

Hospitality Bulletin: Week 30

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South Africa: Hotel News

New hotel group acquires first SA property

Published: 27 July 2017 – Tourism Update

“H12 Art of Life has acquired its third property in Africa, H12 Leshiba Venda Village Lodge, in Limpopo, South Africa, which will be rebranded from August 1. This follows the launch of H12 Delta Dunes in Namibia and H12 Kipalo Hill in Kenya.

Founder and CEO of H12, **Walter Junger**, said: “We have always been excited about South Africa and we are happy to find the perfect partner in **John Rosmarin** and his family who created Leshiba Wilderness. They share our vision for art and lifestyle hotels with exceptional personalised services in the most iconic places.”

The 12-bed property is set atop Soutpansberg Mountain, in a malaria-free reserve and is a five-hour drive, or 90-minute light aircraft flight from Johannesburg. H12 Leshiba Venda Village Lodge was re-created by a local Venda artist, Noria Mabasa, together with the Rosmarin family. [More...](#)

Cape Town hotel spearheads employment for deaf people

Published: 26 July 2017 – Business Day

“Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group are proof that inclusivity does work. They have employed deaf people to work at their hotels in South Africa, allowing everyone to have the chance to showcase their skills. Clinton Thom, Cluster General Manager of Radisson Blu Le Vendome Hotel and Park Inn by Radisson Cape Town Newlands, said they were honoured to be able to make a difference in the lives of the deaf, giving them an equal opportunity in the working field.

For Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, diversity and inclusion are two of the core pillars of its employee value proposition. When it took over the Deaf South Africa (DeafSA) building to construct the Park Inn by Radisson Cape Town Newlands, it saw a chance to uplift and employ deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

When the Park Inn by Radisson Cape Town Newlands opened, it had a deaf and hard-of-hearing staff complement of 30% — the first hotel in Africa to have back-of-house and front-of-house deaf and hard-of-hearing staff.” [More...](#)

South Africa: Tourism News

Western Cape tourism sector is on the up

Published: 27 July 2017 –Tourism Update

“The Western Cape is reporting a significant increases in arrivals, revenue and airline seats in the past three years according to its mid-term report back, which was announced yesterday (July 27).

The Minister of Economic Opportunities, **Alan Winde**, and Wesgro, the Official Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape, delivered the mid-term report back on the Western Cape’s strategy to grow the tourism sector, known as Project Khulisa.

More than 20 000 jobs have been added and foreign tourist spend increased by R4bn (€263 million) since 2014, totalling R18bn (€1.1 billion) in spend for 2016. [“More...](#)

South Africa Airlink to finally establish flights to St Helena

Published: 25 July 2017 – Breaking Travel News

“South Africa Airlink will offer scheduled commercial air services to St Helena when it starts flights between South Africa and the island later this year. This follows a period of contractual negotiations between St Helena government and the airline.

Initially Airlink is expected to offer a weekly Saturday service to-and-from South Africa to St Helena using the new Embraer E190-100IGW ETOPS certified aircraft that has already undertaken a number of very successful test flights to the island.To begin with, the maximum number of seats available on each flight will be 76.

Currently the aircraft is planned to depart Johannesburg each Saturday morning at 09:00 and fly to Windhoek in Namibia where it will refuel and connect with an incoming Airlink service from Cape Town that will have departed at 10:30. [“More..](#)

Worldwide: Hotel News

Redefine ups stake in International Hotel Properties

Published: 20 July 2017– Bizcommunity

“The deal, which will be settled in shares, would result in IHL being delisted from the JSE and the Euro MTF market of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

The IHL portfolio comprised nine UK hotels valued at £104.35m, which would complement Redefine International's hotels portfolio, Redefine said in a statement. The acquired hotel portfolio would comprise 19% of Redefine's gross assets, up from 16% as of February 2017.

Redefine said savings would be generated through the integration of the hotel assets into its existing hotel portfolio.” [More...](#)

Accor beats revenue predictions, sees return of France

Published: 27 July 2017 – Hotel News Now

“PARIS—Outpacing analyst predictions, AccorHotels outlined strong first-half 2017 numbers as it continues a transformation from a traditional hotel company to one that aspires to be at the center of every community where it has a property.

The company also is right on the cusp of moving beyond the 600,000 room mark across its entire portfolio, said AccorHotels’ Group CFO Jean-Jacques Morin during a conference call with analysts.

Its latest two initiatives were announced the day before the H1 results.

The first was the formation a new group of three of its recent buys, Onefinestay, Travel Keys and Squarebreak, to include more than 10,000 upscale, private villa and home rentals, along with hospitality and concierge services. Officials with the French company said they are still finalizing the full buy of Squarebreak, an upscale villa digital platform. Javier Cedillo-Espin, CEO of Onefinestay, will lead the new division.” [More...](#)

Former Trump partner Damac Properties eyes Malta for hotel investment

Published: 24 July 2017 – Hotel Management

"Hussain Sajwani, Damac Properties' international chairman, is considering Malta as the developer group's next possible destination for hotel investment. Following a tour of the island-nation and a private meeting with Maltese PM Dr. Joseph Muscat, Sajwani said that Malta is a favorable investment destination.

Sajwani and Muscat discussed the increasing growth of tourism in the EU-member country and Malta's historical appeal as business-friendly investment location.

"Malta presents an ideal mix of investment benefits that make it a very attractive place for luxury and hospitality developers looking to expand into the EU zone," Sajwani said. "Thanks to favorable tax incentives for foreign investors as well as a stable government and leadership that continue to drive economic growth through the tourism sector, Malta is a destination that we are keeping an eye on as we continue to explore expansion opportunities there." [More...](#)

Hilton sees profits rise in second quarter

Published: 26 July 2017 – Breaking Travel News

"Hilton Worldwide has reported adjusted EBITDA for the second quarter of 2017 of \$519 million, an increase of ten per cent on the figure for the second quarter of 2016.

Diluted earnings per share at the hotel giant from continuing operations for the period stood at \$0.51. Diluted earnings per share, adjusted for special items, stood at \$0.52, an increase of 30 per cent from the second quarter of 2016 on a pro forma basis. Net income for the second quarter was \$167 million.

System-wide comparable RevPAR increased 1.8 per cent on a currency neutral basis over the three month period when compared to 2016. [More...](#)

Worldwide: Tourism News

Soaring profits at International Airlines Group in first half of 2017

Published: 28 July 2017 – Breaking Travel News

“International Consolidated Airlines Group has reported second quarter operating profit of €805 million before exceptional items for the six months to June 30th.

Passenger unit revenue at the group - which operates Iberia and British Airways - for the quarter was up 1.5 per cent, or four per cent at constant currency.

Non-fuel unit costs before exceptional items for the quarter were down 0.3 per cent, or up 3.5 per cent at constant currency. [“More...](#)