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Big or Small, InterContinental Tampa Sets The Bar For Events In The Area

Whether planning a wedding, anniversary celebration or a charity gala, finding the perfect space that provides just the right atmosphere and a touch of magic is easy in Tampa, Fla. A bastion of style and luxury, InterContinental Tampa, is the perfect host for any celebration no matter what the occasion. With 17,000 square feet of flexible space, the options are endless. Large affairs, smaller gatherings and everything in between will be accommodated with all the flair of style and class the InterContinental name is known for the world over.

Brides and grooms come to InterContinental Tampa to make their important day both memorable and special. Walking down an aisle strewn with silk and flowers amidst glittering chandeliers and adoring faces is every bride's dream. Up to 500 guests can crown the Bayshore Grand Ballroom in luxury, the perfect site for an affair to remember. Two towering and spacious atria also complement the ballroom as the perfect spot for pre-reception mingling with trendy cocktails and delicious delicacies underneath towering palm trees and lush foliage. With the guided expertise of on-site wedding coordinators and catering professionals, the Bayshore Grand Ballroom provides a lavish backdrop for imaginative and elegant decor. Whether it's transforming a ballroom into a winter wonderland of silver and gold, or an atrium into a midsummer's dream with exotic flowers and entertainment, no idea is unattainable. Wedding guests will feast on three course meals prepared by some of Tampa's finest chefs including artfully prepared hors' d'oeuvres, fresh gulf seafood and a towering cake confection.

Intimate weddings are also popular at InterContinental Tampa where attention to detail is not taken lightly. From vows exchanged in a softly candlelit room to the reception sparkling with fine crystal, the happy couple can revel with close family and friends in a setting that is all about them. Personal wedding favors such as engraved sterling silver frames or CD's of the couple's favorites songs complement a ceremony and reception that is low-key but still memorable in every way. Exquisite post-wedding gatherings are held in the Westshore Room, which can accommodate up to 75 guests in opulent style. For the more private bride and groom, the Hillsborough Room with space for 10 offers cozy dining and warm conversation, perfect for celebrating one of life's biggest moments.

Celebrating important milestones in life is an age-old passage that becomes even more significant with an event at InterContinental Tampa. Family and friends can enjoy themselves at Bar and Bat Mitzvahs as well as sweet sixteen's and anniversary celebrations in the city's best venue for celebrations. The InterContinental Tampa executive chef creates innovative menus to please all palates and event coordinators will work to bring the personality of each celebrated individual to life.

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Whether it's a casual birthday with a beach-theme complete with soft white sand and the sounds of steel drums, or a traditional Italian family feast with a string quartet background and jovial dancing for an important anniversary, the event planners of InterContinental Tampa strive to create the most authentic experience possible.

Charity galas also take on a whole new meaning when hosted at InterContinental Tampa. Innovative themes and spectacularly prepared meals will encourage guests to open their hearts and wallets all while enjoying themselves in the lap of luxury. Evenings shared with sports stars or Masquerade balls with dancing and dining are just the beginning to a night of entertainment and goodwill. With enough space for electric bands, a large dance floor and plenty of dining tables, InterContinental Tampa is the obvious choice for hosting charity galas, auctions and events.

As the celebrations come to an end, guests can look forward to retiring in the luxurious rooms and suites of InterContinental Tampa. Famously comfortable beds await visitors with feather-top mattresses and luxe linens in the midst of sleek décor that captures the blue and white coastal palette of the gulf coast, seamlessly integrated into an urban oasis.

Opened in August 2007, contemporary and comfortable InterContinental Tampa crowns the transformation of Tampa's Westshore business & shopping district conveniently located next to downtown Tampa and Tampa International Airport. Touting all of the amenities that the InterContinental name commands, the hotel offers complimentary wireless high-speed internet in guestrooms and public areas of the hotel, state-of-the-art fitness center, full-service concierge program, as well as rooftop pool with spectacular views of the bay and city. The ideal place for Tampa weddings and meetings, InterContinental Tampa offers 17,000 square feet of flexible meeting and events space. The hotel also offers dining at world-famous Shula's Steak House, gourmet Illy coffee products and "fare on the go" at Caffé and an extensive cocktail menu at Shula's No Name Lounge. Rooms and suites blend sophisticated urban ambiance with authentic local charm, featuring fresh decor, pillow top mattresses with luxurious linens, functional working areas, and flat-screen plasma TV's with jackpots for a variety of multi-media hook-ups.

For more information on the InterContinental Tampa, please call (866) 915-1558 or visit www.intercontampa.com.

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InterContinental Tampa Background:

The 323-room hotel is owned by an affiliate of Lowe Enterprises Investments and is managed by the wholly owned Lowe subsidiary Destination Hotels & Resorts.

InterContinental Hotels Group PLC (IHG) of the United Kingdom [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)] is the world's largest hotel group by number of rooms. IHG owns, manages, leases or franchises, through various subsidiaries, over 3,800 hotels and more than 563,000 guest rooms in nearly 100 countries and territories around the world. IHG owns a portfolio of well recognised and respected hotel brands including InterContinental[®] Hotels & Resorts, Crowne Plaza[®] Hotels & Resorts, Holiday Inn[®] Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Express[®], Staybridge Suites[®], Candlewood Suites[®] and Hotel Indigo[®], and also manages the world's largest hotel loyalty programme, Priority Club[®] Rewards with over 33 million members worldwide.

The company pioneered the travel industry's first collaborative response to environmental issues as founder of the International Hotels and Environment Initiative (IHEI). The IHEI formed the foundations of the Tourism Partnership launched by the International Business Leaders Forum in 2004, of which IHG is still a member today. The environment and local communities remain at the heart of IHG's global corporate responsibility focus.

IHG offers information and online reservations for all its hotel brands at www.ihg.com and information for the Priority Club Rewards programme at www.priorityclub.com.

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