 21 choices of caviar, fresh seafood and vegetables in a setting like none other. Housing the World's largest wine collection of over 500,000 bottles, Bern's offers 7,000 selections to its guests. In

2016, Bern's won the Outstanding Wine Program Award from the James Beard Foundation. In 2014, Bern's was named an Outstanding Restaurant Semi-finalist, one of twenty in the country, and additionally, SideBern's, Bern's sister restaurant and its Executive Chef Chad Johnson, also of the Epicurean Hotel, were named a 2012 and 2014 Semifinalist for Best Chef: South. For more information on Bern's Steak House and its subsidiaries, visit BernsSteakHouse.com.

## **About Autograph Collection Hotels**

The Autograph Collection is an evolving ensemble of strikingly independent hotels. Exactly like nothing else, each destination has been selected for its quality, bold originality, rich character and uncommon details. From near to far, iconic to historic, the result is an array of properties that is nothing less than unique, nothing short of collectively exceptional. For more information and reservations please visit **www.autographhotels.com**, or explore our social media channels to learn more about championing the independent spirit.

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