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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **Turf Valley Resort Selected as Centerpiece Venue to Host Three-Day Preakness® Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival, May 15-17th**

Ellicott City, Maryland (March 14, 2008) --- Turf Valley Resort will once again light up the skies in honor of a longstanding Preakness® Celebration tradition. As an official sponsor for the 2008 Preakness Celebration, Turf Valley Resort has been chosen as the exclusive venue to host the hot air balloons portion of the Preakness festivities. The Preakness Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival presented by Talk Radio 680 WCBM at Turf Valley Resort will be the feature location for the captivating Preakness Balloon Glow at dusk on both Thursday & Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The week-long Preakness Celebration has become tradition in Maryland in preparation for the running of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Preakness Stakes. One of many special events held during the week is the Hot Air Balloon Festival. Approximately twenty hot air balloons, in a unique variety of shapes and colors, will participate in Turf Valley's Balloon Glow. Before the Glow, weather permitting, patrons will have the option to join the pilots in their balloons and take flight. Upon their return, these balloons will be tethered and lit at dusk to illuminate the night.

The two-day event will include activities aimed towards young children and those young at heart. There will be dedicated children's activities referred to as the 'Pee Wee Preakness' offering kid friendly crafts and competitions. Bob the Vid Tech of Maryland Public Television will take center stage as one of the children's featured entertainers. Balloon related activities at the resort will include tethered hot air balloon rides, close-up walkthroughs of a hot air balloon, pilot demonstrations and the Balloon Glow at dusk. \*On Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Balloon Festival will culminate in the launching of the balloons at 6:30 A.M., weather permitting.

Along with balloon rides and the balloon glow, food and drinks will be available. Turf Valley's restaurants, the Terrace on the Green Clubhouse Grill and Alexandra's Restaurant, will offer festival fare and the official drink of Preakness, the Black Eyed Susan, in the Balloon Fest areas, as well as dinner in the restaurants.

For more information on Turf Valley Resort, please contact Regina Ford, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, at (410)423-0811.

##more##

**Important Information:**

**The Preakness Celebration Balloon Festival presented by  
Talk Radio 680 WCBM at Turf Valley Resort**

**Children's Activities, Entertainment & Balloon Glow on  
Thursday and Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Hot Air Balloon Launch on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:30 a.m.**

**Turf Valley Resort is offering local businesses and crafters space to display their  
products/services**

**Schedule of events will be posted closer to date of event**

**Off-site parking with shuttle service will be posted closer to date of event**

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*Turf Valley Resort is located in the Baltimore/Washington Corridor and features 40,000 square feet of meeting space,  
WiFi High Speed Internet in guest rooms, meeting rooms and public areas, European Health Spa and  
36 holes of Championship Golf. Turf Valley Resort – Come see what you've been missing.*