

PRESS RELEASE

JOSÉ COLOMAR WINS EHMA'S “HANS KOCH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2023”



From left to right, Eduardo Manero, GM Hotel Royal Plaza Ibiza and José Colomar

On Saturday February 11th in Lisbon, Portugal, during the Gala Dinner of the EHMA's Annual General Meeting, the President Panos Almyrantis, National Delegate of Greece & Cyprus and General Manager of the Grand Hyatt Athens, presented to José Colomar, owner of the Hotel Royal Plaza in Ibiza, the well-deserved “EHMA Hans Koch Lifetime Achievement Award 2023”. This prize honors outstanding EHMA Meritorious General Managers who over their lifetime career have significantly contributed to the improvement of the Hotel Business and to the Association itself. The award is named after Hans E. Koch, EHMA President from 2013 to 2019, who sadly passed away in 2021 in recognition of his long and successful career in the hotel industry.

“Pepe Colomar, *el eterno enamorado de Ibiza*, is **one of the visionaries of tourism** and was able to envisage the future of the island of Ibiza before anybody else even imagined it”, comments **President Almyrantis**, “He is an integral part of Ibiza’s history and a prominent hotelier who has contributed into making this Balearic island a benchmark in the world of tourism. He has been National Delegate of Spain for several terms and EHMA’s **President from 1995 to 1998**, and the perfect host on the occasion of a few Management Council meetings”.

José (Pepe) Colomar

José Colomar has played a **vital role in the history of tourism in Ibiza** and has been a key figure in promoting and supporting the sector to become what it is today.

He was **born in Ibiza in 1932**. He worked in Majorca, Germany, Paris, Switzerland and Belgium and after countless locations, promotions and learning opportunities, he returned to Ibiza to begin his first great project. Along with several partners he opened in 1967 the Hotel Fenicia in Santa Eulària des Riu, which he eventually sold to fulfill his great **dream of creating the four-star Royal Plaza Hotel in the centre of Ibiza** to serve the island all year round.

For three years, from 1995 to 1998, he was the **President of the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA)**. He was co-founder of Ibiza’s branch of the **Skal Club** until in 1982 in

Manila, Philippines, he was elected world President of Skal Club. He was co-founder and President of the **Santa Eulalia Democratic Centre** receiving in 2014 the **fourth Gold Medal** of Santa Eularia des Riu for promoting associative movements of various kinds, both cultural and social. He was made an Honorary Citizen by the Island Council, set up “**Ibiza and Formentera against cancer**” (IFFC). He was Chair of **Tourist Development for Ibiza** from 1999 until 2002. He is the founder of the Rotary Club in Ibiza, member of Pro Arte and a staunch supporter of the theatre and of classical music, supporting many other organisations on the island. José Colomar was also the founder of the Adlib fashion brand, for which the island of Ibiza is now known worldwide.

About EHMA

EHMA - European Hotel Managers Association was **founded in Rome in 1974** by prominent **Hotel General Managers** of undisputed professional ethics with the aim of maintaining and enhancing the image of the hotel industry. It is composed of high-level hotel general managers who envision to be the preferred Association of Hotel Managers, **representing the most prestigious and unique hotels in Europe**. Supporting an inclusive and stimulating networking environment, sharing experiences, insights and support, and effectively communicating within the hotel industry, with integrity, loyalty and trust encompass the **Association’s core values**. The Association currently has nearly **400 members representing 23 European countries** of which approximately 350 are General Managers of luxury hotels. In figures, this represents about **350 hotels, 85,000 rooms and 65,000 employees**.

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