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South Africa: Hotel News

aha Hotels & Lodges welcomes Sefapane Lodges & Safaris to the family

Published: 28 Feb 2017 – Bizcommunity

“aha Hotels & Lodges has secured the full management and marketing contract for the Sefapane Lodges & Safaris, situated at the Phalaborwa Gate just 1 km away from the Kruger National Park, Limpopo, effective 1 March 2017. The lodge offers bushveld landscapes and rich cultural attraction, including the scenic Panorama Route.

Neil Bald, aha Hotels & Lodges CEO says “We are very pleased to welcome Sefapane Lodges & Safaris to the aha family. Going forward the establishment will be known as aha Sefapane Lodges & Safaris and will be fully incorporated under the aha brand.

Managing director of Sefapane Lodges & Safaris, Joris Bertens says they look forward to this partnership. “aha Hotels & Lodges are experts in hospitality management and marketing.” [More...](#)

Premier Hotel Cape Town to start extensive renovations in May

Published: 01 Mar 2017 – Bizcommunity

“Renovations will enhance the luxury and comfort for which the hotel is renowned. From the moment that guests step through the hotel doors, they will be welcomed into the revamped reception and lounge areas, boasting brand new furniture, fittings and décor.

Both the Promenade Restaurant and the hotel’s sundowner sipping spot, the Promenade Cocktail Bar, will be undergoing a total refurbishment with a new layout, bar and a contemporary earthy feel creating an elegant environment in which diners can enjoy a palate-pleasing experience.

The cosy “Sofie’s Lounge” and the hotel’s three conference venues will also undergo redecoration with new softs and furnishings.” [More...](#)

Marriott International looking to the promise of Africa

Published: 02 Mar 2017 – BizCommunity

“The business world has increasingly started to shift focus to Africa, and with global hotel companies aggressively expanding on the continent, this is possibly most evident in the hospitality sector. According to Alex Kyriakidis, president, Middle East and Africa, Marriott International, they have looked to the promise of the Middle East and Africa region for a good few years now.

“Our presence in the Middle East is now substantial and constantly growing, and we began a rollout of new properties in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2014, with the acquisition of South African-based Protea Hotels.

That move immediately projected us into the top spot in terms of hotel companies’ presence on the continent.” The more recent acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts has provided Marriott with an even greater footprint in Africa.” [More...](#)

Tshwane, Sandton set to welcome new Capital hotels

Published: 27 Feb 2017 – Tourism Update

“The Capital Hotel Group will launch two hotels this year, The Capital Menlyn Maine in Tshwane (Pretoria) and the Capital on Park in Sandton, Johannesburg.

The Capital Menlyn Maine will open partially on March 15, with a launch event on May 15 when the penthouse suites and two top floors will be available. It will feature 200 one-, two- and three-bedroom hotel apartments, a 240-seat conference centre that can be split into three and can accommodate up to 80 people in banquet or classroom style.

A 50-seat breakaway room, two meeting rooms and an events deck with a purpose-designed marquee that can accommodate up to 450 delegates will also be available in the hotel”. [More...](#)

South Africa: Tourism News

New partnership to put Cape Halaal tourism on the map

Published: 28 Feb 2017 – Traveller24

“Cape Town- As Cape Town is becoming a recognised Halaal tourism destination, [Wesgro](#), Cape Town and the Western Cape's official tourism and investment promotion agency have partnered with dnata World Travel to promote the Cape throughout the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

From next year, Dnata will now conduct marketing and sales activities and action on behalf of the Cape in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“Through our Project Khulisa growth strategy, we are seeking to boost tourism to the.” [More...](#)

Rates reversal ruled out (for now) as rand bounces back

Published: 27 Feb 2017 – Tourism Update

“The strengthened rand is unlikely to be met with a reduction in rates from South Africa’s luxury accommodation providers. In fact operators expect 2018 rates will be adjusted upwards.

In January last year, a slew of high-end rand-based accommodation providers said they would be increasing 2016 rates in response to the weakening rand. In the six months to January 15, 2016, the rand depreciated 30% against the dollar, dropping from R12,82 to the dollar to R16,70. On Monday, the rand was trading at R12,93 to the dollar.” [More...](#)

Expect Vic Falls jackpot with Kenya Airways flight

Published: 28 Feb 2017 – Tourism Update

Kenya Airways' new flight from Nairobi to Cape Town via Victoria Falls, which launches May 18, will result in influx of creative and cost-effective packages to Victoria Falls.

The route will likely be hit with international travellers wanting to combine Cape Town and Victoria Falls. Victoria Falls and Cape Town have opposite high and low seasons so the opportunity to create innovative and cost-effective packages is now ready and waiting," says Ross Kennedy, Chief Executive Africa Albida Tourism.

Vicky Steinhardt, Product Manager of Pentravel, says although the destination is already well represented by tour operators in South Africa "[More...](#)

Worldwide: Hotel News

Yuk Tung Properties and IHG to develop a Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kuala Lumpur

Published: 27 Feb 2017 – ehotelier

"Scheduled to open by 2021, the new Crowne Plaza Kuala Lumpur City Centre will be located along Jalan Yap Kwan Seng, a vibrant street lined with embassies, trendy restaurants and bars and within walking distance from the renowned Petronas Twin Towers, which forms part of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, or "KLCC" area. KLCC is the central heart of the Golden Triangle downtown district of Kuala Lumpur, and includes KLCC Park, a 50-acre tropical landscape park regarded as one of the top three public parks in the world, all but a stone's throw away from the hotel.

"With the AEC coming together we see greater opportunities for intra-regional travel," said Harwood, Vice President, Operations, South East Asia and Korea, IHG. "Coupled with the launch of the High Speed Rail linking Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in 2026, we're confident the city will welcome even more visitors in the coming years.

The opening of Crowne Plaza Kuala Lumpur City Centre will help cater to the influx of business travelers coming in from all over Asia and we are delighted. "[More...](#)

Chinese hotel brands expand overseas but face challenges on the way

Published: 27 Feb 2017– Hospitalitynet

“As more and more Chinese tourists go abroad on holiday, China's budget hotel chains are expanding overseas to serve the country's growing numbers of international travelers.

According to a recent article in the *Financial Times*, low-cost hotels such as 7Days Inn and GreenTree Inn have already opened hotels in Austria, the U.S., Thailand and Vietnam, and are looking to expand further in Germany and Italy, following Anbang's purchase of the high-end Waldorf Astoria in New York for nearly \$2 billion in 2014.

The Huazhu Group has formed an alliance with French hotel chain Accor aimed at international expansion and the Shanghai Jin Jiang International Hotels Group became the fifth-largest hotel chain in the world last year after it purchased a majority stake in Plateno, which owns 7Days, and acquired the French chain Louvre Hotels.”[More...](#)

Melia Hotels International Tops \$100 Million in Profits for 2016

Published: 01 Mar 2017 – Travelpulse

“On Wednesday, Spanish hotel chain Melia Hotels International announced the company had earned profits of €100.7 million (\$106.2 million) in 2016, an increase of 180 percent from the previous year's total.

Melia officials revealed the hotel chain signed up more than 30 new hotels and opened 17 new hotels in 10 countries during 2016. As for 2017, the company says the numbers will rise to 23 new hotels in at least 15 countries.

In addition to new openings, Melia also improved its Vacation Club, which has now been dubbed The Circle. Not only will The Circle have a close connection to the Melia Rewards loyalty program, but it also offers members more flexibility and greater variety, as well as focusing more “[More...](#)

Accor signs 26 hotel management deal with Brazil Hospitality Group

Published: 03 Mar 2017 – Breaking Travel News

“AccorHotels announces it has signed an agreement with Brazil Hospitality Group and its shareholders, funds managed by GP Investments and GTIS Partners, in order to take over the management of 26 hotels currently owned or managed by BHG, the third-largest hotel company in Brazil.

The deal includes around 4,000 rooms in total.

The portfolio includes economy, midscale and upper upscale hotels in Brazil’s major markets, especially in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, complementing well AccorHotels’ existing network in Brazil, and consolidating the group’s leadership across all segments. “[More...](#)

Worldwide: Tourism News

Seychelles reports 17% increase in South African visitors

Published: 02 Mar 2017 – BizCommunity

“While the most recent statics still fall below the recorded number of 911 in 2015, the tourism board is confident that 2017 will be a year of growth for the South African market.

Says David Germain, Seychelles Tourism Board, director for Africa and the Americas: “We are extremely pleased about the latest figures from the South African market and we are looking forward to, in partnership with South African travellers and our trade partners, to grow at an even greater pace in the coming year.”

Germain adds that the launch of Air Seychelles’ year-round flights from Durban to the Seychelles, on 30 March, will play.” [More...](#)