



For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Allegrini
Regional Director of Communications
312-663-6516

BASIL'S RESTAURANT BLOOMS ANEW

***\$750,000 SPENT ON COMPLETE RENOVATION OF POPULAR
EATERY IN THE MARQUETTE HOTEL***

Basil's, which has been serving Minnesotans and hotel guests in its famous location overlooking the Crystal Court in the IDS Center since 1972, has just completed a transformation designed to provide the restaurant with a contemporary style which will compliment the innovative American cuisine of award winning Chef Mark Stankey. The Vancouver based design firm of Hager Inc. was engaged to plan and execute the renovation, which included everything from floor to ceiling furniture and fixtures. Nothing has been over looked. Even the very careful selection of china and stemware was addressed to enhance the new look Basil's. Three quarters of a million dollars were spent on rehabbing the restaurant, which now exudes a confident but comfortable atmosphere that is intended to appeal to the discerning local community and the hotel's business and leisure guests.

According to designer Janine Ewart of Hager Inc, the restaurant's new serene, opalescent white walls and linear white tile flooring were contrasted by elements of dark walnut paneling and punctuated by vibrant accents of cobalt blues, aqua's and lime greens in order to create a "fresh flare and vivid contemporary ambiance."

"The vibrant character of Basil's new décor now harmonizes perfectly with the restaurant's philosophy and approach to cuisine which makes for a memorable dining experience" added Gerard Viardin General Manager of The Marquette.

Chef Mark Starkey's menu at Basil's has been enhanced and his team will remain focused on delivering traditional yet unique American cuisine prepared with the freshest, quality ingredients. The restaurant will also continue to feature semi-private rooms accommodating groups of 10 to 40 people.

Basil's is open seven days a week. Breakfast is served on weekdays from 6:30a.m. to 11:00a.m and from 6:30a.m. to 12:00p.m on weekends. Lunch is served from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. on weekdays and 12:00p.m. to 2:00p.m.on weekends. Dinner is served from 5:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. daily.

Basil's restaurant is accessed from the 3rd floor of the Marquette located at the intersection of Marquette Avenue & 7th Street.

The Marquette is a AAA Motor Club Four Diamond property under the management of Beverly Hills California based, Hilton Hotels Corporation. The Marquette occupies a prime position in the heart of downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota and has been providing

elegant accommodations and superior, attentive service for both business and leisure travelers for more than 30 years.