



## Welcome Aboard: New Hires and Promotions for March 31, 2017

[BARRY KAUFMAN](#) MARCH 31, 2017



### **Mike Tinkey Joins OpenTravel Alliance Leadership**

The OpenTravel Alliance has announced that **Mike Tinkey** has joined as chairman of the Advisory Council and advisor to the board. Tinkey comes to The OpenTravel Alliance from the National Golf Course Owners' Association, the National Alliance for Accessible Golf, the resort and hospitality business, experience in implementing change through coalitions, and as one of the founding members of The OpenTravel Alliance.

## **The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park Welcomes New Management Appointments**

The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park is pleased to announce the appointment of general manager **Winfred van Workum** and public relations & communications manager **James Bardwell**.

Bringing a wealth of hospitality experience, Winfred van Workum is poised to lead the Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond hotel. Born in The Netherlands into a family of hospitality entrepreneurs, Winfred pursued his family's legacy attending one of Europe's top hotel management schools in The Hague. Since then, he has held management positions at award-winning hotels such as The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida; St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort; The Ritz-Carlton, Dallas; Sandy Lane Hotel in Barbados; Jumeirah Essex House New York; and The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach. In his most recent role as Hotel Manager of The Ritz-Carlton Bal Harbour, Miami, Winfred successfully transitioned the resort to a thriving addition for The Ritz-Carlton, increasing RevPAR and earning top scores in guest and employee engagement.

With more than four years of experience in the public relations and hospitality industry, James Bardwell rejoins The Ritz-Carlton New York, Central Park as Public Relations & Communications Manager where he will manage all aspects of the luxury hotel's communications efforts. Most recently, James worked for The Brandman Agency, an award-winning global communications agency specializing in luxury travel, where he worked with distinguished tourism and hotel brands. In particular, he supported the re-launch and opening of four Ritz-Carlton properties, including Mandapa, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve in 2015, as well as being a part of a dynamic team overseeing The Ritz-Carlton brand since mid-2016.

## **Michael Bonsor Named Managing Director Of Rosewood London**

Michael Bonsor has been named managing director of Rosewood London, after acting as the hotel manager since the hotel opened in High Holborn in 2013. During his role as hotel manager, Rosewood London has won multiple awards including Condé Nast Traveler's 'Readers' Choice Awards' and Condé Nast Traveler's 'Gold List.'

Bonsor brings more than 17 years of hotel management experience in the luxury segment having begun his career at the Four Seasons in several locations in the USA, during which time he was director of restaurants for the launch of Michelin-starred restaurant L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon at the Four Seasons in New York. Before his tenure as hotel manager at Rosewood London, Mr. Bonsor was at Claridge's, first as food & beverage manager and latterly as hotel operations manager.

## **Empire Resorts, Inc. Announces Appointment Of Ryan Eller As President And Chief Operating Officer**

Empire Resorts, Inc. has announced the appointment of **Ryan Eller** as president and chief operating officer of Empire effective immediately.

During the four years prior to joining the Company, Eller served in various executive officer positions with Genting New York LLC which operates Resorts World Casino New York City. During his tenure at Genting NY, Eller oversaw RWNYC's planning with respect to a \$315 million expansion to add 1,000 video lottery terminals, a new hotel and convention complex. Concurrently with his position at Genting NY, Eller served as senior vice president of development of Genting Americas Inc.

## **Kimpton Goodland Appoints Brian Murray as Associate Director of Sales**

Kimpton Goodland announced the appointment of **Brian Murray** as associate director of sales. In his new role, Murray will be responsible for planning and implementing sales, marketing and product development strategies for the 158-room Santa Barbara hotel.

With over 10 years of hospitality experience, Murray brings drive and diligence to the hotel with a knack for consistently exceeding revenue goals and customer expectations. Murray comes to the Goodland from Vail Resorts where he spent nearly four years as the senior group sales manager. There, he was responsible for acquisition and maintenance of group business, assuring group room revenue goals were met. Prior to Vail Resorts, Murray served as director of national accounts for three years at the Bacara Resort and Spa in Santa Barbara.

## **The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua Welcomes Kevin J. Peterson As Hotel Manager**

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is pleased to announce the appointment of **Kevin J. Peterson** as hotel manager of this luxury Hawaiian resort located on Maui's pristine North Shore. Peterson brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the hospitality industry, most recently working with the notable Hilton San Diego Bayfront Resort. Peterson will be responsible for overseeing all facets of the resort, including the six exquisite dining options, authentic Ritz-Carlton Spa, Kapalua, and world-renowned Jean-Michael Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program.

An industry veteran and hotel connoisseur since childhood, Peterson grew up working for his family's river rafting company based out of Vail, Colorado. After graduating from The University of California, Irvine, Peterson moved to the Aloha state, where he worked with the Grand Wailea Resort as Director of Food and Beverage for over seven years. He has also held positions with

Hilton Anaheim & Towers, Sandy Lane Hotel and Spa, and Pebble Beach Company at The Inn and Links at Spanish Bay.

### **Visit Bucks County Welcomes Lisa Paglaiccetti, Industry Relations Director**

Visit Bucks County (VBC) welcomes its newest staff member, **Lisa Paglaiccetti**, as industry relations director.

Prior to joining Visit Bucks County, Paglaiccetti spent nearly 20 years at The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. She worked in several capacities, most recently as the director of programs & Events where she was responsible for planning and implementing events. She is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications Media and Journalism.

### **Big Sky Resort Hires New Vice President of Business Development**

Big Sky Resort is pleased to welcome **Bob Stinchcomb** as its new vice president of business development.

Stinchcomb has worked 20 years in the ski industry with most of that time at Vail Resorts, recently serving as Vail's vice president of business development. Stinchcomb brings with him a variety of knowledge and experience in business development, such as in the areas of international marketing, channel management, strategic partnerships, contact center management and sales.

Stinchcomb also served as president of RGS Consulting, whose clients include Squaw Valley and Ski USA Vacations. He served several years on the Colorado Tourism Office Board of Directors, and stepped in to serve as the organization's interim director for a time.

## **Hilton Enhances Luxury And Lifestyle Brand Marketing With Appointment Of Sumindi Peiris As Vice President**

Hilton has announced **Sumindi Peiris** as vice president of global marketing, luxury & lifestyle brands. A senior marketing professional, Peiris brings more than 20 years of international experience to the role, where she will lead all luxury marketing, digital and public relations initiatives as well as oversee the strategic development of global positioning for Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts, Conrad Hotels & Resorts and Canopy by Hilton.

Prior to joining Hilton, Peiris most recently served as vice president, global director Johnnie Walker Reserve in Singapore. During her tenure with the brand, Peiris successfully launched global campaigns centered on storytelling, experiential programs and influencer advocacy using multi-media, digital platforms to expand awareness and strengthen the luxury portfolio globally.

## **Exodus Travels Appoints Tony Perdomo As Business Development Manager**

Exodus Travels has named industry veteran **Tony Perdomo** to the position of business development manager, Eastern USA/Canada for the award-winning tour company. In his new role, Perdomo will be dedicated to providing best in class service, developing communications and building strong relationships with travel agents, agencies and the tourism industry at large across North America.

Prior to joining Exodus, Perdomo was the business development manager for Tucan Travel, and with over 15 years of experience in the industry, he was instrumental to the growth of the company's North American business. He held various executive positions within Tucan and began his career as a tour guide in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

## **Halcyon Expands Executive Team With New Hires**

HALCYON, a hotel in Cherry Creek is proud to announce the addition of **Anna Anderson** as general manager and **Candace Duran** as director of sales & marketing to the executive team. Anderson and Duran bring more than 40 years of combined experience in the hospitality industry to the recently opened Halcyon.

As general manager, Anderson will oversee day-to-day operations of Halcyon with a think-outside-the-box perspective well-suited to the innovative approach of Halcyon. Anderson has more than 25 years of industry experience opening and managing lifestyle hotels across the nation, most recently the very first Virgin Hotels in Chicago under the brand founded by Sir Richard Branson. Before beginning her time at Halcyon, she has held roles in every department within hospitality, giving her breadth and depth of expertise. Anderson holds a Bachelor's degree from Washington State University's College of Business and Economics in Hotel and Restaurant Administration.

As director of sales & marketing, Duran will lead the hotel's sales and marketing efforts in addition to working with the external teams on public relations efforts. Duran brings 15 years of industry experience to her new role in Cherry Creek North. Before joining Halcyon, Duran began her career in hospitality at The Ritz-Carlton, Bachelor Gulch. After six years, she became senior sales manager for The Ritz-Carlton, Denver. During her 13-year tenure, Candace was responsible for year-after-year revenue growth, while creating and maintaining relationships with some of The Ritz-Carlton's most valuable and loyal guests. Most recently Duran successfully executed the opening of the ART, a hotel in Denver as director of sales & marketing where she established a strong sales team and ties with the local community. Duran holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in Hotel Management and minor in Business Management.

## **Hotel Association of NYC Names Niki Franzitta New VP of Member Relations & Development**

The Hotel Association of New York City has announced the selection of **Niki Franzitta** as its new vice president of member relations and development. A veteran labor relations attorney with substantial experience in the hotel industry, Franzitta will focus on growing the Association's membership base and providing member hotels with resources and expertise relating to a broad range of labor and regulatory issues.

With nearly 15 years of experience as an attorney at Kane Kessler, P.C., Franzitta represented hotels and other clients in a variety of complex labor and employment related matters and participated in several negotiations for the widely acclaimed 2014 Industry Wide Agreement. As regional director of labor relations for Hyatt Hotels since 2014, she oversaw all labor relations matters for unionized hotels in Hyatt's regional portfolio and was lead negotiator at collective bargaining agreements. Besides her breadth of labor relations experience, Franzitta is well versed in human resources, OSHA, ADA, and federal and state labor law issues.

## **Delta Vacations Names Veteran Delta Air Lines Leader Jennie Ho As New President, Promotes Tina Iglie**

Delta Vacations, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, has appointed longtime Delta Air Lines leader **Jennie Ho** as its new president, replacing John Caldwell, who was recently promoted to Delta Air Lines as vice president – Seattle.

Ho will build on the company's award-winning reputation as one of the best tour operators in the business. She will bring to the position a heightened focus on making Delta Vacations the tour operator of choice for travel agents, partners and consumers.

Ho, in her previous position as Delta Air Lines' managing director – specialty and Canada sales, led a team of more than 70 employees across the U.S. and Canada, delivered \$4 billion in annual revenue while supporting focus market growth. Her demonstrated ability to deliver results combined with her commitment to talent development positions her to successfully lead Delta Vacations.

She began her career at Delta Air Lines in 1998 and has held numerous positions across the commercial organization, including managing director - Pacific pricing and revenue management, managing director - SkyMiles international partnerships and director of North America revenue management.

In addition, **Tina Iglio**, Delta Vacations' senior vice president, has been promoted to managing director – global sales support for Delta Air Lines' Global Sales.

Iglio will be responsible for delivering innovative, solution-based customer service as well as empowerment programs, tools and technologies to Delta Air Lines' top travel agency and corporate customers. She will also bring expertise in managing more than 130 people across five Delta Vacations divisions to a team of more than 250 sales associates across seven locations worldwide.

Iglio joined Delta Vacations in 2013 and as senior vice president has been responsible for strategy, marketing, product development, revenue management and distribution as well as corporate communications. She has also been a key figure on Delta Vacations' Travel Agency Advisory Board.