

R Hotels MD recognised in Hotelier Middle East Power 50 List

35

SUMAIR TARIQ
MANAGING DIRECTOR, R HOTELS

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR R HOTELS, WITH SEVERAL NEW HOTELS SIGNED IN THE UAE

In November last year, R Hotels announced plans to develop the first sharia-compliant four-star resort and spa on Palm Jumeirah, with the company targeting a Q4, 2016 opening following an AED 500 million (US \$136.2 million) investment.

The company opened its fifth hotel in the UAE just last month on Al Mina Road, Jumeirah. The hotel is being managed through a franchise agreement with AccorHotels under its Ibis Styles brand, and has 191 keys and two speciality restaurants.

Recently, R Hotels announced it will open a new 182-key hotel near the Ajman Corniche. With a total investment of AED 150 million (\$40.9 million), the hotel is expected to open in Q1 of 2017.

While the brand has not been revealed at this time, the property will join R Hotels' two existing Ramada-branded properties in Ajman, which are owned and managed by the firm. In terms of performance, these hotels have reported the highest inventory and occupancy rates in the northern emirates for the past three years, while Ramada Downtown Dubai is said to have the highest RevPAR in that location in its category. The group's property on JBR, Dubai – Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham – has also posted significant growth since its opening in the last quarter of 2013.





By the numbers

NUMBER OF YEARS IN ROLE: 5	NUMBER OF YEARS IN COMPANY: 8
NUMBER OF OPERATING HOTELS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: 5	NUMBER OF PIPELINE HOTELS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: 3

R Hotels Managing Director Sumair Tariq joined the region's top hospitality leaders in Hotelier Middle East's Power 50 List. A new entry, Tariq was ranked 35th in the annual list which acknowledges and celebrates the achievements of the most influential hotel professionals in Middle East's dynamic, fast-growing and highly competitive hospitality industry.

To quote the editor's foreword, "Tariq has made significant headway in ramping up the company's management portfolio, and last month oversaw the opening of R Hotels' fifth property in the UAE, under a franchise agreement with AccorHotels." As a highlight, R Hotels continues to grow its portfolio with five operational hotels in the UAE, plus two more properties in the pipeline with a total investment of AED650 million. The group aims to open the first four-star and sharia-compliant resort at The Palm on the last quarter of 2016, and a new 182-key hotel at Ajman Corniche on the first quarter of 2017.

R Hotels participates in WHTS15 as hotel sponsor

Aims to strengthen status as one of the key players in the market



R Hotels took part as hotel sponsor in the inaugural World Halal Travel Summit and Exhibition (WHTS15). A sharia-compliant company, R Hotels aims to strengthen its status as one of the leading hospitality groups in the UAE.

Located at Stand 310, R Hotels showcased its halal and family-friendly properties in the UAE, which include Ramada Hotel and Suites Ajman, Ramada Beach Hotel Ajman, Ramada Downtown Dubai, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR, and the newly-opened ibis Styles Jumeirah. Through its participation, R Hotels sought to maximise opportunities and network with global travel and tourism professionals who specialise in this niche market.

Sumair Tariq, Managing Director, R Hotels, commented: "R Hotels is proud to have taken a step further in tapping this growing segment by not only exhibiting, but also by being a hotel sponsor of WHTS15,

as this is a great platform to promote our properties. The demand for Muslim-friendly travel options is set to increase in the coming years, and with our current hotel portfolio and two more properties in the pipeline, we are positive on establishing R Hotels as a key player in this market and cementing new partnerships locally and globally."

The three-day summit took place at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from 19th to 21st October. Poised to be the largest B2B halal travel exhibition in the world, WHTS15 brought together specialists across all sectors including travel agents, hospitality groups, hoteliers, developers, tourism boards, and key international decision makers.

Hawthorn Suites supports 'Yemen: We Care' campaign

Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham joined Emirates Red Crescent's 'Yemen: We Care' campaign, aimed at providing assistance to the Yemenis who are affected by the current conflict in their country.

With the theme "Don't Delay, Give Today", the hotel placed donation boxes at its reception and all-day dining restaurant, and encouraged its guests and associates to contribute to the cause. The hotel also sought to get more people involved by spreading the word through social media. The money collected will be handed over to Emirates Red Crescent.



Ramada Downtown Dubai aids cancer awareness

To join the rest of the world in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Ramada Downtown Dubai launched a fundraising campaign in collaboration with Friends of Cancer Patients (FOCP).

Ramada Downtown Dubai provides options for guests to donate AED 10/ per stay at the hotel. It also continues to sell the "Fight Cancer" shirts, which was first launched in 2014. The amount collected, which will be given to FOCP representatives by the end of 2015, will aid the organisation in their awareness programs and in providing financial assistance to cancer patients and their loved ones.



Hawthorn Suites marks World Teachers' Day with DCSN

Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham extended its support to Dubai Centre for Special Needs (DCSN) during the observance of World Teachers' Day. Representatives from the hotel attended the centre's celebration and provided refreshments for the teachers and staff. In addition, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham pledged to continue its fundraising campaign for DCSN, and to give the amount collected by the end of 2015.

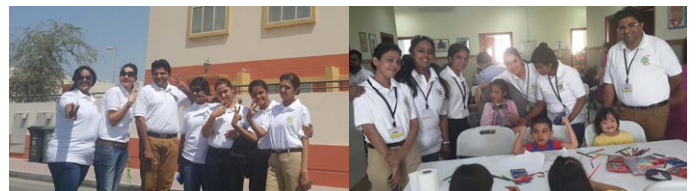


ibis Styles Jumeirah reaches out to kids with special needs

ibis Styles Jumeirah organised its first CSR activity since its opening, with a visit at Senses Residential and Day Care for Special Needs.

To connect with and cheer up the children, different activities were carried out including a painting competition with special prizes, and handing out of gifts. The hotel team was welcomed by the centre's Executive Manager Lina Oweis.

Senses is a non-profit specialised residential centre in Dubai which supports to children with special needs. The centre provides 24-hour care and professional services including therapies and programs for the children's development.



Hotels go 'plastic-free' for Wyndham Global Green Day

Ramada Hotel and Suites Ajman, Ramada Beach Hotel Ajman, Ramada Downtown Dubai and Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham observed Wyndham Worldwide Green Day, highlighting a 'Living Plastic Free' campaign. The hotels encouraged the staff to reduce the use of plastic products by using mugs and tumblers instead of plastic bottles. They also shared tips and information on how to reduce plastic consumption including a "Bring Your Own Bag" approach when shopping.

Ramada Ajman also distributed nonwoven reusable bags for staff laundry requirements, and organised a tree planting in its urban farm, which can aid in carbon footprint reduction.



Hamdani speaks at The Hotel Show Vision Conference 2015

General Manager Iftikhar Hamdani was invited as one of the panellists at The Hotel Show's Vision Conference 2015, an annual B2B gathering of hospitality professionals across the region. Speaking on the topic "A hotel viewpoint – sustainability for a better tomorrow", Hamdani shared the hotels' various green practices and waste management scheme and encouraged fellow hoteliers to take action towards sustainable operations.



R Hotels attends OTDYKH 2015 in Moscow

Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman, Ramada Beach Hotel Ajman, Ramada Downtown Dubai, and Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham attended the annual OTDYKH Leisure at Crocus Expo in Moscow Russia, which was held from 15th to 18th September.



R Scene

International Housekeeping Week

Hotels celebrated the International Housekeeping Week with a series of exciting games and activities including towel art and bed-making competition, to hone their skills and creativity while having fun.



ibis Styles organises "Clean Your House" activity

The heads of departments of ibis Styles Jumeirah participated in the "Clean Your House" activity, with the aim of developing a sense of ownership and responsibility.

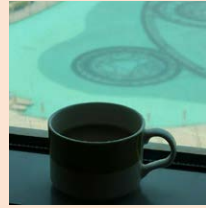


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R Sports

Dubai hotels hold table tennis match



Ramada Downtown Dubai, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham, and ibis Styles Jumeirah had a stirring table tennis tournament, followed by a barbecue party at the staff accommodation in Dubai Investment Park.

Promotions



Lunch just got more fruitful and delightful with our deals!

Business Lunch at Orchid and King's Grill

If you're staying or visiting Ajman for business, check out our reasonably priced lunch offers. Enjoy a sumptuous selection of meals from Orchid Restaurant in Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman or at King's Grill in Ramada Beach Hotel Ajman, starting at AED49/ per person. The Business Lunch offer is available from Saturday to Thursday, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Power Lunch at Kenza

Book a table at Kenza Restaurant in Ramada Downtown Dubai for a quick working lunch or business lunch meeting. Priced at AED65/ per person, our Power Lunch is exactly what you need for a productive work day! Kenza's Power Lunch is available from Saturday to Thursday, from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Business Lunch at Flavours

Sit down for a business meeting over lunch at Flavours Restaurant, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham. Mix business with pleasure over a 3-course menu of your choice for only AED99/, inclusive of soft drinks and water. The business lunch offer is available from Saturday to Thursday, from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm.