

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Crisp
Public Relations Manager
(804)283-1594
jennifer.crisp@jeffersonhotel.com

Lemaire at The Jefferson Hotel Named on *Esquire's* "Best New Restaurants of 2009" List

RICHMOND, Va. (Oct. 6, 2009) - - - Renowned restaurant critic John Mariani has awarded the new Lemaire restaurant at The Jefferson Hotel a coveted spot on the "Best New Restaurants of 2009" list in *Esquire* magazine. The prestigious recognition follows the July opening of the historic hotel's new restaurant that, following an extensive renovation, features a new bar and lounge, more contemporary menu and updated beverage program. *Esquire's* annual "Best New Restaurants" roundup appears in the magazine's November issue, on newsstands Oct. 13.

"The Jefferson Hotel has a history of being a leader in innovative dining for Richmond, and this award is an affirmation that the modernization of our culinary experience is a success," says Managing Director Joseph Longo. "This award is also a testament to the dedication of the Lemaire team, the commitment of our ownership, the loyalty of Lemaire's customers and the support provided by the citizens of the Richmond Region. We are proud to represent Virginia in this competitive national arena."

Esquire writer John Mariani travels across the country in search of the best dining experiences, weighing cuisine, service and ambiance. Mariani praises Lemaire for its innovative southern cooking, noting in particular the sweet-tangy taste of chef Walter Bundy's fried green tomatoes covered with Gulf lump crabmeat, sherry vinegar, and verbena.

Mariani says of the restaurant: "With the re-opening of Lemaire, Chef Walter Bundy is pouring everything he knows and loves into dishes like sweet-tangy fried green tomatoes showered with Gulf lump crabmeat, sherry vinegar, and verbena – proof yet again that southern cooking long ago moved past Paula Deen's "Y'all want s'more gree-uts?"

Other restaurants honored by *Esquire* this year include The Bazaar in Los Angeles, Corton in New York, Blue Ridge in Washington D.C, Area 31 in Miami, and Society Café Encore in Las Vegas.

Since 1895, The Jefferson Hotel, located at 101 West Franklin Street, has been recognized by discerning travelers as Richmond's grandest hotel and one of the finest in America. Known for its gracious and friendly service, luxurious guestrooms, breathtaking architecture and Victorian décor, The Jefferson Hotel is reminiscent of an elegant era.

For more information, go to www.jeffersonhotel.com or call 800-424-8014.

###