

Atlanta's first Cambria Suites lands at airport

Atlanta soon will get its first look at Cambria Suites, a brand of **Choice Hotels International Inc.** Construction will begin this summer near **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**.

Choice (NYSE: CHH), based in Silver Springs, Md., positions the brand as "business hotels with luxury hotel rooms." It's one of the company's 10 mostly economy hotel brands, including Comfort Inn and Clarion.

The hotel will have a full-service restaurant, 24-hour convenience store and indoor pool, for less than a full-service hotel.

The room rate will be about \$100 per night, said Rahim Charania, president of **CQ Capital Partners**, the Clarkston-based developers of the College Park hotel that will be on Best Road, near a Days Inn and a Holiday Inn.

Cambria's all-suite rooms are stocked with the latest technology, from MP3 jacks and DVD players to free wireless Internet and flat screen TVs.

Charania's company, which includes his father, Barkat Charania, and business partner Keith Quarles Jr., has been in hospitality for more than 20 years. They also have a \$67 million, 40-acre, mixed-use project under construction on Camp Creek Parkway, with 174 residences and 30,000 square feet of retail.



RESTAURANTS & HOSPITALITY

Rachel Tobin Ramos

YES, WE'RE OPEN! Just to set the record straight, **The Silver Skillet** at 200 14th Street N.W. in Midtown is open.

The restaurant has experienced a 30 percent drop in sales after a similarly named restaurant, **The Silver Grill** at 900 Monroe Drive, closed.

Jeff Breckenridge, the longtime owner of **The Silver Skillet**, said he's had up to 10 calls a day asking if his restaurant is still open.

So he wants people to know he's open, and has no, "underline no," plans

of closing.

The restaurant celebrated 50 years of operations last May. He and his wife, Teresa, took the restaurant over from her father, George Decker, who ran the restaurant until he died in 1988.

She quit her job as a middle school teacher to run the restaurant, and Breckenridge joined her later, leaving a job at Buckhead Brokers.

Today, the 53-year-olds plan to keep the restaurant open as long as they can. Jeff Breckenridge said the restaurant is a "throwback" to slower times. It's open only for breakfast and lunch during the week, from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and for breakfast on the weekends, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Blue-, white-collar eat side by side," said Breckenridge. "Local TV



Corteo: Cirque du Soleil's latest show has sold close to 156,000 tickets in Atlanta.

Happy Clowns

When Canadian-based **Cirque du Soleil** folds the **Grand Chapiteau** Jan. 28, the troupe will have sold close to 156,000 tickets.

"Sales have been fantastic," said Rachel Andrews, the Toronto-based public relations manager for the touring shows. "Really outstanding."

With less than two weeks left for the show, Cirque had about 3,000 tickets left, most in the VIP section, she said.

The big tent seats 2,600 per show, and Andrews said most shows have sold out. Although the Cirque would love to extend the Atlanta tour, the clowns will open "Corteo" in Dallas on Feb. 9.

Andrews added that the Atlantic Station site "has been phenomenal for us."

stations come here to interview customers about whatever is the talk of the town because they get such a cross-section."

He's seen other hard times: He closed a counter-only operation called **Little Skillet** after road work on 14th Street diminished his traffic. But he hopes a new 14th Street bridge slated for construction will bring him a flock of new customers.

"Hopefully we'll be construction central, the workers will come to us, and we'll reopen the **Little Skillet**."

LODGING STARS. The **Georgia Hotel & Lodging Association** will host its first-ever awards luncheon at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel on Jan. 25.

Awards will go to the best properties, general managers, events and hotel workers in the Georgia hospitality industry. Tickets for the event are available at www.ghla.net.

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