

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **EHMA BACK TO PARIS FOR ITS 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



*After 19 years, Paris has been chosen again by the European Hotel Managers Association for its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, themed “Welcome to the Future”, which will take place from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Westin Paris – Vendôme will be the venue for this exclusive event, which is held every year in a different European location.*

The meeting will be rich of events: the **President’s election** during the General Assembly of Friday afternoon; the presentation of very professional speakers and the interactive sessions on Saturday during the **Educational Day**. The Gala Dinner at the InterContinental Paris Le Grand will be the perfect location for the presentation of the **European Hotel Manager of the Year 2018** Award as well as the **Sustainability Award by Diversey 2019**, dedicated to the best sustainable project of the year.

The **Organizing Committee** is composed by Manuel de Vasconcelos, Le Méridien Beach Plaza Monaco Monte Carlo; Alessandra Bragoli, Castille Paris; Claudio Ceccherelli, Park Hyatt Paris–Vendôme; Jean Luc Cousty, Hotel Lutetia; François Delahaye, Hotel Plaza Athénée; Antoine Fanton, Hotel Les Deux Giraffes; Pierre Ferchaud, Hotel Raphael Paris; Fanny Guibouret, Hotel du Louvre; Christophe Laure, InterContinental Paris Le Grand; Claude Rath, Hotel Napoleon; Gianluca Priori, Hyatt Paris Madeleine; Valentino Piazzì, Hotel Regina Paris.

#### **THE PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE**

The opening day of Friday 15 February will start at The Westin Paris – Vendôme with the **General Assembly of the Members**, dedicated to the institutional moments of EHMA. The working sessions will be officially opened by President Hans E. Koch and by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee Manuel de Vasconcelos. During the meeting the **new members** will be presented, three of whom will be the lucky winners of a Professional Development Program course at Cornell University in Ithaca (USA). **Candidatures for the future General Assemblies** in 2020 and 2021 will be also presented. To follow, the **election of the President**, two Vice-Presidents, Arbiters and Auditors for the mandate 2019-2021.

At the same time of the General Assembly, the **Young EHMA Group** will join a working session organized by EHL (École Hôtelière de Lausanne) led by Ian Millar, Manager of Inst. of Business Creativity & Senior Lecturer EHL. The group is made up of **young hoteliers**, presented by the different EHMA Chapters, with a certain level of experience (junior managers/department heads) who are offered the opportunity to participate in the annual EHMA General Assembly. Working sessions will be concluded by the **“Members’ Hour”** and an **“Open Forum”** with the participation of Piotr Lipiec - Senior Business Development Manager Hotel TV Europe at Samsung; Valérie de Corte - Industry Relations & Alumni at EHL; Martim Gois – CEO at Valpas.

The day will end with the **Welcome Cocktail** at The Westin Paris – Vendôme.

On Saturday 16 February the **Educational Day** will focus on the theme of the event: **“Welcome to the Future!”**, moderated by Sander Allegro, allegro INN ovations Hospitality Consulting, with interactive sessions by Beekeeper.

The key note speaker will be **Ilja Grzeskowitz**, German, nicknamed “Mr. Change” by clients and media, an expert in the culture of change. A group of **MBA students at INSEAD** will follow, presenting “What ticks for Millennials”. Thereafter, the speakers will be: **Somer Gundogdu**, President - Professional, Europe Middle East and Africa at Diversey, leader in providing smart, sustainable solutions for cleaning and hygiene; **Yves Givel**, Vice Presidente HR Hyatt International; **Serge Trigano**, founder of the chain Mama Shelter; **Hans Steenbergen** at Food Inspiration Magazine; **Claus Meyer**, founder of Noma Restaurant; **Märtha Rehnberg** at Dare Disrupt; the interior architects **Tristan Auer & Monica Moser** at Wilson & Associate.

A panel with the title “What’s in it for me?” will close the Educational Day.

On Saturday **the accompanying persons** will have the opportunity to choose either a day in Disneyland Paris or a visit to the Louvre Museum and/or the Opéra Garnier.

Everyone will meet again at the **Cocktail & Gala Dinner** which will be held in the spectacular ballroom of the InterContinental Paris Le Grand, during which the prestigious **EHMA Awards** will be presented.

**The Westin Paris – Vendôme** is ideally situated in the heart of Paris between the Louvre and Place Vendôme, The hotel features 428 rooms including 80 suites in a refined and elegant setting offering magnificent views over the city. The hotel is **particularly suited to meetings** with its 13 meeting rooms totaling 2000 m<sup>2</sup> including the largest conference room with daylight in the city center and 3 spectacular historical ballrooms. Fitness center and Six Senses Spa, 2 restaurants: Le First and La Terrasse, Bar Les Tuileries.

#### **EHMA in brief**

EHMA was **founded in Rome in 1974** by a small group of top quality hotel properties general managers. The European Hotel Managers Association aims **to improve qualification of professionals** through training in view of increasing the standards of services to be provided to guests. At present the Association gathers more than **400 members**, many of whom are **general managers** of the most prestigious hotels in **29 countries** that make a total of **300 represented hotels, 80,000 rooms, and 62,000 employees**. EHMA admission requires a **minimum of ten-year experience in the hotel sector**. Members meet once a year to discuss about shared themes such as: new technologies, trends, issues, relations, European hotel data and market search.

#### **EHMA SECRETARIAT**

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