For immediate release:
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TRADEWINDS ISLAND RESORTS NAMED AUTISM-FRIENDLY BUSINESS
ONE OF ONLY FIVE U.S. HOTELS WITH DESIGNATION

WHO: The TradeWinds Island Resorts – the Island Grand Resort and the Sandpiper Suites – located along acres of sugary white beaches overlooking the Gulf of Mexico on the island of St. Pete Beach, Florida.

WHAT: The TradeWinds Island Resorts – Island Grand and Sandpiper Suites – have been named an autism-friendly business by the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (C.A.R.D.) TradeWinds employees underwent C.A.R.D.'s training program to learn how to better meet the needs of guests who have autism, and their families. The TradeWinds is one of just five hotels in the United States that have received the designation. In addition, the sister-properties have also taken the following steps to ensure these guests have a memorable and pleasant experience:

Social Books – A guide for each property is available online for families to review prior to visiting the resorts. It is a detailed description of the hotels, complete with photos, so that families and children will know what to expect during their stay. The social books can also be emailed or mailed to guests.

Gluten-Free Offerings – Gluten-free menu options are available at all TradeWinds dining outlets, and special diets can be accommodated. There is even a kid-friendly snack amenity which can be made with gluten-free products.

Safety Kits – Safety kits are available to guests free of charge, and include a hanging door alarm, outlet covers and table corner cushions.

Reservations – The reservations department has been equipped with a list of questions to ask families when reserving their stay so the staff can be aware of any issues before arrival, including sensitivity to cleaning products, noise, etc.

Activities – Special sensory activities for kids with autism will be offered in the TradeWinds Activities Center, and programs that may be appropriate for children with autism will be noted in the resorts' recreation calendar. Parents are always encouraged to share any special needs of their child with the activities staff when registering in advance for programs.

WHERE: Located on a stretch of beach directly on the Gulf of Mexico, the TradeWinds Island Resorts consist of the family-friendly Island Grand Resort and the more intimate and relaxing Sandpiper Suites. The resorts offer access to two great properties in one with limitless beachfront recreation, fantastic family and children's programs and sumptuous dining.

RESERVATIONS: For more information or reservations, please visit www.justletgo.com/autismfriendly or call toll-free (800) 808-9834.

MEDIA INFO: Kelly Grass Prieto, APR
Hayworth Creative Public Relations • (813) 318-9611 • kelly@hayworthcreative.com

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