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For Immediate Release

Somnio Hostels celebrates the first anniversary of the opening of its flagship hostel in
Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona, Spain, February 26, 2009: Somnio Hostels, SL, a new player in the budget lodging industry, celebrates the first anniversary of the opening of its flagship hostel on March 6th, 2009. In the year since opening, Somnio has found success as a pioneer in upscale inexpensive lodging for young travelers, already hosting over 2000 guests from 67 countries. Somnio is centrally located at 251 Diputacio just steps from the historic Modernist buildings and upscale shopping on Passeig de Gracia and a short walk from the bustling tourist magnet, Las Ramblas.

Somnio Barcelona is situated within a typical turn-of-the-century Barcelona building. The site was completely remodeled before opening with young travelers' needs in mind. Guests enjoy mingling, tasting local cavas, watching football matches on the plasma TV, and enjoying free internet in the hostel's stylish lobby. Owners and Barcelona devotees Lee and Lauren Gonzalez outfitted the rooms with luxury bedding and five-star hotel mattresses. "We've created a hostel that we would actually want to stay in and recommend to our own friends," says owner Lauren Gonzalez. "We're not the typical party hostel that smells of stale beer and bleach. Somnio is well-designed, service oriented, clean, and chic." The guests agree consistently giving Somnio rave reviews citing its excellent service, cleanliness and perfect location. Since opening, the hostel has been recognized in [Let's Go Spain and Portugal 2009](#) as one of their top picks and was recommended in [Rick Steves Spain 2009](#).

Somnio Hostels plans to open another hostel in Barcelona in FY2009 and eventually expand to other major European cities, offering guests the familiarity and standardization of the quality of service, cleanliness and comfort in all their locations. Management intends to utilize the first Somnio location as a small-scale blueprint to expand in the near-term to larger hostels in the major Spanish tourist destinations.

About Somnio Hostels' Management

Lee and Lauren Gonzalez are twenty-something sisters from Chicago, IL. Upon graduating from the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University, respectively, they both set out separately to forge careers as Wall Street analysts. Tired of working in the buttoned-up world of banking and only being able to sneak in travel opportunities with limited vacation days, they took their futures in their own hands and headed to Spain to follow their passions. After studying the Spanish tourism market for five years, the pair boldly moved to Barcelona in the fall of 2006 without local contacts or industry experience. “The name Somnio means to dream in Latin, and by some translations, to dream foolishly,” says Lee Gonzalez. “For the last five years, this has been our foolish little dream. It’s nice to wake up in the morning and know that it has become reality.”

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