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**AMERICAN EXPRESS PUBLISHING CORPORATION HOSTS
THE SEVENTH ANNUAL LUXURY SUMMIT AT THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
WESTLAKE VILLAGE IN NORTHERN LOS ANGELES FROM APRIL 13-15 2008**

**Diane Von Furstenberg, Bertrand Lavayssiere, Jane Kaczmarek, Donna Karan,
And Roustam Tariko Are Among This Year's Roster Of Speakers**

Westlake Village, CA, April 13, 2008 -- American Express Publishing Corporation, publisher of *Travel + Leisure*, *Departures*, *Food & Wine*, among other luxury lifestyle magazines and products, today kicks off its annual American Express Publishing Luxury Summit, a premier forum dedicated exclusively to the luxury industry, at the Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village in Northern Los Angeles. Top marketers from the world's leading purveyors of luxury goods and services are gathering at this seventh annual conference to analyze critical issues and trends, share best practices, and examine the evolving needs of the affluent consumer, as well as the effects of the current economic, social, and political climate on today's luxury companies.

"This year's Luxury Summit promises to inform, enrich, and empower the best minds and brightest practitioners in the luxury community," said Ed Kelly, president and ceo, American Express Publishing. "Given the unpredictability of the current economic climate and the decline in overall consumer confidence, it is a critical time for us to examine the key issues, trends, and innovations taking shape in this powerful economic sector. Holding this year's Summit at the Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, renowned for its innovative longevity spa, provides us with an intimate look into well-being -- both feeling good and doing good, a vital part of this year's conference theme."

Highlighted presentations will be made by **Marta Benson**, CEO, Gump's; **Robert Frank**, Wealth reporter of *The Wall Street Journal* and author of *Richistan: A Journey Through The American Wealth Boom and the Lives of the New Rich*; **Thomas Schick**, executive vice president for corporate affairs and communications, American Express; **Drew Slaven**, general manager, marketing services, Mercedes Benz USA; **Roustam Tariko**, founder and chairman, Russian Standard Bank and Russian Standard Vodka; and, **Dr. Jim Taylor**, vice chairman, Harrison Group.

This year's roster of top caliber speakers and panelists include **Barbara Banke**, co-proprietor, Jackson Family Wines; **Dr. Andrew Conrad**, president, California Health and Longevity Institute and chief scientific officer, Labcorp's National Genetics Institute; **Marjorie Federbush**, president, Strategies and Synergies; **Alan Fuerstman**, founder and ceo, Montage Hotels and Resorts; **DeeDee Gordon**, co-president & co-founder, Look Look; **Jane Kaczmarek**, actress and founder, Clothes Off Our Back Foundation; **Donna Karan**, designer; **Jeff Klein**, president and ceo, JK Hotel Group; **Michelle Kydd Lee**, executive director, Creative Arts Agency Foundation; **Bertrand Lavayssiere**, managing director, Capgemini; Didier LeCalvez, executive vice president, Europe and North America, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts; and, iconic designer **Diane von Furstenberg**.

The Luxury Summit program will be led by *Departures* Editor In Chief and Summit moderator **Richard David Story** with Editors-in-Chief **Nancy Novogrod** of *Travel + Leisure*, **Dana Cowin** of *Food & Wine*, **John Atwood** of *Travel + Leisure Golf*, and **Lisa Gabor**, editor of *Black Ink*.

Sponsors include The Platinum Card® By American Express, Leading Hotels of the World, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, Martins & Heads!, Shiseido, Sony Cierge, Palazza Tornabuoni, FIJI Water, Grey Goose, Jackson Family Wines, and Cadillac.

About the American Express Publishing Luxury Summit: Each year, The American Express Publishing Luxury Summit gathers top marketers from the world's leading purveyors of luxury goods and services to analyze critical issues and trends, share best practices, and examine the evolving needs of the affluent consumer, as well as the effects of the current economic, social, and political climate on today's luxury companies. Established in 1999, the Luxury Summit is a premier US event dedicated exclusively to the luxury industry and features top caliber speakers, global representation, and a strategically focused program led by the editors of *Travel + Leisure*, *Food & Wine*, *Departures*, and *Travel + Leisure Golf*.

About the American Express Publishing Corporation: American Express Publishing Corporation is an authoritative content company primed to deliver lifestyle expertise that informs choices, enriches perspective and empowers affluent and accomplished people -- and the businesses that serve them -- to make decisions and lead extraordinary lives. A wholly owned subsidiary of American Express Company, American Express Publishing brands include *Travel + Leisure*, *Food & Wine*, *Departures*, *Travel + Leisure Golf*, and *Executive Travel* magazine. The company also produces a variety of travel, cooking, wine, time management, and financial books and products, creates online content, operates luxury-marketing events and creates custom print and online programs for clients.

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For more information regarding the Luxury Summit, go to **www.luxurysummit.com**. For press inquiries, contact Jill S. Davison at 212.382.5679 or **jill.s.davison@aexp.com**.