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THE CHARLES HOTEL'S ALEX ATTIA RECEIVES THE MASSACHUSETTS LODGING ASSOCIATION'S AWARD FOR "**OUTSTANDING GENERAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR**"  
*Charles also takes home "**Best Employee Relations**" for the third consecutive year*

CAMBRIDGE, MA (February 14, 2008) – The Massachusetts Lodging Association awarded the industry's best last night with "**General Manager of the Year**" going to **Alex Attia** of The Charles Hotel. The hotel was also recognized for "**Best Employee Relations**" for the **third consecutive year**. The awards were given at the organization's annual "Stars of the Industry" dinner on February 12, 2008.

Mr. Attia joined the hotel in June 2003, and has since attended to the needs of his guests with his signature warmth, whether they be celebrities, world leaders, politicians, neighbors or friends. "We're very proud of Alex and the job he's done. As far as I'm concerned, he's General Manager of the Year for all America!", says Richard Friedman, Managing Director of The Charles Hotel.

The Charles Hotel in Harvard Square continues to be a favorite, not only among its guests, but also among its employees, by taking home the **Massachusetts Lodging Association's Award** for "**Best Employee Relations,**" for the third consecutive year.

"The Charles Hotel's greatest resource is its staff of 413 associates. Each day our associates, both individually and as a group, accomplish extraordinary things, I feel honored to be part of it," says General Manager, Alex Attia.

The MLA award recognized the hotel's many employee recognition programs, staff generosity, and training programs. In 2007, alone, the Human Resources Department

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organized more than 30 individual events designed to reward the staff for a job well done and to strengthen their presence within the community. Together, over the last three years, the staff raised more than \$50,000 for various local and international charities. From blood drives to softball games to donating \$13,000 to a fellow colleague who suffered a medical hardship, The Charles Hotel staff is truly generous.

The Charles Hotel is committed to professional growth and development. In 2007, 37 employees were promoted. As part of Interstate Hotels & Resorts all associates are able to take advantage of transferring to more than 300 hotels in 40 countries, during which time they retain their benefits. In an effort to help its associates grow within their job, The Charles Hotel offers continuous training throughout the year. Employees are invited to attend complimentary CPR and TIPS training sessions, as well as ESL and Spanish classes.

#### **About the Charles Hotel**

The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square is an independent luxury hotel and a member of Preferred Hotels and Resorts. The AAA Four-Diamond award-winner may be the only hotel in the world to welcome Noble Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, Academy Award winners, jazz greats and New England farmers. In 2005, The Charles was named "Best Hotel, General Excellence" by *Boston* magazine.

Reflecting the eclecticism that is Cambridge, The Charles Hotel is a modern interpretation of New England hospitality with a thriving jazz club, the Regattabar, two signature restaurants, ice-skating rink (winter months only), state of the art conference facilities and a central location in the heart of Harvard Square. The hotel is home to Henrietta's Table, featuring "fresh and honest to goodness home cooking," and recently named one of "Americas Best Farm to Table Restaurants" by *Gourmet* and *Rialto*, one of the best restaurants in America [*Gourmet*, *Food & Wine*, *Esquire*, et. al.] *Noir*, the hotel's lounge, is on the first level of The Charles Hotel. Designed by Peter Niemitz to reflect the decadent atmosphere of 1940s nightlife, *Noir's* drink menu features a mix of classic cocktails and a bar menu perfect for late night or afternoon dining.

The hotel also boasts an adjacent urban spa, Le Pli and the Wellbridge Athletic Club with swimming pool. Special in-room amenities include the high-tech Bose Wave® radios, Séura in-mirror televisions and cordless phones, as well as two-line speakerphones with voice mail, PC and fax modem capabilities and DVD players.

Catering to internationally renowned business leaders, government officials, entertainment executives and leisure travelers alike, it's no wonder that the *New England Travel Guide* has designated The Charles as the best hotel to "stay put in" when visiting Boston.

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