



# HOTELS

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NEWS

## People on the move: Week of August 20, 2018

By [Erin Sund](#) on 8/22/2018

Radisson Hotel Group named a vice president of marketing for the Americas and Onyx Hospitality Group filled seven hotel leadership positions as part of its expansion across the Asia-Pacific region. Here are dozens more of this week's hospitality industry appointments and promotions.



From left, clockwise: Catherine Higgins Whiteside, Joerg Rodig, John Aritho and Alexandra Byrne

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Dallas-based Prism Hotels and Resorts promoted **Ghee Alexander** from general manager of El Conquistador Tucson, a Hilton Resort in Tucson, Arizona, to senior vice president of operations. The company hired **Jeff Miller** as corporate regional director of sales. Miller previously held multiple sales positions, most recently with Interstate Hotels & Resorts in Dallas.

Tsogo Sun appointed **John Aritho** general manager of Beverly Hills Hotel in Durban, South Africa. Aritho joined the group in 1997, most recently serving as general manager at the Garden Court Marine Parade, also in Durban.

Hyatt Hotels Corporation appointed **Thomas Blundell** general manager at Hyatt Centric Times Square, New York in New York City. Blundell joined the property from the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor where he was general manager of the Boston hotel.

PM Hotel Group named **Alexandra Byrne** general manager of the recently opened Canopy by Hilton North Bethesda in North Bethesda, Maryland. Byrne, a long-time Washington, D.C. resident, recently was general manager of Sofitel Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C.

The Umstead Hotel & Spa named **Jose Curci** director of food and beverage. Curci has spent seven years at the property, recently returning from a yearlong stint as director of food and beverage at The Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Matthew D'Ambrosi** became executive chef of Spoonbar and Pizzando, and will oversee menu development for The Rooftop at Harmon Guesthouse, scheduled to open this October in Healdsburg, California. D'Ambrosi had been corporate executive chef at Andale Management Group.

Honolulu-based OLS Hotels & Resorts appointed **Nicole Darity** director of sales, Hawaii, **Alyson Wee** revenue manager and **Steve Keller** controller. Prior to joining the team, Darity was the director of a private school, St. Philomena Early Learning Center on Oahu in Hawaii. Wee formerly served as a revenue manager for Aqua-Aston Hospitality and Keller is rejoining the hospitality industry after three years as controller for Marathon Group, an agriculture and industrial chemical supplier in Hawaii.

The Langham, Chicago appointed **Damion Henry** executive chef, overseeing the property's banquet space, Travelle Restaurant, Pavilion, in-room private dining and Club Lounge. He has worked as executive sous chef at the property since it opened in 2013.

Solmar Group appointed **Thomas Henseler** corporate food and beverage director, and **Diego Weiss** corporate hospitality director for Solmar Hotels & Resorts, a collection of seven all-suite resorts. **Jean Louis Magron** returned to the company as property management director at Rancho San Lucas in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Henseler recently was general manager for La Residence d'Angkor, Cambodia, and La Residence Phou Vao, Luang Prabang, Laos. Weiss had been resort manager at Esperanza an Auberge Resort in Cabo San Lucas, while Magron previously served as general manager at the Grand Solmar Land's End Resort & Spa in Cabo San Lucas during its construction and opening.

Radisson Hotel Group appointed **Catherine Higgins Whiteside** vice president of marketing for the Americas. Higgins Whiteside had been chief marketing and communications officer at Anchor Bank.

Waterline Marina Resort & Beach Club on Anna Maria Island, Florida, named **Christopher Hunter** general manager, **Noland Dunnan** food and beverage manager, and **Todd Isbell** director of engineering. Hunter comes to the resort from MGM Hotels & Resorts in Mississippi where he was front service manager. Dunnan had been manager of the Pier 22 Restaurant in Bradenton, Florida, and Isbell worked at DoubleTree by Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore in Tampa, Florida.

**Giuseppe Lama** became managing director of Carmel Valley Ranch in Carmel Valley, California, after serving for nearly 10 years as managing director of The Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Beach, California.

Outrigger Enterprises Group named **Brad Logsdon** area director of sales and marketing for the Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort and Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort, both in Honolulu. **Michelle Wee** became senior sales manager for Ohana Hotels by Outrigger. Logsdon had been director of sales and marketing for Marriott (Starwood) Hotels & Resorts, Waikiki Complex. Wee was resort sales manager for The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach, also in Honolulu.

Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, appointed three national sales managers. **Cynthia Martinez** joined the team after serving as senior sales manager for Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort in Buena Vista, Florida. **Jan Vicale** previously served as director of southeast sales for Mission Inn, but now represents a territory that includes Midwest markets, as well as Florida's eastern coast. **Linda Vaskovsky**, whose territory includes Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., North and South Carolina, plus portions of Orlando, formerly was director of national accounts for Planet Hollywood at Disney Springs in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

**Mohamed Mattar** joined The H Dubai Hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as food and beverage manager. Mattar had been food and beverage manager at Fairmont Dubai – Sheikh Zayed Road, also in Dubai.

Honolulu-based Castle Resorts & Hotels promoted **Alan Mattson** from president and chief operating officer to chief executive officer. Mattson first joined the company in 1999 as senior vice president of sales and marketing.

Choice Hotels International promoted **Pete Metzger** to franchise development regional vice president of the Ascend Hotel Collection brand, responsible for growing the brand's footprint in North America and the Caribbean. Metzger, who has been a member of Choice's development team for several years, is the former director of the Ascend Hotel Collection brand.

Benchmark named **Geraldine Moment** area director of revenue for Benchmark's Hotel Contessa in San Antonio, Texas, and the company's Doug Pitcock '49 Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, scheduled to open in August in College Station, Texas. Moment was promoted from her previous role as director of revenue for the company's Ames Boston Hotel, a member of the Curio Collection by Hilton in Boston.

Tsogo Sun named **Leean Murugan** general manager of the Garden Court South Beach in Durban, South Africa. Murugan joined the group in 2012, recently serving as general manager at Southern Sun Pietermaritzburg in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

**Dennis Ridlon** became chef de cuisine at Hyatt Regency Trinidad in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Ridlon worked for Viking Ocean Cruise for two years, and spent 13 years at Grand Hyatt Mumbai in Mumbai, India.

Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco named **Joerg Rodig** general manager of the downtown San Francisco hotel. The German native left his role as general manager of Four Seasons Resort Whistler in Whistler, Canada.

Onyx Hospitality Group made seven hotel leadership appointments as part of its expansion across the Asia-Pacific region. **Dean Rossilli** became area general manager for Malaysia, and **Clinton Lovell** is general manager for Amari Watergate Bangkok, Thailand. **Ingo Domaschke** is opening general manager for Ozo Pattaya in Pattaya, Thailand, as well as part of the pre-opening task force for the early 2019 re-launch of Amari Pattaya Ocean Tower and the opening of Amari Pattaya Ocean Suites. **Sanjeev Kapoor** is general manager of Shama Sukhumvit Bangkok and Ekamai Gardens Bangkok, while **Sanjiva Gautamadasa** is general manager of Amari Vogue Krabi in Krabi, Thailand. **Porntip Pibarnwong** became hotel manager for Amari Residences Bangkok,

Chiva Bangkok and Amp Am House, all in Bangkok. Finally, **Sirilak Buahom** is hotel manager for Sukhothai Heritage Resort in Sawankhalok, Thailand.

Smashotels appointed **Mark Shouger** general manager of Hotel EMC2 in Chicago. Shouger has more than three decades of hospitality industry experience, most recently as managing director of Chicago's Ronald McDonald House.

Fairmont Mayakoba in Riviera Maya, Mexico, appointed **Diego Sobrino** executive chef. Sobrino began his career at Restaurant LeDoten, a three-Michelin-star establishment in Paris, France. He most recently was executive chef and associate with Mexsi Bocu Bistro, Mexico City, Mexico.

Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg, New Jersey, named **Aishling Stevens** executive chef of Restaurant Latour, as well as resort executive chef, a role she's held since February. Stevens joined the Crystal Springs team in 2017 as resort sous chef.

Hotel Amapa, opening early 2019 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, announced **Alessandro Stifani** as general manager. Stifani departed Buenaventura Hotels where he was general manager of Villa Premiere Boutique Hotel & Romantic Getaway, also in Puerto Vallarta.

The Paramount Group in Chicago named **Amy Unell** the company's first chief operating officer. Unell spent the past seven years as regional vice president of operations for Wolfgang Puck Catering.

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