

The Raphael HOTEL®



News

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The Raphael, Kansas City's original boutique hotel, named to *Travel + Leisure's* world's best hotels list

The Raphael is one of the world's best hotels according to *Travel + Leisure* magazine. The national travel magazine announced its *T+L 500 World's Best Hotels* in its January, 2009 issue. The listing is based on surveys of high-rated hotels, resorts, inns and lodges with follow-up by *Travel + Leisure's* international team of reporters and editors to identify what makes them special. In naming The Raphael to the list, the magazine cited the hotel was in the midst of a major overhaul and that it "...offers sophisticated service in a town best know for its down-home flavor."

The Raphael is the only Kansas City hotel to make the list and one of only two hotels named in the six-state region. The Raphael narrowly outscored the other Missouri hotel named to the list, The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. "We are extremely gratified to have been included in such elite company, especially during a period of significant construction" said Mike Prekel, The Raphael's general manager. "It is a real tribute to our staff for their professionalism. It is also recognition by the magazine editors of the owner's commitment to the long-term vision of The Raphael as a world-class boutique hotel."

The hotel is more than halfway through its extensive renovation and restoration. The lobby, entry vestibule, patio and three floors of guest rooms are complete. The restaurant is being remodeled now and will re-open in February with a new look and identity, Chaz on the Plaza. By summer, all guest room renovations will be complete and The Raphael will unveil for the first time in its history dedicated meeting space along with a new fitness center and secured, gated parking. Gettys, an award-winning hospitality design firm with an international reputation, is doing the interior design of the hotel. Madden-McFarland Interiors, an award-winning local design firm with a history dating to 1920, is designing Chaz on the Plaza.

The nine-story property is a member of National Trust Historic Hotels of America, Preferred Hotel Group (under an exclusive licensing agreement with the National Trust), Boutique Resorts & Hotels International and Condé Nast Johansens, the international luxury hotel guide publisher. The Raphael is owned and operated by Lighthouse Properties, the hotel and hospitality management company of Blue Beacon International, a privately held company based in Salina, Kansas.

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