

With the presence of the acting President, ministers, mayor of Montevideo and a large group of guests

## **CODERE OPENS THE DOORS TO *HOTEL CASINO CARRASCO* IN URUGUAY**

- **CARRASCO NOBILE**, a consortium led by Grupo CODERE, was commissioned to rehabilitate and equip an emblematic building that opens today at the Sofitel Montevideo Casino Carrasco & Spa.
- The opening ceremony was attended by the Chairman of Carrasco Nobile, Martín Blaquier, CODERE Group President, José Antonio Martínez Sampedro, Latam operations director of Sofitel, Nagi Naoufal, the mayor of Montevideo, Ana Olivera, the general manager of Carrasco Nobile, Guillermo Arcani and the acting President of Uruguay, Danilo Astori.
- **CARRASCO NOBILE**, which has a license to operate the Hotel for 30 years, will promote the hotel casino as an international industry benchmark, positioning it as one of the leading hotel casinos within a National Heritage building of Uruguay.

**Montevideo, March 8, 2013.** Grupo CODERE, a Spanish multinational leader in the private gaming sector that is publicly traded in Spain, last night inaugurated the **Sofitel Montevideo Casino Carrasco & Spa**, an awaited celebration after many months of work and an investment of over \$75 million.

CARRASCO NOBILE, a consortium led by Grupo CODERE, was in charge of the rehabilitation and refurbishment of an exceptional classical building built by French architects Dunant and Mallet in 1912. The completion of the work required the presence of a group of over 100 expert restorers who have returned the splendor and "*art de vivre*" to this Uruguay National Heritage building.

The result, the **SOFITEL MONTEVIDEO CASINO CARRASCO & SPA**, is a complex work consisting of a 116 room hotel and facilities of the highest international level, which employs more than 170 people and is operated by the French company SOFITEL, along with a modern Casino with 3000 m2 dedicated to leisure and entertainment on the two lower levels of the building. The casino has 23 casino tables, 400 gaming machines and employs more than 280 people.

### **Social event of the season**

The opening ceremony, with more than 1,500 guests, was attended by numerous Uruguayan authorities, including the acting President, the Ministers of Tourism and Education, the mayor intendent of Montevideo, members of the diplomatic corps, members of Carrasco Nobile, and many others. The expectations generated by this event required it to be broadcast live on national television.

Among the interventions, Martín Blaquier, chairman of the consortium CARRASCO NOBILE, said that *"after several failed attempts to restore this building, Carrasco Nobile decided to attend the call of the City of Montevideo, presenting a project consistent with history, a friendly environment and committed to service excellence."*

Also, Grupo CODERE Chairman, Jose Antonio Martínez Sampedro stressed *"the combination of classicism and modernity that this work represents. It is the result of a process of cooperation and respect between the company, the authorities and the community, which have become not only spectators, but the true stars. Hence the presence of Uruguayan youth training for the hotel and the activities of local suppliers."*

The SOFITEL operations director for Latin America, Nagi Naoufal, noted that *"when we were summoned to undertake the hotel operations, we did not hesitate one instant. We will strive to ensure that guests enjoy a harmonious balance between the pleasure of feeling at home and the exquisite sensations of being in a place like this."*

The mayor of Montevideo stressed the importance of the *"Hotel Carrasco Project as a project for everyone without exception"*, words that were completed by Danilo Astori, Uruguay's acting president, who highlighted, to close the round of speeches, *"the recovery of this jewel of our national heritage, an endearing part of the history of Montevideo. When a country decides that this heritage will not be forgotten, then we are demonstrating the cultural strength of our country."*

Starting today, the Sofitel Montevideo Casino Carrasco & Spa opens its doors to show that the dream was possible and now appears as a majestic and living reality.... "Long live Hotel Casino Carrasco"

### **The CODERE Group**

CODERE is a Spanish multinational group and a key player in the private gaming sector in Europe and Latin America and is listed on the Spanish Stock Exchange. Overall the Group manages more than 56,474 gaming machines, 186 gaming halls, 1,379 sports betting shops and participates in the management and operation of 3 horse racetracks, with a presence in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Spain and Uruguay. In Italy and Spain the Group also offers online gambling under the appropriate license in said countries.

**Communications Department**

[comunicacion@codere.com](mailto:comunicacion@codere.com)

Tel.: + (34) 91 354 28 26

**NOTE:** More information at [www.codere.com](http://www.codere.com)