



Media Contact:  
Jody Grimaldi  
Traffic PR & Marketing, Inc.  
630/470-0044  
[jody@trafficpr.net](mailto:jody@trafficpr.net)

*For Immediate Release*

## **SOMETHING GREEN: INTERCONTINENTAL O'HARE PROMOTING ECO-FRIENDLY WEDDING EXPERIENCE**

**ROSEMONT, IL** (February, 2010) – In its effort to be the most eco-friendly hotel in Chicagoland, the luxurious InterContinental Chicago O'Hare (ICO) is promoting new, green wedding initiatives and ideas designed to add environmentally mindfulness to the wedding experience.

Whether it's a large ceremony with hundreds of guests or a small, intimate occasion, the 18-month-old ICO, a finalist for *Illinois Meetings & Events* magazine's Readers' Choice Award for best hotel meeting and event space, is building on its reputation as a top suburban destination for beginning a lifetime of memories. The environmentally-friendly property is equally friendly to couples seeking the perfect location to celebrate their special day and night in the finest fashion possible.

"Our staff works very closely with brides to ensure the wedding of their dreams at a reasonable budget," says ICO Social Catering Director Mary Ann Kenmotsu, a subject matter expert. "With today's heavy emphasis on going green, we've discovered that offering an eco-friendly wedding is important to couples."

ICO's exclusive hotel and wedding green initiatives include:

- The utilization of 100% renewable energy credits from wind.
- Organic or sustainable food (seafood, free range chicken and pesticide free beef), wine and beer.
- Recycling of all materials used throughout banquet / wedding facility, including: newspapers, plastic bottles, metal cans, glass bottles, cardboard/paper, fluorescent lighting, all batteries, and kitchen oil and grease.
- A centralized location (minutes from airport and convenient to city) – so guests don't have to travel far; saving on green house emissions.
- Use of sustainable, recycled, organic and eco-friendly tabletop elements.
- An elastomeric cool roof coating to reflect heat and drought resistant plants and vegetation on a "green roof" portion.
- Environmentally-friendly, energy efficient lighting.
- New tree and vegetation landscaping surrounding the property.
- Energy Star Qualified commercial equipment throughout the hotel.

- Water conservation fixtures such as toilets, faucets and showerheads.
- The minimization of the use of disposable food service items (hot/cold cups, glasses, cutlery, plates).
- Environmentally-sensitive purchasing practiced by Executive Chef and staff.

Kenmotsu's additional ideas for green weddings:

- Organic favors or no favors, or a donation to an eco charity.
- Paperless, tree free or recycled invitations.
- Locally-sourced and/or organic flowers.
- Organic wedding attire (silk or hemp gown).
- Recycled rings.
- Digital photos vs. paper.
- "Eco-travel" honeymoons.

"Our goal is to make receptions less energy and resource-intensive," continues Kenmotsu. "We have the ability to customize and personalize weddings to satisfy nearly anything an environmentally-conscious couple desires."

With over 53,000 square-feet of flexible, state-of-the-art event space, including four grand ballrooms each able to accommodate up to 1,100 guests, ICO weddings are artfully presented under custom-designed rose sculptured lighting with the impeccable service and eye for detail that clearly define InterContinental. Guests have everything they need at their fingertips, including: 560 stylish guestrooms, world-class dining options with renowned restaurants McCormick & Schmick's and The Capital Grille on-site, a highly-acclaimed art gallery overseen by two full-time curators, and the Montrose Room, a live music venue that attracts top-tier Chicago bands. For more information, call 847-544-5300 or visit [www.icohare.com](http://www.icohare.com).

#### **About Portfolio Hotels And Resorts:**

Headquartered in Oak Brook, IL, Portfolio Hotels & Resorts is a hospitality management company that specializes in managing unique, boutique-style hotels, destination resorts and significant branded urban hotels in major domestic and destination markets. The company was established in 2005 by former Chicago-based Coastal Hotels founders Helmut Horn and Graham Hershman, industry veterans whose past experience includes development of the Hawthorne Suites brand, the Highlands Inn in Carmel, CA, and Cheeca Lodge in the Florida Keys. Their current portfolio of 24 branded and independent hotels includes the boutique Inns of Monterey properties in Monterey, CA; the Orchard Garden Hotel in San Francisco, the first newly constructed LEED-certified hotel in California; the upscale Harvest Inn in St. Helena in the Napa Valley, the 470 room Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg, IL, the 802 room Sheraton Gateway LAX, and the 560 room luxury InterContinental Chicago O'Hare. For more information about the company, visit [www.portfoliohotels.com](http://www.portfoliohotels.com).

###