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USA TODAY ARTICLE IDENTIFIES INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME AS ONE OF THE “10 GREAT PLACES TO INDULGE YOUR LOVE FOR TENNIS”

NEWPORT, RI – Today, the International Tennis Hall of Fame located in Newport, Rhode Island, was identified in a USA TODAY article as one of the “10 Great Places to Indulge Your Love for Tennis.”

The article, by Tim Smight for USA TODAY in collaboration with tennis historian and Hall of Famer Bud Collins, notes the long tradition of tennis in Newport dating to the first U.S. National Lawn Tennis Championships held in 1881, the tournament that evolved into today’s US Open.

"The event now held each summer (the Campbell's Hall of Fame Tennis Championships, starting July 6) is the last remaining professional tennis tournament played on grass in North America," Collins says. "The annual Hall of Fame induction ceremonies take place during the final weekend, adding quite a bonus for the fans."

The USA TODAY article also identifies nine additional great places in the world to see tennis. These venues are: the Indian Wells Tennis Garden (Indian Wells, Calif.); the Tennis Center at Crandon Park (Key Biscayne, Fla.); Foro Italico (Rome, Italy); Stade de Roland Garros (Paris, France); Monte-Carlo Country Club (Monte Carlo, Monaco); the All England Club (Wimbledon, England); Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale (New Haven, Conn.), the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (Flushing Meadows, New York); and Melbourne Park (Melbourne, Australia).

Established in 1954, the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum is a non-profit institution dedicated to preserving the history of tennis, inspiring and encouraging junior tennis development, enshrining tennis heroes and heroines, and providing a landmark for tennis enthusiasts worldwide. The International Tennis Hall of Fame was recognized as the sport's official Hall of Fame in 1986 by the International Tennis Federation, the governing body of tennis.

With the upcoming induction of the Class of 2009 (July 11, 2009) honoring Monica Seles, Andres Gimeno, Donald L. Dell and Dr. Robert Johnson (posthumously), the total number of International Tennis Hall of Famers reaches 211 individuals representing 18 countries.

The International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum is the largest repository of tennis information and memorabilia in the world. Its collection consists of a vast array of historical information relating to the sport of tennis and the individuals honored within the Hall of Fame. The Museum encompasses over 20,000 square feet of interactive exhibits, momentous videos, and popular memorabilia of tennis champions past and present. The Museum's permanent collection alone contains over 16,000 objects. The Library and Information Research Center has upwards of 5,000 books and periodicals; more than 4,000 film and video tapes in its audio-visual collection; 250,000 photo images, and an abundant collection of magazines, programs, periodicals, posters, and personal player memorabilia.

American tournament tennis began in Newport in 1881, more than one hundred years ago, when the first U.S. National Lawn Tennis Championships was contested. This tournament, which evolved into today’s US Open, was played in Newport until 1915, when it moved to Forest Hills, New York. However, Newport’s historic tennis tradition continues each summer when the Hall of Fame presents the only professional tennis events played on grass in the United States. The six-acre complex offers 13 grass courts, one clay court and three award-winning indoor hard courts. The International Tennis Hall of Fame is truly distinguished from other sports venues and

museums because, in addition to hosting professional tournaments, the courts are available for public play and virtually every historic tennis champion has graced its legendary grass courts.

To read the complete USA TODAY article, please click the following link:

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/10great/2009-03-05-tennis-venues_N.htm

For more information regarding the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum, the 2009 Hall of Fame Induction Weekend, Tennis Tournaments, Events and Programs, please call 401-849-3990 or visit our website at www.tennisfame.com.

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