

Auburn Opelika Marriott Named Hotel of the Year

The Auburn/Opelika area is on a winning streak. U.S. News & World Report named the area one of the 10 best locations to live in the country. Golf World readers named it the number one location for public golf in the country. Now Marriott International has named the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National as the #1 franchise Marriott hotel in North America. The Hotel of the Year Award is selected based on the hotel's guest satisfaction, market share, employee opinion surveys and financial performance.

"This honor is a tribute to the hard work of our associates every day," said Jay Prater, general manager of the Auburn/Opelika Marriott. *"They work hard every day to meet and exceed our guests' expectations and this award shows they are doing it consistently. Being named Hotel of the Year is quite an honor and would not be possible without their efforts and the dedication of our owners, the Retirement Systems of Alabama. From having a great hotel to the country's best golf and now an upscale residential option at National Village, RSA and Dr. David G. Bronner are committed to bringing the best of the best to this area, as these national recognitions demonstrate."*

In addition to Hotel of the Year, the Auburn/Opelika Marriott won the Most Improved Market Share Excellence Award and the Spirit to Serve Our Community Awards. The Market Share Excellence Award recognizes the improvements in 2008 over the previous year.