



For immediate release

LE MONASTÈRE DES AUGUSTINES' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE GREEN KEY PROGRAM

Quebec City, February 7th, 2017 – Le Monastère des Augustines is pleased to announce that it has achieved a 5 Green Key rating through the Green Key Eco-Rating Program.

A 5 Green Key rating demonstrates that the Le Monastère exemplifies the highest standards of environmental and social responsibility throughout all areas of operations. The hotel employs cutting edge technologies, policies, and programs that set the international standard for sustainable hotel operations. The fact that this recognition comes at the beginning of 2017 is even more significant, because it has been proclaimed as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development by the United Nations.

As the third hotel establishment within the province of Quebec to receive the maximum amount of green keys, Le Monastère des Augustines stands out for its innovative practices rooted in over 375 years of history. Le Monastère focuses all of its material and human resources on preserving the Augustinian Sisters' precious heritage. In addition, through its social engagement program, Le Monastère reserves 8 rooms for caregivers to offer them respite on a daily basis. Furthermore, it has partnered with Laval University and other Quebec-based companies to develop varied global health pilot projects. Its commitment to the environment is manifested in part by its use of geothermal heating and air-conditioning systems, as well as its extended composting system for the majority of organic wastes.

“I have the privilege of taking care of sustainable development within our team, but these 5 green keys really celebrate the work of each of us, the 100 employees who make up this team”, says Geneviève LeBlanc, Partnerships and Sustainable Development Manager. “I want to thank each of my colleague. Their diligence towards implementing sustainability through varied gestures—whether big or small—is impactful. It is consistent with our social mission and truly embodies the values set out by the Augustinian Sisters.”

Starting in 2017, a Sustainable Development committee, made up of employees from all departments, is meeting periodically to ensure, maintain, develop, and find new ways to improve our sustainable practices. Part of its objective is to replace energy-consuming kitchen appliances, improve organic waste collection, and put in place a communication program to raise awareness on sustainability.

After a three-year long renovation and rehabilitation process of the building including three century-old vaults, over fifteen years of concept and brand development, Le Monastère des Augustines now welcomes customers from around the world. It offers its guests a unique experience in holistic health, along with a rare opportunity to connect directly with the Augustinian Sisters' remarkable heritage through its hotel, its museum, and its cultural and global health programming. In the last year only, Le Monastère went from employing about twenty people to

actively working with over 100 experts, employees, museum guides, as well as several collaborators.

About Le Monastère des Augustines

Le Monastère des Augustines occupies the ancient wings of the former Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery (1639), North America's first hospital north of Mexico. Situated in the heart of Old Quebec City, Le Monastère has been completely restored and renovated, and offers a unique experience along with several ways to connect with the Augustinian heritage, in a secular environment: experiential accommodation, a museum, archive centre, a program of activities around holistic health and culture, a restaurant, a boutique, specialized treatments and services and event rooms.

About Green Key

The Green Key Eco-Rating Program is the first of its kind to rank, certify and inspect hotels and resorts in North America based on their commitment to sustainable "green" operations. The program was originally developed for the Hotel Association of Canada by a leading environmental engineering firm. Designed specifically for hotel operations, the Green Key Eco-Rating Program is a comprehensive environmental self-assessment that will allow each participating property to benefit on several fronts – cost savings, increased bookings from environmentally conscious consumers and meeting planners and responsible corporate citizenry. Visit www.greenkeyglobal.com for more information.

— 30 —

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