

Hotel News in Brief

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At the end of this summer, another three large hotels in Bugibba, the Bugibba Holiday Complex, Santa Maria Hotel and San Anton Complex will be closing down for good. In a statement, Evarist Bartolo, Labour's tourism shadow minister, emphasised the need for Malta to have more quality hotels at all levels in order to strengthen the Maltese tourism industry. This summer, Malta lost around 10,000 tourist due to the shortage of bed space, the Labour MP explained. Despite the recent rise in tourism figures, much more has to be done to give the Maltese tourism sector the boost it requires, and in order to achieve this, a meticulous plan is required. "In its plan, Labour is proposing to give incentives for the building of new hotels, especially in the St Paul's Bay area and in the southern parts of Malta. These two areas are lagging behind in tourism, with disastrous consequences for the operators of hotels, restaurants, shops, and service providers in the region" Bartolo explained. *Source: Malta Star*

Nicholas Clayton, President of Kor Hotel Group, the Los Angeles-based hotel, real estate development and management firm, is pleased to announce the appointment of Shan Kanagasingham as General Manager for the company's flagship Tides property in Miami, The Tides South Beach. Currently undergoing a comprehensive redesign by acclaimed interior designer Kelly Wearstler, the historic art deco hotel will re-open for its business debut in mid-November. The redesign of La Marea restaurant and the lobby have already been completed and both are currently open to guests.

Following two years of careful planning and painstaking construction, the \$270 million Grand Del Mar - a much-anticipated 249-room Mediterranean-style resort owned and operated by Manchester Grand Resorts - is now open. According to Thomas Voss, president of Manchester Grand Resorts, this lavishly appointed resort - with meticulous details including over 30 types of marble and stone, vibrant Portuguese tile, Venetian plastered walls, more than 25,000 square feet of handcrafted wood flooring and intricate hand-stenciled ceilings - is among the highest priced new builds in California. "More than 800 workers and craftsman contributed over a million man-hours, toiling diligently to masterfully complete this project on time," he said. "We are now up and running, with more than 530 employees - from resort and restaurant staff to spa and golf professionals to groundskeepers and outdoor specialists - working hard to ensure operations proceed flawlessly and that our customers receive the highest level of service."

The Rocco Forte Collection has been voted Europe's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand at the prestigious World Travel Awards for the third year running, beating the Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons, Conrad and Baglioni Hotels. The Rocco Forte Collection also won three additional Awards for individual properties. Rocco Forte's Hotel Amigo was named Brussels' Leading Hotel, while Rocco Forte's The Balmoral received the accolade of Scotland's Leading Hotel and Rocco Forte's Hotel Astoria was awarded Russia's Leading Suite. Success in the World Travel Awards is a testament to The Rocco Forte Collection's dedication to providing world-class service and facilities for the modern traveller. The Awards are allocated as a result of voting cast by travel and leisure professionals.

Newmarket International, Inc., the leader in sales and catering solutions for the hospitality industry, today announced the ground breaking on its new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building. It is the first commercial building with this environmental certification in Portsmouth, NH. Being developed by Two International Group, the building is located at the Pease International Tradeport. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health:

- sustainable site development,
- water savings,
- energy efficiency,
- materials selection, and
- indoor environmental quality.

Newmarket International's New Building Will Be 'Green' Inside and Out. Dan Plummer from Two International Group is working closely with the management team at Newmarket International, Inc. to design an environmentally sustainable building both inside and out. This involves using environmentally sustainable construction materials, as well as landscaping, parking, office equipment, furniture and design. "It is critical for our company to be environmentally aware and take responsibility for the impact we have on our local community and across the world. The new building is one of the major steps we are taking in 2008. We have also put a committee in place to assess our current processes and to make changes that decrease our impact on the environment today," said Sean O'Neill, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Newmarket International, Inc. "We couldn't be more pleased with Two International Group's willingness to break new ground with us on this first LEED-certified commercial building in Portsmouth."

The Mandeville Hotel, London has been accepted into Summit Hotels & Resorts, a superb and growing collection of internationally acclaimed locations that number more than 130 hotels and resorts in 37 counties. Summit is perfectly positioned to offer guests a peak experience - allowing travellers to get the most from their destination whether they are staying for business or pleasure. Every Summit, ranging from historic urban hotels to enticing beach resorts, articulates a genuine sense of place. Individualised designed and welcoming service provide a memorable reflection of each destinations style, culture and graciousness.

The Seattle Hotel Association's (SHA) 53-member hotels announced today that Jeff and Tricia Raikes are the honorees of its 11th annual fundraising dinner and gala auction, the "Evening of Hope." Held at The Fairmont Olympic Hotel on Saturday, February 9, 2008, the event will benefit the Plymouth Housing Group for the second year. Active participants in their communities, Jeff and Tricia focus their philanthropic efforts on education, youth and community safety-net issues, such as homelessness. Together they co-chaired United Way of King County's 2006-2007 fundraising campaign. Tricia had served two, three-year terms on United Way of King County's board of directors and Jeff previously chaired the high-tech campaign for United Way of King County.

Emmanuel Guillard, Vice President Operations and Development for Swiss-Belhotel International Indonesia, announced recently the company's engagement to operate the first international hotel in Manokwari, a property with 93 guestrooms and five 2-bedroom apartment units all of which are equipped with international standard furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

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