

*For Immediate Release:*

## **The Venetian® Macao Launches First Of New High-Speed Passenger Ferries**

***Setting new standards on Sea-link to Macao should we highlight the fact that we are increasing accessibility, diversifying traffic for the convenience of visitors between Hong Kong and the Cotai Strip?***

**It is important that we are “increasing” the pie of visitors to and from Macao to HK**

**Macao, SAR, China, Tuesday November 13, 2007** – Macao visitors and residents can now enjoy a luxurious (Remarks: ultra modern, comfortable and convenient rather than luxurious due to the two wet-leased boats) new way to jet-set from Hong Kong to The Venetian® Macao-Resort-Hotel and The Cotai Strip™ with the service launch today of the first of The Venetian® Macao’s fleet of new high-speed ferries.

The first ferry, named “The Grand Canal Shoppes”, left Hong Kong’s Macao Ferry Terminal at Shun Tak at 7 o’clock this morning for the brand new Taipa Temporary Ferry Terminal on the Northeast side of Macao’s Taipa Island. This is the first of ten 47.5 metre hi-tech passenger catamarans which will operate as The Cotai Strip™ CotaiJet service.

The new ferry service will also initially use two specially upgraded leased vessels from Chu Kong Shipping, and will be offering hourly sailings from 7am, tightening the partnerships between Hong Kong and Macao.

The Venetian® Macao will be phasing-in further sister vessels to the fleet - dramatically liveried in exciting electric blue with the brand new Cotai Strip™ logo of a fountain flowing with gold and covered with sparkling stars - introducing another two brand new catamarans to the service between Hong Kong and Macau in November, thereby increasing the sailing frequency to around every half-an-hour.

In January next year a further two vessels will arrive for operations, which will see the commencement of services from both the ‘Skypier’ at Hong Kong International Airport and The China Ferry Terminal at Kowloon to The Cotai Strip™

As further catamarans come on line the frequency of sailings will continue to increase, with future sailings from ports in the Pearl River Delta also anticipated by late 2009.

Designed and built by renowned Australian vessel builder Austral, each custom-built catamaran is about 48 meters in length and carries over 400 passengers - twice the capacity of some existing services - at operating speeds of around 42 knots. On these new vessels, the lower deck, known as Cotai Class, will offer levels of luxury normally associated with the more expensive classes on some other ferry services, while the upper deck, comprising Cotai First and Cotai VIP cabins, will offer the comfort and elegance associated with The Venetian® Macao-Resort-Hotel.

When fully operational the fleet of ultra-modern Cotai*Jets* will boast onboard cabin-crew dedicated to serve passengers with a new standard of exceptional dining, online booking for entertainment on The Cotai Strip™ and on-board hotel check-in services to provide a seamless connection for Cotai Strip™ visitors .

The passenger catamarans will capitalise on the rapidly growing demand for the Hong Kong to Macao service, currently the world's largest route in terms of passenger numbers. They will transport tourists, convention and exhibition guests and visitors directly to the newly opened first-phase of the Taipa Temporary Ferry Terminal, situated just minutes from The Venetian® Macao-Resort-Hotel and The Cotai Strip™.

“The Venetian’s new ferries will offer customers a choice and the convenience to arrive at the door step of the Cotai Strip™, the world’s largest tourism project and Cotai, one of the fastest growing residential development in Macao, helping to alleviate traffic congestion on the Macao peninsula. Every passenger on board the Cotai*Jet* will have an opportunity to immerse themselves in the Venetian® experience from the minute they step aboard in Hong Kong and start their journey to Macao,” explained Mr. Stephen Weaver, President of Asia Region of Las Vegas Sands Corp.

“Our sea-borne transportation system is an integral part of The Cotai Strip™ destination resort experience and an important component in facilitating our strategy to reposition Macao as a multi-day stay destination, where visitors and our strategic partners from Hong Kong and those transferring from Hong Kong’s international airport hub will enjoy a wide range of business, exhibition and convention facilities, together with world-class entertainment, complemented by an incredible Venetian-style shopping, dining, and recreation experience,” he said.

Macao’s emergence as an entertainment, shopping, conference and convention and resort epicenter saw last year’s passenger numbers from Hong Kong to Macao rising more than 13 percent to 14.3 million passengers. The numbers are anticipated to double in the next three years, driven by the Las Vegas Sands Corp’s developments on The Cotai Strip™.

Modeled after the famous European City of Venice, the 92,900 square meter Grand Canal Shoppes is the central attraction of The Venetian® Macao, allowing visitors to experience the ornate architecture, canals and gondola rides of the Renaissance Italian city. The mall features a vast range of both international and local brand retail outlets, including some 30 leading food and beverage outlets, a

1,000-seat food court, an up-market nightclub and a 4,645-square-meter luxury spa when fully operational.

The Venetian Macao is Asia's largest integrated resort with one of the largest hotels in Asia. It features 3,000 all-suite rooms, 100,000 square meter of meeting, convention and exhibition space, world-class entertainment in the 15,000-seat Venetian Arena, and an impressive array of dining, shopping, and recreation options.

The Venetian Macao, located in Macao, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, is the anchor property of The Cotai Strip™, a master planned development of resort and casino properties. The Cotai Strip™ will feature hotels operated by some of the most prestigious names in the hotel industry, including Four Seasons, Sheraton, St. Regis, Shangri-La, Traders, Hilton, Conrad, Fairmont, and Raffles. Las Vegas Sands Corp. owns and constructs each of the hotels as well as operates the casinos and entertainment venues in each hotel.

The Venetian® Macao Media Portal: [www.venetianmedia.com](http://www.venetianmedia.com)

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#### **ABOUT VENETIAN MACAU LIMITED**

Venetian Macau Limited, a subsidiary of Las Vegas Sands Corp., operates the Sands Macao, located near Macao's existing casino and entertainment district and across from the Macao Hong Kong Ferry Terminal. The over one million square foot Sands Macao features a gaming area that includes around 800 table games and over 1,500 state-of-the-art electronic gaming devices. The complex also includes 51 luxurious suites, full service spa and salon, and a 24-hour teahouse. The Company also developed and opened, in August 2007, The Venetian® Macao-Resort-Hotel on The Cotai Strip™ Macao - Asia's Las Vegas™ .

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