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DC's Willard Hotel Celebrates Terra Cotta Warriors Exhibit with Eye-Popping Tea Chinois in Peacock Alley and "AnytimeTicket" Hotel Package

Washington DC, September 29, 2009 -- The Willard InterContinental's famous Peacock Alley undergoes a sultry "Chinese-esque" transformation this fall with Tea Chinois, a dramatic Afternoon Tea experience. The Willard is also offering a Terra Cotta Warriors Package from November 18, 2009, through March 10, 2010. The package includes breakfast for two; a thematic amenity; and two "any date, any time, with front of the line access" tickets for the exhibition. Rates start from \$382 for double occupancy, based on availability. For reservations, call 888-878-9652.

Celebrating Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor exhibit opening at the National Geographic Museum on November 19, one of the capital's most noted event designers, Ayran Kanter of Eventscapes and Kelly B. Jenkins of Capital Décor and Events, have re-imagined the grand Peacock Alley promenade where Afternoon Tea is served, with a multi-sensual experience inspired by Chinoiserie, the 17th- and 18th-century Western esthetic representing fanciful European interpretations of Chinese styles. Event technology for Tea Chinois is provided by PSAV.

The Willard's Tea Chinois, priced at \$39 per person, or \$49 with glass of Champagne, will be offered daily from November 14, 2009, through December 31, 2009 (except December 25,) from 1:00 p.m. and from January 2 to February 14, 2010, Fridays through Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Musical accompaniment for Tea Chinois will be provided by Guzheng master Alice Kan. The Guzheng is a plucked string instrument that is part of the zither family; it is one of the most popular Chinese musical instruments since ancient times. Reservations are necessary; call 202-942-7000 or 202-637-7350.

The design team worked with Willard Pastry Chef Courtney Goldian in creating exquisite edibles which are visually tantalizing, incorporating sophisticated European and Chinese flavors, with such items as, ginger and fresh fruit petit four, Mandarin mousse and green tea meringues. A broad array of Chinese Tea will be added to the traditional Tea offerings. These will include organic Lapsang Souchong; Pu-erh Toucha with Rose; organic Dragonwell; Rose Silver Needle and Thousand Days Red Jasmine.

In creating the eye-popping Chinoiserie-inspired ambiance, designers Kanter and Jenkins incorporated Victorian and Asian elements taking into consideration the scale of the famous Peacock Alley promenade and Afternoon Tea salon. This includes such elements as towering bamboo stalks, hanging silk lanterns, dramatic dragon banners set behind the elegant drapery, tables decked in tasseled silk runners and subdued red and bronze lighting, gobo-lit red carpet and Terra Cotta Warrior film projected into spaces along the promenade's ceiling.