

Starwood Continues to Expand Portfolio in Latin America



Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide announced that, with a continued focus on growth in Latin America, the company aims to have 100 hotels under operation and development in Latin America by the end of 2013. Currently, the company operates eight unique brands throughout the region, including W Hotels, St. Regis and The Luxury Collection, which make up the company's luxury portfolio; Westin, Le Méridien and Sheraton, in the upper-upscale segment; and fast-growing mid-market or "specialty select" brands, Aloft and Four Points by Sheraton.

Starwood will introduce three Four Points by Sheraton hotels in key cities in the next year. In Latin America, the brand already has 12 properties. The Aloft brand made its debut in Bogota and San Jose less than two years ago; by 2015, six new Aloft branded hotels will open. Sheraton is on-track to open its 500th hotel in 2015. In the region, the brand has 30 hotels in 11 countries and four new hotels opening by 2014.

Westin has more than doubled in Latin America during the last two years. This year's opening of The Westin Panama increased the portfolio to 11 hotels in Panama, Mexico, Peru, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Le Méridien Returns to Mexico

In 2012, Le Méridien returned to Mexico with the opening of Le Méridien Mexico City in November. Since its 2005 acquisition Le Méridien was transformed into a contemporary, design-led lifestyle brand. The brand has a significant growth pipeline with seven new hotels expected to open within the next 12 months around the globe.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net>

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Curacao: Curacao Marriott Beach Resort & Emerald Casino

St. Kitts: St. Kitts Marriott Resort & the Royal Beach Casino

US Virgin Islands: Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort

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NEW: Saint Petersburg, Russia

St Petersburg is known both as a cultural center and for its elegant buildings. The city is spread over 42 islands in the delta of the River Neva. Wide boulevards, tranquil canals and bridges led to the city being known as the 'Venice of the North'. The historic centre is preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage site, along with the grand palaces of the Romanovs at Peterhof, Pushkin and Pavlovsk;

therefore Palace Square and the Winter Palace are among the most interesting sites for followers of Russian history.

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UPDATED: Caribbean Islands

Jamaica, Puerto Rico - idyllic white sand beaches and vibrant tropical blooms sit on a backdrop of blue mountain peaks; lively clubs, fine restaurants and world-class golf are as inviting as the astonishing hues of sand and sea spanning the color spectrum from twinkling turquoise to rose pink, crystal clear waters secrete ancient shipwrecks and a rainbow of coral reefs, the **Bahamas** or the

Dominican Republic are the Caribbean personified. Listing the **Caribbean Islands** means listing a paradisiacal expanse of uncounted islands... a perfect setting for gorgeous events.

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Canada, Toronto: Fairmont Broadens Its Approach to Operational Sustainability



The luxury brand expands its sustainability efforts to more effectively support its communities and achieve positive, long term change. More than two decades after Fairmont Hotels & Resorts led the foray into environmental stewardship with the launch of its highly acclaimed and industry-leading Green Partnership program, the luxury hotel brand is again raising the bar with the

introduction of its new Fairmont Sustainability Partnership.

Expanding its scope and taking a more holistic approach to operational responsibility, the new program provides greater balance around the company's economic, environmental and social priorities. A highlight of the new program, which builds on Fairmont's existing foundation of environmental and CSR programming, is the creation of four pillars that lend strength and focus to the brand's renewed commitment to achieving positive long-term change on a global scale: Responsible Business, Ecosystem, Environment, and Engagement.

www.fairmont.com

Italy, Venice: JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa to open in 2014

Marriott International announced plans to open a luxury resort on the private island of Sacca Sessola, located in the Venetian lagoon. The 266-room property is expected to open in 2014.

Nestled amongst Sacca Sessola's expansive private gardens and olive groves, the JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa will feature 266 guest rooms and suites designed by renowned Matteo Thun & Partners of Milan, offering exceptional comfort and refined style. The tranquil and private setting will invite guests to relax and rejuvenate, and, in harmony with the brand's emphasis on well-being, the resort will offer a health club, spa, and indoor, outdoor and rooftop swimming pools.

The resort will also offer exceptional dining experiences in an array of restaurants and bars as well as unique event and wedding space in the form of a beautifully restored church. In addition to attracting leisure guests, the hotel is expected to be popular with the MICE market with over 13,000 sqft/ 1,208 sqm of meeting space across a variety of meeting rooms.

<http://news.marriott.com>



UPDATED: Mexico

Spicy as salsa roja, intoxicating as a shot of tequila, volatile as the volcanoes, surreal as a Frida Kahlo canvas, monumental as Teotihuacán's pyramids, dynamic and modern as its bustling capital and warm as its inhabitants, Mexico fills the senses, tweaks the intellect and nourishes the soul. With an extensive, inexpensive public transport network, copious accommodations, highly professional

staff and MICE specialists combined with top-of-the-range meeting and congress facilities, Mexico offers anything a planner may search for.

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UPDATED: Austria

Vienna, with its ornate Opera House, famous Spanish Riding School and the former imperial spa residence of the Hofburg and Schönbrunn Palace, the imperial summer residence; Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart, with stunning Baroque churches set before a backdrop of snow-covered peaks; and Innsbruck, in the center of the Austrian Alps are completed with ski resorts set on spectacular mountains,

extraordinary venues, most modern conference centers and accommodations of all categories: this characterizes a destination beyond limits.

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UK, Scotland, Edinburgh: Crowne Plaza Edinburgh - The Roxburghe opened May 2, 2013

Crowne Plaza Edinburgh - The Roxburghe is ideally located in the heart of the city centre, on Edinburgh's famous Charlotte Square, offering luxury rooms and facilities. Set in the heart of the New Town, the UNESCO World Heritage site embodies signature neo-classical and Georgian architecture, with the impressive Edinburgh Castle in the background.



The 198 room hotel is a Category A Listed Building, originally designed as a series of quintessential townhouses by Robert Adam, the Scottish neoclassical architect, interior designer and furniture designer in 1791. Several of the hotel rooms have retained their fine Georgian detail as the ultimate accolade to the famous designer, who influenced Western architecture, both in Europe and in North America.

The hotels modern wing has a range of contemporary rooms with an open aspect across the handsome George Street. The Club Lounge, main hotel Lounge and Lobby have been extensively refurbished by the Scottish design practice OCCA to retain the charming character of the city and complement the existing extensive meeting facilities to 7 Meeting rooms and a total space of 11,754 sqft/ 1,092 sqm.

<http://www.ihg.com>



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2013 Air Transport News Award



The Air Transport News Awards are the only international prizes that award all the main categories of the air transport industry, Manufacturers, Service Companies, Airports, Airlines & Alliances as well as the industries personalities. The 2013 Air Transport News Awards Ceremony took place in a spectacular setting in presence of the leaders of the air transport industry. Among the winners are:

- Aircraft Manufacturer of the Year: **Airbus**
- MRO Company of the Year: **Lufthansa Technik**
- Airport of the Year 10-30 Million Passengers: **Genève Aéroport**
- Airport of the Year: **Istanbul Ataturk Airport**
- Airline Alliance of the Year: **Star Alliance**
- Regional Airline of the Year: **SilkAir**
- Low Cost Airline of the Year: **AirAsia**
- Airline of the Year: **Turkish Airlines**

<http://www.atn.aero/>



UPDATED: Czech Republic

The Czech Republic offers quality service to world conference delegates and has proven itself again and again as holding its place in the top 15 meeting destinations worldwide. It is a modern country with a rich history and relaxing atmosphere right in the center of Europe with its capital Prague directly in the heart of the country. This makes it easy for visitors to travel in and out of the country by all forms of transportation. Highly professional staff at the Convention Bureaus, and throughout conference centers, venues and hotels ensure successful events.

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Updated: Argentina

Buenos Aires, the whirling capital, is bursting with energy. The streets are lined with bustling grill restaurants and colorful curios, while the chimes of skilled musicians flow from street corners and nightspots alike. Captivating landscapes offer uncounted activities: the Andes powdery ski slopes; Patagonia's dusty plains; explore lush rainforests; horseback riding in Salta's red mountains; play the gaucho in the Pampas; and Lake District's evergreen forests are sceneries for unforgettable events.

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