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Ghost Tour of St. Petersburg Raises Spirits with Downtown Renaissance

St. Petersburg, FL, 2008 – Amid the flurry of the downtown St. Petersburg renaissance, an alternative for the after dinner crowd has taken root in the unofficial town center. Since opening in 2004, the Ghost Tour of St. Petersburg has offered nightly tours of the city's historic streets, covering various haunted sites in an eight block radius.

This year, the Ghost Tour has added newly uncovered stories about St. Petersburg's past and welcomed new storytellers to their staff. They have also added two new tours. The "Toast with a Ghost" Haunted Pub Crawl is similar to the downtown tour, except extra time is given at several haunted establishments. The Ghost Tour at Jungle Prada, near the Gulf Coast beach resorts, boasts the Boca Ciega Bay as a backdrop for stories mysterious and mystical. Both are available for groups and private tours.

At each of the approximately ten stops on each of these tours, a costumed storyteller tells a ghost story associated with the location, giving onlookers a glimpse of history by candlelight.

One such stop, the old Detroit Hotel, supposedly harbors a mysterious portrait in the attic, one whose eyes follow unwitting intruders. And the Grand Dame of St. Petersburg, the Vinoy Resort, apparently counts a revenge-seeking misty woman in white among its guests. Not all the stories on the tour involve ghosts who prefer to remain nameless, however. Others spotlight men and women from the early 1900s who played integral roles in the city's development.

No matter the spirit who stars in any particular story, the Ghost tour promises an authentic experience of St. Petersburg. All of the stories are based on the book *Ghost Stories of St. Petersburg, FL*, by Tim Reeser, a collection of history and folklore-based accounts from archival research and present day interviews.

For additional information on the Ghost Tour of St. Petersburg, call 727-894-4678 or visit www.ghosttour.net.

ABOUT THE GHOST TOUR OF ST. PETERSBURG

The Ghost Tour of St. Petersburg is a 90 minute candlelight walking tour in downtown St. Petersburg. Tours are scheduled for 8:00 pm year-round and depart from the Full Monty café at 119 2nd Street North, St. Petersburg FL, 33701. The Ghost Tour at Jungle Prada and the "Toast with a Ghost" Haunted Pub Crawl are available for groups of 10 or more. Call 727-894-4678 for reservations and availability.

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