



## **THE MISSION INN HOTEL & SPA RINGS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS CELEBRATION**

*One of the Nation's Largest Light Displays, Holiday Celebration Wows with New Additions for 2011*

**RIVERSIDE, Calif. (September XX, 2011)** – **The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa** is pleased to announce dates for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Festival of Lights. The highly anticipated annual festival, known for bringing holiday cheer and joy to children and adults alike, will launch the day after Thanksgiving, on **Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** with a celebratory lighting ceremony with a full fireworks display, and continue through **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. With live entertainment including special appearances by Santa Claus and live reindeer, and seasonal touches throughout, including horse-drawn carriage rides and freshly fallen snow, Festival of Lights is a beloved Southern California tradition not to be missed.

A gift to the community from the owners of The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, Duane and Kelly Roberts, Festival of Lights hosts one of the largest collections of lights in the nation. Due to popular demand, The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa has extended the dates of Festival of Lights for 2011, continuing through an extra week in January 2012.

### **Festival of Lights, by the numbers:**

- 3.6 million+ brilliant lights
- 250,000+ Festival of Lights guests in 2010
- Over 400 animated figures, including angels, elves and carolers
- 19 years in the running
- 10 weeks of round-the-clock preparations, orchestrated by a crew of 20

“We are delighted to bring Festival of Lights back for the 19<sup>th</sup> year – the awe and excitement in the eyes of the community of Riverside and our guests are the reason we have made this event into such a long-running annual tradition,” note Duane and Kelly Roberts, Keepers of the Inn. “It brings great joy to all that experience the Festival of Lights, which is the true meaning of the holiday spirit.”

Both local residents and out of town travelers can experience the spectacular Southern California holiday tradition. In addition to the external light display, throughout the season The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa features an elaborately decorated Christmas tree (changing fully every two weeks during the holiday season), appearances by Santa Claus and Dickensian Carolers singing cheerful holiday tunes, authentic horse-drawn carriages, guest appearances by live reindeer, and hundreds of characters dressed in 17<sup>th</sup> Century costumes to entertain crowds and evoke the spirit of the season.

Viewing the lights and festivities are just one part of holidays at The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. Guests may book unique holiday experiences for every budget including:

- **Santa's Suite:** New for the 2011 Holiday Season, The Mission Inn has created a very unique experience to charm and delight kids from ages one to 92... The intricately decorated two-bedroom Santa Suite is decked with all of the holiday trimmings, a personal tree, stockings, lights and a collection of festive Santa items from minuscule to large. The suite is available throughout December, and includes: a holiday dinner for a family of four at AAA Four Diamond *Duane's Prime Steaks and Seafood Restaurant*, a personal visit from Santa Claus with your previously arranged presents under the tree, along with a family holiday breakfast. **\$2,995 all inclusive**
  - **Santa's Junior Suite:** with all inclusions listed above, alternate accommodations are in a one-bedroom Junior Suite featuring two queen beds. **\$1,449 all inclusive**

- **Heavenly Holiday**– Create unforgettable memories with this indulgent holiday experience. Available throughout the week, this two-night package begins with two “Generous Gingerbread” Holiday Cupcakes from *Casey’s Cupcakes*, a bottle of sparkling Champagne, complimentary valet parking, dinner for two at AAA Four Diamond *Duane’s Prime Steaks and Seafood Restaurant*, a romantic couples’ massage in an exclusive poolside, Tuscan-inspired private villa at the award-winning Kelly’s Spa and a \$100 resort gift card to spend at the Inn. ***Two nights’ accommodations - \$729 all inclusive***
- **Deck the House** – Be reminded of your holiday visit to the Historic Mission Inn Hotel & Spa long after departing by creating a personal home light display! Book ‘Deck the House’ for a one-night stay Sunday-Thursday, and receive a large light kit for home décor and included valet parking. ***One night’s accommodations - \$199.00 all inclusive***
- **Casey’s Visions of Sugar Plums** – Santa’s not the only one this year with special treats for all good girls and boys! This very special packages includes a one night stay Sunday-Thursday, valet parking, a box of six holiday sweet treats from award-winning Casey’s Cupcakes, and the classic keepsake book *‘Twas the Night before Christmas* personally autographed by Casey as a lasting memento of your visit! - ***\$199 all inclusive***

Or, make the visit a day trip, and end the Festival of Lights tour by dining at Inland Southern California’s only AAA Four-Diamond restaurant, ***Duane’s Prime Steaks & Seafood Restaurant***, sipping a glass at wine bar ***54° at Duane’s***, sneaking in some holiday shopping at the incredibly well-curated ***Kelly’s Boutique***, taking in High Tea at the Spanish Patio (from 2p – 4p daily), or indulging in a sweet treat from ***Casey’s Cupcakes***, a winner of the Food Network’s “*Cupcake Wars*.”

The City of Riverside has adopted The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa’s popular Festival of Lights event as a citywide initiative with a vision of a Dickensian winter extravaganza. Lights and decorations will adorn buildings throughout the city and an outdoor ice-skating rink will be built in the main street pedestrian mall near The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa.

For further information on holiday season stays at The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, please visit [www.missioninn.com](http://www.missioninn.com), or call 1.800.843.7755. For information on the Festival of Lights, please visit [www.festivaloflightsca.com](http://www.festivaloflightsca.com).

### **About The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa**

Originally opened in 1903, The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa incorporates design elements from throughout the southwestern United States, Mexico and several Mediterranean countries. Recently named a AAA Four Diamond Resort, the hotel features 238 guest rooms, including 27 suites, and four restaurants: Duane’s Prime Steaks and Seafood, Inland Southern California’s only AAA Four Diamond restaurant; Bella Trattoria, featuring cuisine from Southern Italy; Las Campanas Restaurant and Cantina, featuring gourmet Mexican cuisine in a beautiful al fresco garden setting; The Mission Inn Restaurant and Spanish Patio offering signature “Comfort Foods” from its new state-of-the-art display kitchen and romantic courtyard dining. In addition, The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa recently added a new wine bar, 54° at Duane’s and Casey’s Cupcakes. The hotel also offers Kelly’s Spa, a luxurious, European-style spa; a sparkling swimming pool and Jacuzzi surrounded by lush gardens; a fitness center; a historic museum; and access to championship golf, shopping and other recreational activities nearby. The hotel, which is situated on an entire city block of the quaint Mission Inn District of Riverside, Calif., is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a State of California Historic Landmark. For more information or reservations please call 1-800-843-7755 or go to [www.missioninn.com](http://www.missioninn.com).

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