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VILLA MARCO POLO INN AND HASTINGS HOUSE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL NOMINATED FOR PESTIGIOUS CONDÉ NAST AWARDS

January, 2008 - Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada:

British Columbia, Canada: On January 4th, Condé Nast Johansens Luxury Hotel Guide announced their nominations for the *2008 Awards for Excellence*. Victoria's Villa Marco Polo, and Salt Spring Island's Hastings House Country House Hotel have both received nominations for this prestigious award.

The Villa Marco Polo Inn was nominated for the Most Excellent Inn category. With six competing properties from the US, the Villa Marco Polo has the distinction of being the only Canadian property in the run for this award.

Hastings House Country House Hotel has been nominated for the Most Excellent Country House Hotel, along with just two other properties (both from the US).

The Condé Naste Johansens are an international luxury travel guide, representing some of the finest hotels in North America, South America, Central America, and the nearby islands. The nominations for the 25 different award categories were chosen from Condé Nast's *Recommended Hotels, Inns, Resorts & Spas – The Americas, Atlantic, Caribbean, Pacific*. A team of inspectors, as well as readers and hotel guests from 2007 were eligible to nominate the guide's 326 extraordinary properties for the award, with final nominations selected by the publication.

Lesley O'Malley-Keyes, VP & Publishing Director, The Americas (Condé Nast Publications Ltd.) says of the awards, "Condé Nast Johansens recommends only properties that meet our exemplary standards, so the nominees for the Excellence Awards represent the best of the best, the very finest hotels and resorts in the world".

The winners will be revealed later this month – we wish the best of luck to both properties.