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AAA awards 4 stars to Westin Waterfront hotel

BY DONNA GOODISON

The new Westin Boston Waterfront has been awarded four diamonds from AAA, the travel organization's second-highest rating.

Connected to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the 793-room Westin opened in June as the Hub's newest hotel.

"They've done a very beautiful job," said Art Canter, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Lodging Association. "Westins have always prided themselves on being one of the higher-end products in the Starwood chain. For a large convention hotel, it has a lot of character."

Hotels and restaurants must apply to be rated by AAA, and its inspectors make unannounced visits. Hotels receiving four diamonds must be upscale in all areas, with refined and stylish accommodations, an extensive array of amenities, and a high degree of hospitality, service and attention to detail, according to AAA.

The Westin Boston Waterfront joins 17 other Boston hotels that are repeat four-diamond winners. Other Massachusetts properties newly named to the four-diamond list are Blantyre in Lenox and The Wauwinet in Nantucket.

Massachusetts is home to just one five-diamond hotel: The Four Seasons Hotel Boston earned the top rating for the 19th consecutive year. Its Aujourd'hui restaurant received five diamonds for the 12th straight year.

Chef Frank McClelland's L'Espalier, located on Gloucester Street in Boston's Back Bay, also won the top restaurant rating for an eighth year.