

*Paris, October 15, 2010*

## **Kristin Scott Thomas plays mistress of ceremony at the first MGallery Guide\* launch event**



The auditorium at the Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine's drew a full house yesterday for the launch of the first guide to the MGallery hotel collection. The evening's theme was travel and discovery as well as cinema since it featured a screening of Kristin Scott Thomas' latest film, *Sarah's Key*.

The actress and MGallery ambassadress attended the event presided by Gilles Pélisson, Chairman and CEO of Accor Group. As well as Kristin Scott Thomas, Mr Pélisson thanked the many guests, including Ariel Wizman, TV presenters Isabelle Giordano, Daniela Lumbroso and Françoise Laborde, Valérie-Anne Giscard d'Estaing, her husband the publisher Bernard Fixot, and designer Chantal Thomass.

These guests enjoyed a premiere glimpse of the first MGallery guide and were able to appreciate the original international collection of 32 upscale hotels with unique personalities. This guidebook will be available in every hotel. Above all, it features extensive photos and drawings and tells the tale of each jewel in the collection to travelers seeking brand new experiences.

A radiant Kristin Scott Thomas then spoke to the guests about her bond with MGallery. The actress, who divides her time between France, the United Kingdom and the United States helped create the guidebook, notably contributing her own travel notes in which she tells readers about some of her many memories of far-off places.

The actress, who is known for her talent and unique personality, also took advantage of her presence in the Cinémathèque Française's former mythical movie theatre, to present Gilles Paquet-Brenner's film - *Sarah's Key*— in which she performs alongside Niels Arestrup and Mélusine Mayance.

This moving film, which was released in movie theaters two days ago, features Kristin Scott Thomas as an American journalist married to a Frenchman and assigned to cover the commemoration of the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup.

During this private screening, guests were able to admire the actress' highly sensitive and accurate portrayal before gathering for the cocktail party which ended an event designed to provide a blend of elegance, discovery and emotion.

\* the launch event and the MGallery collection guidebook were produced in collaboration with communication agency PRO DEO

#### **KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS**

*Studied acting at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre in Paris (the famous school dubbed the "rue Blanche"), and had her film debut in "Under The Cherry Moon", a movie directed by and starring Prince. Her filmography is deliberately eclectic and cosmopolitan. She has worked under Europe's greatest film directors, including Jean-Pierre Mocky ("Agent Trouble"), Roman Polanski ("Bitter Moon"), Lucian Pintilie, ("An Unforgettable Summer"), Philip Haas ("Angels and Insects") and was often nominated for the Cannes Film Festival awards. She achieved real international recognition with Mike Newel's "Four weddings and a funeral".*

*In 1995, she received her first Oscar nomination for her unforgettable portrayal of Katharine Clifton in "The English Patient" by Anthony Minghella. There followed her memorable performances in films directed by Robert Redford ("The Horse Whisperer"), Sydney Pollack ("Random Hearts") and Régis Wargnier ("Man to man").*

*In 2008, she was nominated for the César and Golden Globe Best Actress Awards for her role in "I've Loved You So Long" by Philippe Claudel.*

*In "Leaving" by Catherine Corsini and "Sarah's Key" by Gilles Paquet-Brenner, released on October 13, she is back in the powerful, intense roles that have made her reputation.*

*She also tries not to spend too much time away from the theatre stage. After playing "Bérénice" under Lambert Wilson at the Théâtre National de Chaillot, she was directed by Jonathan Kent at the London Playhouse Theatre in "As you desire me" and then by Ian Rickson at the Royal Court in London and the Walter Kerr Theater in NY in Chekhov's "The Seagull" for which she received the Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Actress in London in 2008.*

#### **MGALLERY**

*MGallery is a collection of upscale hotels with remarkable personalities which will appeal to individual travelers seeking distinctive services or looking for a place with a soul.*

*Located in city centers and tourist hotspots, each hotel in the collection boasts a distinctive environment and offers guests an authentic experience based on a philosophy of pleasure. This is particularly true of the Baltimore, which provides a unique sensory culinary journey in its Michelin starred restaurant.*

*It is also true of the exceptional Tombolo thalassotherapy site in Tuscany and of the Cour du Corbeau in Strasbourg which is a real timbered house with a maze of nooks and passageways that has lived through five centuries of history and been graced by illustrious guests such as Frederick II, King of Prussia, Voltaire, etc.*

*A collection of distinctive hotels that reflects as many distinctive environments.*

*Launched in September 2008 by Accor, the collection now covers five continents and will grow to over 40 establishments by end 2011.*

*For more information about the MGallery hotels go to [www.mgallery.com](http://www.mgallery.com).*

**Accor, the world's leading hotel operator and market leader in Europe, is present in 90 countries with 4,100 hotels and close to 500,000 rooms.**

Accor's broad portfolio of hotel brands - **Sofitel, Pullman, MGallery, Novotel, Suite Novotel, Mercure, Adagio, ibis, all**

**seasons, Etap Hotel, Formule 1, hotelF1 and Motel 6**, and its related activities, **Thalassa sea & spa** and **Lenôtre** - provide

an extensive offer from luxury to budget. With **145,000 employees** worldwide, the Group offers to its **clients and partners**

nearly 45 years of know-how and expertise.

### Press contacts

<u>Europe Middle East Africa</u> Elsa Mélique Tél. + 33 (0) 1.45.38.18.29 Elsa.melique@accor.com	<u>France</u> Delphine Kerfyser Tél. + 33 (0) 1.60.61.81.65 Delphine.kerfyser@accor.com	<u>Asia Pacific</u> Evan Lewis Tél. + 65 6408 8888 Evan.lewis@accor.com
---	--	--