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IN TIME FOR VOLVO OCEAN RACE AND TALL SHIPS: INTERCONTINENTAL LAUNCHES NEW SAILING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OF SEASONED YACHT RACER ONNE VAN DER WAL

- *Through August 2009 Hotel Also Offers New 'Cruise & Snooze' Sailing Package -*



Onne van der Wal 230 – Skylge'

Hi-res versions and additional images are available.

BOSTON (April 24, 2009) – As Boston's waterfront will be at the Hub for a nautical spring and summer 2009, InterContinental Boston, a 424-room AAA Four-Diamond hotel located directly on Boston's glistening waterfront, will be hosting the *'Wind and Water'* photography/nautical exhibit through August 31, 2009. Beginning with the Volvo Ocean Race, a grueling nine month round-the-world sailing race where the only stop in North America is at Boston's Fan Pier from this weekend through mid-May, followed by the Tall Ships Sail Boston 2009 in mid-July, there will be a flurry of racing and sailing activity on Boston's burgeoning waterfront.

InterContinental Boston has teamed up with renown sailing photographer Onne van der Wal, from Newport, RI and Boston's Lannan Ship Model Gallery to present a nautical exhibit consisting of large scale racing and tall ship photography by van der Wal, along with an array of antique racing and sailing model ships and a selection of antique nautical decorative items from around the world from Lannan's. InterContinental Boston is also offering the **"Cruise & Snooze"** sailing package to celebrate this nautical summer and has teamed up with Pier's Park Sailing Center offering guests the opportunity to learn to sail or just sit aboard and enjoy Boston Harbor.

"These nautical spring and summer events mark a new era for Boston's burgeoning waterfront," says Tim Kirwan, General Manager, InterContinental Boston. "As one of the newest hotels on the water, the *'Wind and Water'* nautical themed exhibit will not only bring an artistic element to the exciting world of racing and sailing, but also tie-together the new and historic elements of what the Boston waterfront offers. We hope all these events entice city visitors and local Bostonians to discover accessibility and vibrancy of the evolving waterfront neighborhood."

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Onne (pronounced "Onn-Uh") van der Wal has been a nautical photographer for more than 20 years. His photographs have won countless awards and have graced the covers of almost every major sailing magazine in the U.S. and abroad.

A seasoned yacht racer, van der Wal won the '80/'81 Whitbread 'Round-the-World Race, now the Volvo Ocean Race, and set a circumnavigation record that stood for four years.

Van der Wal was born in Holland to a family with a deep heritage of sea going and sea loving ancestors. He was raised on the water in Hout Bay, South Africa and at an early age was sailing and planning his "escape" to the sea. Van der Wal currently spends his summers photographing the busy nautical scene in Newport, RI where he has his office and a gallery on Bannister's Wharf. In the off-season, he travels extensively as a nautical and sailing photographer for private yacht photography and commercial clients. His first book, Wind and Water was released in May 2004 and has been a great success with admirers of his work and by photography buffs.

"I don't think there is a sailor anywhere who has not heard that some of the best cruising in the U.S. is in New England," says van der Wal. He continues, "What ties together these harbors and boating towns is the charm of the waterfront communities and those that work in them. Some of the most genuine people of the world are found on these coasts, working and enjoying the waterfront, and sharing it with any cruisers who happen upon their shores."

The photography element of the exhibit will incorporate a collection of both racing action images and tall ship shots by van der Wal that he took while attending regattas around the world such as the Annual Museum of Yachting Regatta in Newport, RI; the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta and the America's Cup Jubilee in Cowes, England and sailing in the French Riviera and Martha's Vineyard.

The exhibit will also include an array of new and antique large-scale model racing and sailing ships and nautical antiques from Lannan Ship Model Gallery located in downtown Boston just a stone's throw from the waterfront. Lannan's is known the world over as the source for selection, value and quality of all things nautical.

In celebration of Boston's nautical spring and summer and the '*Wind and Water*' exhibit, the InterContinental Boston is offering the '*Cruise & Snooze*' sailing package that includes sailing lessons in Boston's Harbor with stunning skyline views of the city. The package includes:

- Deluxe accommodations at InterContinental Boston overlooking Boston's waterfront
- Two-hours sailing with instruction from Piers Park Sailing Center in Boston Harbor
- Round-trip water taxi transfer to/from hotel's private dock and sailing center
- A signed Onne van der Wal photography poster
- Two captain's boat yachting sailing caps
- A nautical-inspired drink from RumBa, a member of the International Yacht and Athletic Club (one per person)

'Cruise & Snooze' sailing package starts at \$499.00, is based on double occupancy and subject to availability. **It will be available through August 31, 2009.** To book, call the InterContinental Boston directly at 877-747-BOSTON and mention 'Sail' package.

Piers Park Sailing Center (PPSC) is a non-profit sailing center on Boston's Inner Harbor offering world-class sailing instruction. The organization's mission is to use the harbor and the seas beyond to provide year-round recreational, educational and personal growth opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. PPSC is dedicated to using sailing to build community, foster cultural understanding, and encourage self-development for adults, youth in addition to a nationally-recognized adaptive sailing for those with disabilities. In fact, PPSC's adaptive sailing coordinator, Maureen McKinnon-Tucker, made history at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing as the first American and as the first woman ever to win a Paralympic Gold Medal in sailing.

To continue to tie-in with the nautical inspired summer, InterContinental Boston's popular rum and champagne bar, **RumBa**, is the affiliate Boston station of the International Yacht and Athletic Club (IYAC), a nautical/sailing-themed social club based in Newport, RI. RumBa pays tribute to the legends and lore of the historic rum trade in a sophisticated rum-themed cocktail bar serving an international collection of nearly 100 distilled rums, appetizers, and hip-moving mixes of Latin and Caribbean musi. Throughout the summer, RumBa will be celebrating with nautical-inspired, rum-based cocktails with names such as *The Summer Sailor*, *Between the Sheets*, and *High Tide*.

With its elegant, reflective blue glass architecture and sleek polished granite, InterContinental Boston was designed by renowned Boston-based firm Elkus Manfredi Architects with a nautical reference in mind. The structure's expansive all-glass exterior gives the building a sense of soaring height and reflects the sky, the water and Boston's beautiful cityscape. "Picture a tall ship like those that came into Boston Harbor centuries ago," says Howard Elkus principal at Elkus Manfredi Architects and lead architect. "The building's wings are the height of the masts, about as far apart as ships at dock. Its curved façades are sails, reflecting in a modern way the sense of wind within the sails."

About Onne van der Wal Gallery

The Onne van der Wal Gallery, located at One Bannister's Wharf in Newport, RI, specializes in the works by acclaimed nautical photographer Onne van der Wal. For more information, visit www.vanderwal.com or call the gallery directly at 401.846.9552.

About Lannan Ship Model Gallery

Founded in 1967, Lannan Ship Model Gallery is a 6,000 sq. ft. gallery specializing in new and antique maritime pieces with special emphasis on model ships. Lannan's is located on the first floor of the 99 High Street Tower in Boston, Mass. For more information, visit www.lannangallery.com or call at 617.451.2650.

About Piers Park Sailing Center

Piers Park Sailing Center (PPSC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit community sailing center located on Boston Harbor at 95 Marginal St. in East Boston, Mass. Through the sport of sailing, PPSC works with people of all ages with a specific focus of offering low-income or at-risk youth, ranging in age from 7 to 18, and people with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities sailing instruction and opportunity. For the past ten years, PPSC has been changing lives through their sailing programs for children and those with disabilities who would never otherwise have access to this sport. For more information, visit www.piersparksailing.org or call at 617.561.6677.

About the InterContinental Boston

InterContinental Boston, which opened in November 2006, is located at 510 Atlantic Ave. on Boston's historic waterfront in the heart of the city's financial district and just ten minutes from Logan International Airport. This AAA Four Diamond luxury 424-room hotel is the first InterContinental hotel in New England and offers a 6,600 sq. ft. spa and health club with indoor pool, *Miel "Brasserie Provençale,"* a Provence-inspired brasserie; *Sushi-Teq*, a sushi and tequila bar and *RumBa*, a rum and champagne bar. The hotel also offers 32,000 sq. ft. of meeting/function space, including the largest ballroom in downtown Boston. InterContinental Boston has been named one of ten "Best New Business Hotels of 2006" by *Forbes.com*, voted Best of Boston 2007 as "Best New Hotel" by *Boston Magazine* and was voted among the "2008 Best Business Hotels" in the world by *Fortune* and *Wallpaper* magazines. For more information on the hotel, visit www.intercontinentalboston.com and for reservations call 877-747-BOSTON or 617-747-1000.

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