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For Immediate Release**Hotel Mazarin to host noted Author Elizabeth Goldsmith for Presentation and Book signing**

NEW ORLEANS, La.,- [Hotel Mazarin](#), part of the [New Orleans Hotel Collection](#), will be hosting author Elizabeth Goldsmith, a Boston University French professor, about her recently released book: **THE KINGS' MISTRESSES**. The book is a colorful double biography of Marie and Hortense Mancini—two aristocratic sisters raised in the court of Louis XIV, who fled their husbands and began lives of extraordinary daring on the run and in the public eye. Think the Thelma & Louise of the 17th Century!

The presentation and book signing will take place Friday, May 25 between 4 and 7 pm at [Hotel Mazarin](#). Refreshments will be available. The event is open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase while supplies last.

The Mancini Sisters, Marie and Hortense, were born in Rome, brought to the court of Louis XIV of France, and strategically married off by their uncle, Cardinal Mazarin, (for whom the Hotel Mazarin is named) to secure his political power base. Such was the life of many young women of the age: they had no independent status under the law and were entirely a part of their husband's property once married.

Elizabeth Goldsmith is well-versed in women's writing in the age of King Louis XIV. She has been working on projects about the Mancini sisters since 1995. While researching a new edition of Marie Mancini's memoirs, she came across a huge collection of personal letters between Marie and her family, her friends and her estranged husband. The letters revealed much more about the lives of these two notorious sisters than has been previously understood. Historians tend to describe Marie and Hortense as pleasure-seekers and pathetic victims, but Elizabeth Goldsmith sees them as strong, determined women who certainly loved pleasure, but were also remarkable

because they managed to assert their personal liberties at a time when male dominance was written into the law.

About Hotel Mazarin

Located in the heart of the French Quarter, the newly designed 102-room Hotel Mazarin creates an inviting and personable stay delivered in historical elegance with modern hotel conveniences. The hotel takes its name from the famous European diplomat and Catholic Pontiff, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, a 17th century Italian-born statesman, gambler, *aide-de-camp* to French royalty, Machiavellian scholar, chief financial minister to Queen Anne, and a longtime Regent of France on behalf of Louis XIV. A Renaissance man and collector of fine wines and wealth, he designed the Mazarin Diamond, collected jewels, and was an avid reader and a man of acclaimed wit. His reputation, once sullied, became golden again and his spirit lives on in the new Hotel Mazarin. Located one-half block from Bourbon and Royal Streets, the hotel is ideally situated to the entertainment, dining, shopping and cultural offerings of America's favorite city. The hotel is also home to Patrick's Bar Vin, a new and decidedly upscale wine bar in the French Quarter. Hotel Mazarin is owned by 730 Bienville, LLC whose principals, Joseph A. Jaeger, Jr. and Wayne Ducote are committed to the recovery of New Orleans and the further strengthening of the New Orleans hospitality industry. For more information, visit www.hotelmazarin.com.

About the New Orleans Hotel Collection

The New Orleans Hotel Collection is a group of seven splendidly original hotels in the New Orleans metropolitan region owned by local investors. Comprised of the Bourbon Orleans, Dauphine Orleans, Hotel Le Marais, Wyndham Riverfront, Audubon Cottages, Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport and Hotel Mazarin, these boutique and small upscale meeting hotels are in prime locations throughout the city. For more information, visit www.neworleanshotelcollection.com.

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