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South Africa: Hotel News

New R700m dual-brand hotel on track to redefine Cape Town's budget stay offering

Published: 06 Mar 2017 – Traveller24

"Cape Town - Luxury, high-end accommodation can be found at the drop of a hat in Cape Town - you only need to mention the likes of the Westin, Mount Nelson, or One & Only to know what we're talking about.

However Tsogo Sun's new dual-brand 19-storey hotel development on the corner of Bree, Buitengracht and Strand streets in Cape Town is entering the final stages of development and hoping to open up the more affordable budget stay offerings in the city for the business and leisure traveller.

The hotel is expected to be completed by September 2017, with construction estimated at R700 million, says the group. "[More...](#)

South Africa: Tourism News

EU Visa-free travel: US loss of access to be SA's gain?

Published: 06 Mar 2017 – Traveller24

"Cape Town - Reciprocity is the name of the game when it comes to visa regulations, case in point being SA's recent New Zealand travel regulations.

And as the EU contemplates ending visa-free travel for Americans, South Africans could see their European travel plans eased considerably.

The European Parliament has voted to end visa-free travel for Americans, after the US failed to agree visa-free travel for citizens of five EU countries – Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania. For now, US citizens can travel to all the aforementioned countries without a visa. But, this might soon change. "[More...](#)

Airlines add 80,000 new seats with flights to Victoria Falls

Published: 08 Mar 2017 – Tourism Update

“On March 1, South African Airways began operating an Airbus A330-200, daily to Victoria Falls from Johannesburg - the largest passenger aircraft ever to land at Zimbabwe’s top resort town. The A330-200 has 222 seats, 88 more than the smaller aircraft it has replaced. Inbound flights are already heavily booked till 12 March and demand is growing daily, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe.

“March 2017 heralds a new dawn for tourism, with the arrival of SAA’s A330-200 in Victoria Falls,” says Kennedy. “This is the beginning of an exciting and positive period for tourism in the region.”

In addition, Ethiopian Airlines will begin four flights weekly from 26 March from Addis Ababa to Victoria Falls, using the latest Boeing 737. Kenya Airways will begin direct flights three times a week from Nairobi to Victoria Falls on 18 May. [“More...”](#)

Worldwide: Hotel News

AccorHotels and Rixos Hotels announce a strategic partnership

Published: 06 Mar 2017– Hospitalitynet

“AccorHotels and Rixos Hotels announce today a strategic partnership illustrating AccorHotels' strategy to expand its presence in the Upper Upscale/Luxury market, with a primary focus on developing global activities in the resort segment.

Under a long-term joint venture, both parties intend to collaborate, develop and manage Rixos branded resorts & hotels worldwide. Upon closing, AccorHotels will own a 50% interest in the joint venture management company.

Through this joint venture, AccorHotels will integrate in its network 15 iconic hotels that are ideally located in premium resort markets in Turkey, UAE, Egypt, Russia and Europe and which benefit from strong room rate performance.

As part of this transaction, Rixos plans to reflag five city-centre hotels to AccorHotels brands which will also be managed by AccorHotels. To this portfolio, Rixos will add a second iconic hotel in Dubai in the very short term as well as two other properties by the end of 2018 in Abu Dhabi and the Maldives highlighting the expansion of the Rixos brand into this key resort market. [“More...”](#)

Marriott International Announces 2020 Growth Vision In Europe Post Starwood Acquisition

Published: 07 Mar 2017– Hospitalitynet

“Berlin -- Following a historic year for the company in 2016, Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ: MAR) announced today that it expects to dramatically increase the size of its portfolio in Europe across all segments of the industry.

The planned expansion in Europe is the first development vision announced for the continent since the acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide in September 2016.

"2016 was a momentous year for both the company and our continent team. We added 40,000 rooms in Europe with the Starwood acquisition alone, and achieved our long-term goal to triple in size, from 40,000 open rooms in 2010 to 134,000 open or signed rooms at the end of 2016," said Amy McPherson, President and Managing Director, Marriott International, Europe. [More...](#)

Hilton passes milestone, 100,000 open rooms across EMEA and counting

Published: 08 Mar 2017 – BizCommunity

“Hilton has passed the milestone of 100,000 rooms trading across its Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) portfolio, this at a time of unprecedented global growth for the company, specifically in the EMEA. The region has seen a net unit growth of more than 20,000 rooms in the past three years, a trend set to continue with close to 40,000 rooms currently under construction and expected to open by the end of 2020.

Patrick Fitzgibbon, senior vice president, development, EMEA, Hilton said: “Reaching 100,000 trading rooms is a significant milestone for us as a company, particularly given the quality and breadth of Hilton’s portfolio in the region.

Our development journey in EMEA continues to set the pace for the industry - with over 60% of our pipeline rooms already under construction.”[More...](#)

Hotels in Eastern Europe benefiting from misfortune of Western Europe

Published: 07 Mar 2017 – BizCommunity

"According to the 2017 European Hotel Valuation Index (HVI), hotels in Eastern Europe are benefitting from tough times in Western Europe with room values in the region seeing an impressive 11% average growth. Bratislava topped the list of value rises, up 18.9% year-on-year, hotel room values in Sofia rose 16%, Bucharest saw hotel room values increase by 14.6%, while those in Budapest and Prague were up 9.9% - this in a year that saw little change in values across the rest of Europe.

While many Eastern European markets saw their hotel room values rise from a relatively low base, their new affordability has helped build a strong demand base as holidays in the Eurozone become more expensive, particularly for British citizens.

"Many Eastern European markets are benefitting from the misfortune of Western Europe," commented report co-author Nicole Perreten, senior associate, HVS. "[More...](#)

Worldwide: Tourism News

Jumia Travel expands with new local and international destinations

Published: 09 Mar 2017 – BizCommunity

"Jumia Travel has unveiled new continental and international destinations. With a registered inventory of more than 30,000 hotels in Africa and over 300,000 worldwide, including new properties in Africa including South Africa, Morocco.

Egypt, and Tunisia, as well as outbound destinations including Dubai, London, New York, Paris, and Mecca among others, the travel company is further solidifying its presence in the global hotel, travel and tourism landscape

The packages will consist of hotel stays, return flight tickets, tours or excursions upon request and availability. They exclude Visa processing fees, travel insurance, among other activities not mentioned above. "[More...](#)