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South Africa: Hotel News

Cape Town hotel under new ownership

Published: 08 May 2017 – Tourism Update

“Inn on the Square has been sold to ONOMO Hotels. The hotel was previously managed by aha on behalf of Hospitality Property Fund, which owned the property. The hotel will no longer form part of the aha portfolio.

On October 10, 2016, the hotel was sold for R157 million (€10.6m) and aha continued to manage the property until April 30 this year.

The hotel is now rebranded ONOMO Hotel Cape Town – Inn on the Square and will be fully integrated into the hotel portfolio. ONOMO Hotel Cape Town – Inn on the Square comprises.” [More...](#)

Hilton Durban completes refurbishment

Published: 11 May 2017 – Tourism Update

“The Hilton Durban in KwaZulu Natal has completed a major refurbishment that was done in five phases at a total cost of R200 million (€14m). The full refurbishment is scheduled for completion in 2018 after the meetings and banqueting facilities have been upgraded.

Work already completed includes the lobby and Big Easy Winebar & Grill Durban by Ernie Els. The bar has been converted to a Business Lounge with redesigned suites, including the Presidential Suites.

A new restaurant, Vasco’s, has a show kitchen that doubles as a buffet, a tandoor oven, pasta station and grill station.

The hotel is celebrating its 20 years by transforming all 327 bedrooms into contemporary spaces and a new room type for families has been added. “[More...](#)”

South Africa: Tourism News

Arrivals from key markets slow

Published: 08 May 2017 – Tourism Update

“Overseas arrivals to South Africa are up by 9% year on year for the month of February, however it is a decrease from January’s year on year for the month overseas arrivals at 14%, while year-to-date overseas arrivals are up 11.42%, overseas arrivals for February 2016 were 234 707 and 255 901 for February 2017, according to the latest statistics released by Statistics SA.

Arrivals from New Zealand are down by 48.68% year on year for February.

China and India also experienced declines in arrivals for February, down 27% and 10% respectively year on year. Total arrivals for the month of February 2016 were, 12 370 arrivals from China and 6 776 arrivals from India, compared to 9027 arrivals from China and 6035 arrivals from India for the month of February 2017.”[More...](#)

SA stand busier than ever at Arabian Travel Market

Published: 10 May 2017 – Tourism Update

“Positive feedback is coming through from exhibitors who participated in this year’s Arabian Travel Market under the destination South Africa stand, indicating that the show was well worth it.

T-Cubed Consulting, says the show was busier than before. He describes the first day of the 2016 show as a “slower day”, indicating that buyers were not necessarily looking to South Africa as a primary destination, but would visit the stand when they could spare the time. “This year, one of our busiest days, was day one,” said Hetem.

Exhibitors also found the show well worth attending, with many saying they would be back next year. Both **Theo De Zeeuw**, Operations Manager at Leisure Hotels, and **Charmaine Beukes** Marketing Manager at White Shark Projects, said the show had provided great business opportunities.”[More...](#)

Worldwide: Hotel News

Minor Hotels to modernise Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino in \$7m refurbishment

Published: 12 May 2017 – Tourism Update

“Minor Hotels have announced an investment of over \$7m in an extensive refurbishment project of Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino in Botswana, encompassing all public spaces and guest bedrooms. The aim of the renovations, which is already underway and set to be completed by September 2017, is to introduce Avani's signature design hallmarks

Avani, one of the fastest growing hospitality brands, appeals to millennial-minded travellers, tapping into their desire for affordability, quality, and communal social spaces.

More modern and simplified

The renovated Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino will see guests enjoying new design aesthetics and technological enhancements. There will be a total redesign of the main entrance and porte-cochere. The overall shape, colour, and design will be more modern and simplified, using accent lighting, timber and stone and a new water feature will be introduced. [More...](#)

Rapid growth of budget hotels in the UK leaves other brands stagnating

Published: 12 May 2017 – eHotelier

“According to *Hotel Bulletin* Q1 2017, published this week by HVS, AlixPartners, STR and AM:PM, Premier Inn and Travelodge between them account for 52 per cent of all branded rooms in the UK's top ten and are also the most active in terms of future growth.

The Bulletin compares the list of the UK's top ten hotel brands in terms of room numbers with the top ten in terms of new room's pipeline. It finds that Premier Inn, the largest in terms of room numbers with 67,515, and Travelodge, number two with 39,531, also represent almost half of the UK's active hotel pipeline with 5,086 and 2,660 rooms planned respectively.

In third place in terms of supply is Holiday Inn, with 20,707 rooms but a pipeline of only 430, while fifth-placed Hilton (14,793) has only 200 rooms in its development pipeline [More...](#)

The closer Marriott and Starwood integrate, the stronger company gets

Published: 09 May 2017 – Hotel Management

“It's been about seven months since Marriott International completed its acquisition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts and from the sound of its first-quarter earnings, the tie-up is already paying dividends, with multiples to come.

Numbers wise, Marriott's Q1 was highlighted by a 3.1-percent uptick in North American and worldwide RevPAR, a number that was on par with its biggest competitor Hilton. The increase was helped by stronger momentum coming from Europe and Asia Pacific and very strong numbers from the Washington, D.C., market on the strength of the presidential inauguration and the Women's March on Washington.

First-quarter net income totaled \$365 million, which was a heady 67-percent increase over prior-year results. In regards to development, Marriott added more than 17,000 rooms during the quarter, a number that included roughly 3,300 rooms converted from competitor brands and 6,400 rooms in international markets, it said.” [More.](#)

Reports suggest imminent sale of AccorHotels' property business

Published: 10 May 2017 – Hotel Management

“Reports from Europe today suggest that the sale of AccorHotels' real-estate arm, HotelInvest, is poised to be sold.

Last summer, Europe's biggest hotel operator announced plans to spin off the unit and eventually sell a majority stake. The move was expected to free up funds for the parent company to expand and improve existing properties.

“The project would enable HotelInvest to initiate a new phase of dynamic growth, by consolidating its existing asset portfolio through renovations, extensions and repositioning, expanding its network through acquisitions and hotel construction, and implementing an assertive asset turnover strategy,” the company said in a statement.

According to a Bloomberg report, citing Estates Gazette, France's AccorHotels is "in exclusive talks to sell a majority stake in its €6.6-billion HotelInvest real-estate business.” [More.](#)

Worldwide: Tourism News

Emirates' profit plunges

Published: 11 May 2017 –Travel Weekly

“DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) -- Emirates, the Middle East's largest airline, said Thursday its profit fell by more than 80% to \$340 million last year as it grappled with a slump in demand linked to a range of headwinds, from political upheaval and terrorism in Europe to tougher travel restrictions to the U.S.

Emirates Group, which operates the airline, said overall profits for the company were down 70% to \$670 million.

In its earnings report, the company said profits were affected by heightened immigration concerns, terror attacks in several European cities, such as London and Paris, an attempted military coup in Turkey and uncertainty caused by Britain's vote to leave the European Union. It also cited a strong U.S. dollar against currencies in major markets. [“More...](#)