

Thompson Hospitality Named Company of the Year by *Black Enterprise* Magazine

Herndon, VA (May 19, 2010) – Today *Black Enterprise* magazine awarded Thompson Hospitality the coveted 'Company of the Year' award and ranked it among the top twelve industrial/service companies on its 2010 *Black Enterprise* 100s list. The *B.E.* 100s provide an annual review of the market performance of America's premier black-owned enterprises.

"It is an honor to be partnered with Thompson Hospitality, a company that is recognized by such a prestigious outlet as *Black Enterprise*," said Gary Green, President and CEO of the Compass Group North America, the world's largest food service company. "Such an award is further proof that the strategic partnership creates value for all parties; our clients, Compass Group and Thompson Hospitality."

The *B.E.* 100 companies, 51 percent black-owned, were ranked according to their gross revenues, billings or assets acquired over the course of the preceding year, business acumen and potential for long-term growth. The awarded companies spanned the Industrial/Service, Advertising, Auto and Financial sectors.

Black Enterprise will feature Thompson Hospitality in its June 2010 issue, the magazine's 38th special report on the nation's top black-owned enterprises. Oprah Winfrey is among the luminaries who have previously been honored with this distinction, having received the 2008 Company of the Year Award for Harpo, Inc.

With its continued growth and expansion, Thompson Hospitality now services five lines of business including business and industry, education, retail, healthcare and facilities management. From Austin Grill restaurants to Marvelous Market gourmet convenience stores, Thompson Hospitality's retail outlets now seem ubiquitous, as the company increases its foothold on the retail sector. For 2009 Thompson Hospitality accrued more than \$321 million in revenues.

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Thompson Hospitality, established in 1992, is the ninth largest food service company in the United States, representing the largest minority-owned company in the industry and one of the largest minority-owned businesses nationwide. Based in Herndon, Virginia, Thompson Hospitality currently employs over 3,300 associates and provides meals and facilities management at businesses and institutions in 45 states and four foreign countries. The restaurant and retail division operates five different concepts with 23 unique locations in the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. area, serving over 1.9 million guests each year.