

## The Retreat Palm Dubai, the Middle East’s first holistic wellness resort opens its doors

The Retreat Palm Dubai MGallery by Sofitel, the newest addition to AccorHotels’ distinctive MGallery collection of contemporary boutique hotels worldwide, welcomes guests from across the globe to the region’s first 360-degree holistic wellbeing resort, located on the iconic Palm Jumeirah.

As is characteristic of MGallery’s ‘Serenity’ properties within its portfolio of over 90 hotels, The Retreat Palm Dubai MGallery allows guests to embark on a transformative journey. Tucked away on the exclusive coastline of Palm Jumeirah’s East Crescent, the beachfront destination houses 255 picturesque rooms and suites, all designed with natural elements, earth tones and a harmonising Feng Shui philosophy throughout.

“The first of its kind wellness resort in the UAE, R Hotels takes pride in bringing in a unique hotel concept through The Retreat Palm Dubai. With the increasing demand on wellness tourism across the globe, the group has put in significant investments to carry out this project. We are confident that The Retreat Palm Dubai will stand out amongst the region’s competitive hospitality scene with its distinctive wellbeing packages, facilities and programmes and leave a lasting impression,” says Sumair Tariq, managing director, R Hotels.

At the heart of the resort is the Rayya Wellness Centre, inspired by a 360-degree holistic wellness concept, offering organic-based products and an uplifting relaxation and rejuvenation experience.

“We are delighted to have opened the first holistic wellbeing resort in the Middle East. Wellness is at the heart of everything we do here at The Retreat Palm Dubai MGallery. Our Retreats are designed to fulfil a variety of needs: whether the guest is looking for detox, weight management or mindfulness, we work together to create a truly unforgettable and transformational experience,” says Samir Arora, general manager.



## Wyndham Garden Ajman Corniche readies for Q1 2018 opening

The preparation for the opening of R Hotels’ newest property, Wyndham Garden Ajman Corniche is fully underway. The first Wyndham Garden hotel in the UAE, the hotel is expected to welcome guests in the first quarter of 2018. It will feature 179 rooms and suites, an executive lounge on the top floor with panoramic sea views, a seafood restaurant, an all-day dining venue, an outdoor swimming pool, gym and spa, and separate health clubs for men and women.

The pre-opening team led by cluster general manager Iftikhar Hamdani has been actively promoting Wyndham Garden Ajman Corniche to its various target markets including Scandinavia, East Europe, and more.

Hamdani recently attended MATKA Travel Fair in Helsinki, Finland; and East Mediterranean Travel International Tourism and Travel Exhibition (EMITT) in Istanbul, Turkey.

## ibis Styles Jumeira promotes Haider to general manager

ibis Styles Dubai Jumeira announces the promotion of Muhammad Mujtaba Haider from hotel manager to general manager. In his role, he will continue to lead the daily operations of the 191-key property to guarantee excellent guest experience, and head the sales and marketing, and food & beverage strategies to ensure healthy occupancy and profitability.

Haider has over 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry. He was the project manager of ibis Styles Jumeira during its pre-opening stage and was later appointed as hotel manager when it launched in September 2015.





## R Hotels properties sweep accolades at Hozpitality Excellence Awards

Ramada Ajman hotels, Ramada Downtown Dubai, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR and ibis Styles Jumeira all emerged victorious at the 3rd edition of Hozpitality Excellence Awards held at Rixos Premium JBR.

Ramada Ajman bagged the gold award for Hotel of the Year for Green Initiatives 2017. The gold awards were also presented to general manager Iftikhar Hamdani as CSR Champion; Hassan Raza for sales and marketing and Prasanth Ashokan for accounts and finance.

ibis Styles Jumeira was triumphantly named Judges' Choice for Most Stylish Budget Hotel of the Year.

Cluster managers of the Dubai properties also won gold awards including Shobha Paul as Human Resources / Training Person of the Year, and Lijo John as IT Person of the Year. Silver awards were brought home by Amartya Chakraborty as Housekeeper of the Year and Tariq Saeed as Purchase Person of the Year.

Other silver awards recipients include Ramada Downtown Dubai's Tulsi Ram as Young Chef of the Year, and Danicka Reyes in the Guest Services category.

## Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR recognised by Agoda

As a result of its high rating and positive reviews for the year 2017, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR was presented with the Customer Review Awards Certificate by Agoda. The property bagged a score of 8.6 out of a possible 10.

Samer Rafie, hotel manager, commended the team: "We are happy and proud to secure another service excellence certification from Agoda. This will further motivate our team to top our current ratings and provide exceptional hotel experience to our valued guests."



## Hotels welcome Wyndham Hotel Group executive

Rafik Kamel, the new director of franchise operations of Wyndham Hotel Group, paid a visit to Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman, Ramada Downtown Dubai and Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR. He was welcomed by the heads of the departments of the Wyndham-branded properties.

Together with Lawrence Martin, Regional Manager - MEA Architecture, Design & Construction for Wyndham Hotel Group, Kamel was also given a brief background and tour of the zero landfill project and urban farm at Ramada Ajman.



## R Hotels holds crisis communications training

R Hotels organised a crisis communications training attended by the general managers and select department heads including executive office, sales and marketing, human resources, training, front office and security, from all properties. Held at The Retreat Palm Dubai, the session was facilitated by PRCA MENA with Tania Atallah, Regional Director for Training and Government Affairs at Hill and Knowlton Strategies, as the trainer.



## Ramada Ajman hosts inauguration of Blind Cricket World Cup 2018

As part of its continued efforts on empowering people with disability, Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman hosted the inauguration of the 5th Blind Cricket World Cup. The inauguration was attended by Saleh Al Geziry, director general of Ajman Tourism Development Department (ATDD), Mahantesh GK, president of World Blind Cricket, and other top officials.



## RDD and HSW join Clean Up the World drive

Organised by Dubai Municipality, Ramada Downtown Dubai and Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR participated in the Clean Up the World campaign. Select team members from both properties braved the sun to help pick up trash at Al Quoz Industrial Area.

## Ramada Downtown Dubai hosts Red Crescent for festive season

In celebration of the festive season, Ramada Downtown Dubai hosted children and families supported by Emirates Red Crescent. The guests were welcomed to a festive brunch at Kenza and were entertained with a special performance prepared by the hotel team.



## The Retreat Palm Dubai visits Senses Centre for Special Needs

The team from The Retreat Palm Dubai paid a visit to Senses Residential and Day Care Centre for Special Needs. The fun-filled CSR activity was part of the Solidarity Week of AccorHotels; the visit paved the way for opportunities on future projects between the centre and The Retreat Palm Dubai.

## Ramada Ajman team harvests organic crops at its urban farm

Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman's green committee, together with the pre-opening team of Wyndham Garden Ajman Corniche, harvested organic produce at its own urban farm located at the hotel premises. The yielded crops include eggplants, radishes, tomatoes, rocket salad and mint leaves, and chilli peppers, among others. The activity aimed to highlight the importance of sustainability among the heads and staff of the new hotel at an early stage.



## Hotels celebrate festive season and ring in the New Year

Different activities and gatherings were held at the hotels to mark the festive season and to welcome 2018.



Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR

Ramada Downtown Dubai

Ramada Ajman

# R Appointments

## R Hotels welcomes new team members on board



**Salim Lakdawala**  
Head of Digital Marketing  
R Hotels



**Lyndon Travasso**  
Revenue Manager  
Ramada Downtown Dubai



**Maria Ivanova**  
Assistant Director of Sales  
Ramada Downtown Dubai



**Nader Namah**  
Food & Beverage Manager  
Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham JBR

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# R Wellness



## The Retreat Palm Dubai holds Raya Wellness Week

The Retreat Palm Dubai MGallery by Sofitel celebrates its recent launch by hosting a dedicated Wellness Week from 3rd to 10th of February. The unique, immersive week features daily workshops to discover therapies for the mind, body and soul, complementing the properties' 360-approach to wellbeing, offering guests a truly holistic relaxation and rejuvenation experience.

In association with Little Miss Wellness – Wellness Consultancy, The Retreat Palm Dubai has partnered with members of the local community to bring together some of the most talented wellness experts in the UAE. For one week, daily interactive workshops and informative sessions will provide attendees an educational and empowering introduction to the variety of topics and therapies that can be enjoyed on a journey to wellness. Prices start from AED 50 for one session, with package deals available for 5 sessions at AED 200.