



Auburn hotel gets national honor

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AUBURN, AL (WSFA) - Marriott International has named the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National as the number one 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.

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.

The Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center is part the Resort Collection on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. In addition to the awards to the Auburn/Opelika Marriott, the Resort Collection also won several other awards, including Marriott General Manager of the Year (David Clark at the Grand Hotel) and Renaissance General Manager of the Year (Steve Miller at Ross Bridge).

"Collectively, the hotels and resorts on the RTJ Golf Trail won 11 major awards, which is unheard of in this industry," said Prater. The Golf Trail and its Resort Collection are owned by the Retirement Systems of Alabama.

Previously, U.S. News & World Report named the Auburn area one of the 10 best locations to live in the country, and Golf World readers named it the number one location for public golf in the country.

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