**Press Release**

**Minor Hotels Continues Strategic Expansion Plans**

**With New Openings Across Multiple Brands**

**Bangkok, July 2017:** Minor Hotels, a hotel owner, operator and investor, currently with a portfolio of 154 hotels and resorts in 24 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Europe, South America, Africa and the Indian Ocean, continued its strategic expansion plans throughout 2016 and to date in 2017 has added two new hotels, rebranded two hotels and announced future pipeline properties across multiple brands to open in the coming years.

**ANANTARA HOTELS & RESORTS**

Minor Hotels core luxury brand Anantara now includes 39 hotels and resorts in a diverse range of locations across Asia, the Middle East, the Indian Ocean and Africa. In April, Anantara debuted in Europe with the launch of **Anantara Vilamoura Algarve Resort** in Portugal. Previously operating as Tivoli Victoria Algarve Resort, the 280 guest rooms and suites now feature Anantara amenities, and the hotel offers several new restaurants and dining concepts, stellar Anantara Explorers’ children’s facilities and a newly renovated Anantara Spa. Guests can discover the delightful tastes and hidden wonders of the Southern Portuguese coast through a selection of Anantara experiences. Most recently the 214-key **Anantara Guiyang Resort** opened in June in Guizhou Province in central southern China, becoming the third Anantara resort in the country.

In 2016 the brand added two new countries – Oman and Sri Lanka. In Oman, the 115-key **Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort** opened in October becoming the highest five star resort in the Middle East, 2,000m above sea level, offering spectacular views and pleasant temperatures all year round. To date this year the new resort has received great recognition, being named in the Travel + Leisure IT List and Conde Nast Traveler US Hot List. Opened in November, the 136-key **Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara** is located in the Dhofar region in the south of the country, which is especially well known for the ‘Khareef’ season, which entices guests with its magical mists, cooler temperatures and lush greenery.

At the start of 2016 the 152-key **Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort** opened on the southern coast of Sri Lanka setting the benchmark for luxury resorts on the island. This was followed in September by **Anantara Kalutara Resort.**  The 141-key property is an hour south of the capital and was originally designed by the late Geoffrey Bawa, the country’s most notable architect. A brand new conference and events centre will open later in July offering the perfect location for meetings and destination weddings.

In Anantara’s home market of Thailand, **Anantara Layan Phuket Resort** recently added **Layan Residences by Anantara**, 15 exclusive pool residences overlooking a secluded and tranquil beach setting on Phuket’s stunning west coast. The Residences offer living and dining rooms, fully-fitted kitchens, deluxe bedrooms, media entertainment and spa rooms, as well as accommodation for live-in butlers and chefs. Rooftop decks and private infinity pools are perfect for sunset relaxation or entertaining.

**ANANTARA FUTURE PIPELINE**

In Asia, under development on Malaysia’s Desaru Coast is the 123-key **Anantara Desaru Resort & Villas** which is scheduled to open in 2019. Announced in early 2016 **Anantara Ubud Bali Resort** will offer a total of 70 keys including suites and pool villas and is scheduled to open in 2019.

A number of new pipeline Anantara properties are under development in the Middle East. **Anantara Jebel Dhanna Villas** is scheduled to open in 2019 with 60 keys, along the coastal area of the Al Gharbia region in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, close to the ferry departure point for Sir Bani Yas Island. Slated to welcome its first guests in 2020, the 290-key **Anantara Dubai Creek Hotel** is under development in Culture Village in Dubai, a new world-class destination. Also in the UAE, the 225-key **Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah Resort** will be MH’s first property in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah when it opens in 2020. Announced at the end of 2016 **Anantara Jeddah Resort** will be the brand’s debut in Saudi Arabia when it opens in 2020. The new resort will offer 226 guest rooms and 102 two to five bedroom villas.

Outside the Middle East, MH is developing two new Anantara resorts in North Africa and one in East Africa. In the southwest of Tunisia, the 93-key **Anantara Tozeur Resort** is scheduled to open in mid 2018, and in northern Morocco the 230-key **Anantara Al Houara Tangier Resort** will open the following year. Announced in January and expected to open in 2019, **Anantara Zanzibar Resort** will feature 100 guest rooms, alongside 50 one- and two-bedroom pool villas and will be part of Zanzibar Amber Resort, a mixed-use project which will also feature East Africa’s first signature golf course which will be designed by Ernie Els.

**AVANI HOTELS & RESORTS**

In April this year Minor Hotels’ upscale AVANI brand made its debut in Europe with the launch of **AVANI Avenida Liberdade Lisbon Hotel** in Portugal. Before rebranding, the 119-key property, formerly Tivoli Jardim Lisboa Hotel, completed a EUR 1.5 million refurbishment. Having celebrated its fifth birthday in December 2016, AVANI opened its first new build property – **AVANI Riverside Bangkok Hotel** in Q2 last year. All of the property’s 248 guest rooms and suites are located on level 12 or above and come with fantastic river views, along with AVANI’s signature modern style.

Further additions to the brand in 2016 were the 298-key **AVANI Pattaya Resort & Spa** which was rebranded on 1 November from the Pattaya Marriott, **AVANI Khon Kaen Hotel & Conference Centre** in Thailand’s north east with 196 keys, along with the 216-room **AVANI Deira Dubai Hotel** which was the first AVANI in the Middle East.

**AVANI FUTURE PIPELINE**

The first half of 2017 has seen four properties added to the brand’s growing pipeline – two in the Middle East and two in the Asia Pacific region. In New Zealand the 370-key **Metropolis AVANI Residences** will open in the heart of Auckland in late 2017. The 219-key **AVANI Broadbeach Residences** on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia, is under development and scheduled to open in early 2018. In addition the first Minor Hotels property in South Korea was recently announced – the new-build 400-key **AVANI Busan Hotel** is scheduled to open in 2018.

In the United Arab Emirates the 230-key **AVANI Jebel Dhanna Hotel** in Abu Dhabi will open in 2019. Also in the UAE and announced earlier this year are the 372-key **AVANI Ibn Battuta Dubai Hotel** opening in 2019 and the 225-key **AVANI Al Marjan Island Ras Al Khaimah Resort** scheduled to open in 2020. Most recently announced is the 150-key **AVANI Bel-Ombre Mauritius Resort & Spa** which is scheduled to open in 2021.

**TIVOLI HOTELS & RESORTS**

In February 2016 Minor Hotels completed the final stage of its acquisition of Tivoli Hotels & Resorts. The acquisition, which totalled EUR 294.2 million, not only marked Minor Hotels’ strategic entry into Europe and South America, but also provided the group with a strong operating platform to drive further growth in those markets. Tivoli Hotels & Resorts has a portfolio of 12 properties across Portugal and Brazil, including in the capital cities of Lisbon and Sao Paolo and a number of resorts on Portugal’s Algarve.

Two flagship properties in Portugal have recently relaunched following significant refurbishments – **Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisbon Hotel** in the capital and **Tivoli Carvoeiro Resort** in the Algarve. In addition, several Tivoli properties underwent refurbishments during 2016, with **Tivoli Marina Vilamoura** on the Algarve and **Tivoli Oriente** in Lisbon both unveiling new Deluxe and Family guest rooms. A new conference centre is also in the last stages of development in Vilamoura to open later this year.

**OAKS HOTELS & RESORTS**

Oaks Hotels & Resorts, one of the leading providers of serviced apartments in Australasia and UAE which Minor Hotels took over ownership of in 2011, currently includes 56 properties. Most recently, the 78-key **Oaks Bodhgaya** opened its doors as the first Oaks in India in the northeastern state of Bihar. Bodhgaya is a key religious site and place of pilgrimage and is thought of as the epicentre of Buddhism. Scheduled to open in 2018, the 116-key **Oaks Neemrana** will be located in the centre of the town, which is a fast developing business hub located southwest of New Delhi on the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor. The brand added three properties in 2016 – all in Australia. Oaks Carlyle in Mackay opened in April, followed by two properties in July – Oaks Southbank in Melbourne and Oaks Woolloongabba in Brisbane.

**ELEWANA COLLECTION**

The Elewana Collection in Africa delivers once-in-a-lifetime experiences in 15 exclusive lodges, camps and hotels in Tanzania and Kenya. In May last year Elewana added **Loisaba Tented Camp** to its portfolio, a new luxury tented camp in the Loisaba Conservancy, heralding a conservation landmark to preserve one of Kenya’s most important elephant corridors. The refurbished Loisaba Star Beds also joined the Elewana Collection. In April 2015 Elewana Collection merged with Cheli & Peacock, which added six camps in Kenya to the portfolio. SkySafari Tanzania and SkySafari Kenya each offer deluxe all-inclusive package solutions allowing guests to visit diverse and iconic parks with direct transfers on luxury private aircraft. SkySafari Connoisseur was also recently launched in Kenya, which includes visiting Loisaba Tented Camp.

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**Editor’s Notes**

**About Minor Hotels:**

Minor Hotels is an international hotel owner, operator and investor currently with 154 hotels in operation. Minor Hotels passionately explores new possibilities in hospitality with a diverse portfolio of properties designed intelligently to appeal to different kinds of travellers, serving new passions as well as personal needs. Through our Anantara, AVANI, Oaks, Elewana, Tivoli, Four Seasons, St. Regis, Marriott and Minor International properties, Minor Hotels operates in 24 countries across Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Europe and South America.

With dynamic plans to expand existing brands and explore strategic acquisitions throughout opportunistic markets, Minor Hotels pursues a vision of a more passionate and interconnected world. For more information, please visit [www.minorhotels.com](http://www.minorhotels.com).

**About Global Hotel Alliance:**

Global Hotel Alliance (GHA) is the world’s largest alliance of independent hotel brands, bringing together 35 brands with 550 hotels in 76 countries. GHA uses a shared technology platform to drive incremental revenues and create cost savings for its member brands. GHA’s award-winning loyalty programme, DISCOVERY, provides nearly 10 million members exclusive opportunities to immerse themselves in local culture wherever they travel. For more information, visit [gha.com](http://www.gha.com/)

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