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Air Canada to launch daily, non-stop Montréal-Rome service

Only business class with lie flat suites between Canada and Italy

MONTREAL, Dec. 15 /CNW Telbec/ - Air Canada today announced that it will launch non-stop service between Montréal and Rome to meet seasonal travel demand. Beginning June 20, 2009 the carrier will operate daily non-stop flights during the busy summer travel season linking the Italian capital with Air Canada's extensive Québec and Atlantic Canada network, as well as major cities on the Eastern U.S. seaboard. Re-introduction of direct Montréal-Rome service complements Air Canada's Toronto-Rome non-stop service set to resume in February 2009.

"This is great news for Montreal's Italian community and travelers in eastern Canada and the U.S. who will benefit from substantial time savings during the peak travel season to Italy," said Ben Smith, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer. "The reintroduction of our non-stop service between Montréal and Rome strengthens Air Canada's commitment to offer convenient flights from Montréal to key international destinations. With the addition of three new destinations this year, Geneva, Fort de France, Martinique and now Rome, Air Canada offers non-stop service from Montréal to 50 destinations. By next summer we will have increased capacity across the Atlantic from Montréal by 35 per cent year over year, with non stop service to five European gateway cities including London, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva and Rome."

For greater convenience and travel choice, Air Canada will offer connecting flights via Rome operated by its partner airline Air One to popular destinations in Italy, including Bari, Milan, Palermo and Venice. As well, Air Canada's Star Alliance partners Lufthansa and Swiss International Air Lines offer service from Montreal to Munich and Zurich respectively, further increasing connections and travel options.

To promote Air Canada's new Montréal-Rome service, the airline is offering special introductory round-trip fares starting at \$798, plus applicable taxes and surcharges, for travel commencing between June 20 and July 4, 2009. These special fares are available for purchase until January 5, 2009 through aircanada.com, Air Canada Reservations or travel agents.

"We are very enthusiastic about this initiative by Air Canada for Montreal, given the popularity of Rome as a summer travel destination," said Mr. James Cherry, President and Chief Executive Officer at Aéroports de Montréal.

Air Canada's Montreal-Rome non-stop service will be operated using a 211-seat Boeing 767-300 ER aircraft offering a choice of Economy Class and Executive First service featuring 24 lay flat bed suites. Further details and a virtual tour of Air Canada's new cabin amenities, including personal seatback entertainment at every seat, are available at: <http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/onboard/cabincomfort.html>.

With an eastbound flight time of eight hours, travelers will save more than two hours off alternate routings via Toronto or Frankfurt. Operation of the new route is subject to obtaining necessary government approvals.

	Montréal	Rome	Rome	Montréal	
AC892	17:35	07:30 (+1)	AC893	09:20	12:25

Montréal-based Air Canada provides scheduled and charter air transportation for passengers and cargo to more than 170 destinations on five continents. Canada's flag carrier is the 14th largest commercial airline in the world and serves 34 million customers annually with a fleet consisting of 335 aircraft. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, providing the world's most comprehensive air transportation network for Canadian domestic, transborder and international travel. Air Canada aircraft offer customers individualized seatback in-flight entertainment systems with hundreds of hours of digital audio-visual entertainment. As well, customers can collect Aeroplan miles for future awards through Canada's leading loyalty program.

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