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## **Grand Hotel Commences its 125<sup>th</sup> Year with the Announcement of a Grand 2012 Birthday Celebration Weekend**

MACKINAC ISLAND, MI— On July 10, Grand Hotel will mark the start of its 125<sup>th</sup> year as America's Summer Place on Mackinac Island and will begin taking reservations for an extraordinary celebration weekend, July 13 – 15, 2012.

The weekend package will feature three days of special receptions, programs that highlight Grand Hotel's storied history, recreational activities, commemorative souvenirs and a performance by Labor Day Jazz Weekend favorite and world-renowned guitarist and singer John Pizzarelli.

"We plan to make our 125<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration a tribute to the many aspects of Grand Hotel that make it such a distinctive destination," said R.D. (Dan) Musser III, Grand Hotel President. "We are proud of the unique role Grand Hotel has played in the history of Michigan. It first opened its doors just 50 years after Michigan achieved statehood and has played host to state and national leaders on a consistent basis ever since."

Grand Hotel guests who arrive for the 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on Friday, July 13 will be greeted with a presentation on its history and a welcome reception on the Front Porch.

On Saturday, July 14, guests can enjoy a presentation by the hotel's designer, Carleton Varney, president of Dorothy Draper & Co. Inc. of New York, the oldest established interior design firm in the United States.

Varney's appearance will be followed by a session with Grand Hotel's leadership, including hotel Chairman R. D. (Dan) Musser, II, and President R. D. (Dan) Musser III. 2012

will mark the 79<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the hotel has been under the stewardship of the same family. In March 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression at a time when all the nation's banks had been closed, W. Stewart Woodfill was the sole bidder in an auction to take the hotel out of receivership. His nephew, R. D. (Dan) Musser II, became president in 1960 and purchased the hotel from Woodfill in 1979.

Outdoor activities scheduled on Saturday include golf, croquet and bocci tournaments. That evening, guests will be offered a Grand cocktail reception, followed by a special dinner with souvenir menu, and the performance by John Pizzarelli in the Theatre. Pizzarelli, a Labor Day Jazz Festival favorite, will be making his fourth appearance at Grand Hotel for the celebration. He has recorded 23 albums of his own as well as appearing on albums with other artists such as George Shearing, Rosemary Clooney and the Boston Pops Orchestra. His most well-known album, "Dear Mr. Cole," features his versions of some of the late Nat "King" Cole's most popular songs.

The weekend will conclude on Sunday, July 14 with a morning history presentation by Grand Hotel Historian Bob Tagatz.

For the past two years, Grand Hotel has been developing a commemorative 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary coffee table book that is worthy of this prestigious event. Each 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration room reservation includes a copy of the book signed by a member of the Musser family, as well as a special 25-year Grand Hotel calendar. The book will also be available to the general public at the beginning of the hotel's 2012 season for \$48. Pre-orders can be made on Grand Hotel's Web site, [www.grandhotel.com](http://www.grandhotel.com), by calling 800-33-GRAND (4-7263) or by visiting the shops at the hotel.

Reservations for the 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration will be available starting on July 10, 2011, Grand Hotel's birthday. Packages are \$1,877 per couple for a lakeview room and \$1,499 for a non-lakeview room. The package also includes a full breakfast each morning and dinner in the Grand Hotel dining room on Friday night. For reservations, visit [www.grandhotel.com](http://www.grandhotel.com) or call 800-33-GRAND (4-7263).

Grand Hotel, the world's largest summer hotel, has been one of America's premier summer vacation spots since it opened on July 10, 1887 to receive summer vacationers who arrived by lake steamer or by rail.

Throughout its history, Grand Hotel has hosted dignitaries from around the country and the world, including five U.S. Presidents (Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton).

Grand Hotel is continually recognized for the quality of its hospitality. It is listed again in 2011 as one of *Travel & Leisure* magazine's Top 500 Hotels in the World and has been named a winner of the AAA Four Diamond Award for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The *T+L 500* is a guide to the best hotels and includes overall descriptions and expert insight about each of the 500 hotels in three categories: Competitive Edge, Best Rooms to Book, and What Not to Miss. Condé Nast Traveler named Grand Hotel one of their Top 125 Golf Resorts in the April 2011 issue.

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