

The Carlson Rezidor Group honoured as Hotel Group of the Year

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The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group has been honoured as Hotel Group of the Year at the Worldwide Hospitality Awards 2012. At the gala event in Paris, Trudy Rautio, president and chief executive officer, Carlson, and Kurt Ritter, president & chief executive officer, Rezidor, received the prestigious trophy for the group's outstanding achievements in four complementing areas: development, innovation, human resources, and business performance.

"The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group launched earlier this year in January. To be awarded as the world's best hotel company in our first year is a great honour. It is a fantastic compliment to our team-work around the globe. Our dedicated people have proven that our Yes I Can! philosophy resonates around the world - a huge thank you to all our 80,000 employees in 81 countries," said Trudy Rautio and Kurt Ritter.

The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is a strategic partnership of Carlson, one of the largest privately held hospitality companies worldwide, and Rezidor, one of the fastest growing hotel companies worldwide. The group's portfolio features more than 1,300 hotels and a powerful set of brands (Radisson Blu, Radisson, Park Plaza, Park Inn by Radisson, Country Inns & Suites by CarlsonSM, Hotel Missoni, and Regent). Through a number of joint revenue activities, Carlson Rezidor aims to generate more than US\$ 400 million in additional revenue and a RevPAR Index increase of more than nine points by 2015.

In Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the group's success can be credited to the leadership of Kurt Ritter, Rezidor's president & chief executive officer. Managing the company since 1989, Swiss-born Ritter has created an entrepreneurial, dynamic and innovative group. Throughout the industry, he is admired for his charisma, his genuine belief in hospitality, and his straightforward approach. Ritter will retire at the end of the year - succeeded by Wolfgang M. Neumann - and will serve as a strategic advisor to Carlson during 2013.

The Worldwide Hospitality Awards were created by Georges Panayotis, president and chief executive officer, MKG Group, as an international competition and opportunity for hotel groups to highlight their exemplary achievements. The jury for the "grand prix" for the Hotel Group of the Year consists of the readers of the renowned trade magazine Hospitality-On.

About Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group - born in early 2012 - is one of the world's largest and most dynamic hotel groups. The portfolio of the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group includes more than 1,300 hotels, including a hotel in Zurich (<http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-zurichairport>), a hotel in Dubrovnik (<http://www.radissonblu.com/resort-dubrovnik>), hotels in Dubai (<http://www.radissonblu.com/hotels/united-arab-emirates/dubai>), a hotel in Paris (<http://www.radissonblu.com/ambassadorhotel-paris>) and a hotel in Oslo (<http://www.radissonblu.com/plazahotel-oslo>), as well as a global footprint spanning 81 countries and territories and a powerful set of global brands (Radisson Blu, Radisson, Park Plaza, Park Inn by Radisson, Country Inns & Suites By CarlsonSM and Hotel Missoni). In most of the group's hotels, guests

can benefit from the loyalty program Club CarlsonSM, one of the most rewarding loyalty programs in the world. Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group and its brands employ more than 80,000 people.

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., and Brussels, Belgium.

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