



The Seelbach Hilton
Louisville

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**THE SEELBACH HILTON'S OAKROOM WINS THE COVETED 2010 AAA
FIVE DIAMOND AWARD**

(Louisville, KY) January 4, 2010 -- The Five Diamond Award® is reserved for the very best restaurants in North America and for the 12th consecutive year, The Oakroom at The Seelbach Hilton has made AAA's exclusive list. The 2010 Five Diamond Award was given to only 47 dining establishments, placing The Oakroom in good company with the nation's culinary jewels like Daniel and Jean Georges in New York City, Charlie Trotters and Tru in Chicago and The French Laundry in Napa.

"We are absolutely thrilled because the Five Diamond rating is an honor received by only the top half of one percent of the restaurants in the industry," says Jim Gerhardt, Executive Chef of The Oakroom. "We are also very proud to have received the award with exciting changes we made in 2009 to adapt to the economy as well as adding new choices for our patrons craving comfort foods to be part of the fine dining experience." adds Gerhardt.

After a six-year absence, Executive Chef Gerhardt returned to The Oakroom in early 2009 with some high priorities on his plate; develop an haute cuisine a la carte menu that includes classic American fare. Return top billing to Kentucky-produced ingredients. Do it all at a lower price point than the previous prix fixe menu. And hire a talented chef de cuisine and restaurant manager who can successfully pair a sophisticated menu with an unpretentious environment.

While Maitre D' and Sommelier, Julie DeFriend keeps the highest standards front of the house, Chef de Cuisine Bobbie Benjamin has created scrumptious new first courses from \$8-\$16 including the "Not So Hot Brown" and the "Pecan Pie Salad." In terms of entrées, The Oakroom is now a great place to enjoy a steak. Dry Prime Aged Ribeye is always on the menu. Other carnivore pleasers include Prime Beef Tenderloin and Kentucky Bison Strip. Entrées are \$20-\$40.

In order to have The Oakroom considered for the Five Diamond Award®, The Seelbach Hilton hotel had to apply for an evaluation. AAA defines a Five Diamond restaurant as one that consistently provides a world-class experience with menus that are cutting-edge with food that is highly imaginative and unique. Service is executed in an exceptionally efficient, unobtrusive and polished manner. Servers must possess highly detailed knowledge of the menu. Having a formally trained sommelier is crucial. Restaurant décor and ambience is also a factor.

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