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ANDREAS KEESE, GENERAL MANAGER OF SACHER WIEN, ELECTED EHMA "EUROPEAN HOTEL MANAGER OF THE YEAR 2026"



Andreas Keese, (General Manager of Hotel Sacher Wien) and Panos Almyrantis (President of The European Hotel Managers Association).

London, 14 March 2026 – The European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA) has honoured **Andreas Keese**, General Manager of the world-renowned **Hotel Sacher Wien**, with the prestigious title of **"European Hotel Manager of the Year 2026."** The award was presented during the Gala Dinner at the **52nd EHMA Annual General Assembly**, held at the iconic **The Savoy** in London.

The EHMA Jury selected Mr Keese for his outstanding ability to blend operational excellence with a genuine, people-first leadership style, fostering an environment where

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rigour, warmth and authentic hospitality thrive side by side. His career — which began in the kitchens and advanced through pivotal operational roles — reflects discipline, loyalty and an unwavering respect for teamwork. This foundation has shaped a leadership style that empowers colleagues, nurtures authentic hospitality, and consistently elevates the guest experience.

“Andreas’s remarkable achievements embody EHMA’s mission to foster excellence, leadership, and innovation in hospitality,” said **Panos Almyrantis, President of EHMA**, National Delegate for Greece & Cyprus, and Chief Growth & Commercial Officer at Ella Resorts in Athens. “His ability to honour heritage while leading with modern conviction reinforces a timeless truth: great hotels are built by great people.”

An EHMA member since **2023**, Mr Keese has embraced the Association’s spirit of shared learning, collegiality and professional exchange, contributing to the values-driven community that continues to shape the future of European luxury hospitality.

About the Award

Every year, EHMA proudly presents the “**European Hotel Manager of the Year**” award to a General Manager who exemplifies excellence in operational performance, team development, community engagement, and industry innovation. Mr Keese’s achievements in these areas have firmly established him as a distinguished leader in the European hospitality landscape.

Brief Biography: Andreas Keese

- **A Journey of Passion and Leadership:** Mr Keese began his career in hospitality as a chef, steadily advancing through demanding culinary and operational environments before moving into hotel leadership. He joined Hotel Sacher Wien in 2017 and was appointed General Manager in 2020.
- **Leadership Through People and Culture:** His approach is rooted in daily standards, team development and a deep respect for the craft of hospitality—creating an environment where excellence and warmth are consistently delivered.
- **Recognition and Ongoing Momentum:** Under his management, the hotel has continued to strengthen its standing through notable international recognition and distinctions, reflecting sustained performance across service, culture and guest experience.

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About Hotel Sacher Wien

Opened in **1876** and perfectly positioned opposite the **Vienna State Opera**, **Hotel Sacher Wien** is a privately operated **five-star superior** hotel celebrated for its refined service, rich culinary heritage, and as the birthplace of the world-famous **Original Sacher-Torte** — a legacy spanning 193 years of “a slice of good life”. With **152 rooms and suites, more than 1 million F&B guests per year, and a dedicated team of 425 employees**, the hotel will reach an extraordinary milestone in **2026: 150 years** of hospitality excellence at the heart of Vienna.

Spotlight on Europe’s Finest Hoteliers: Celebrating the 2026 Finalists

The “**European Hotel Manager of the Year 2026**” Award highlighted not only the winner but also **two exceptional finalists**, each reflecting the calibre, experience and dedication that define Europe’s premier hospitality industry.

Representing **France & Monaco**, **Serge Ethuin**, General Manager of the **Hôtel Métropole Monte-Carlo**, was honoured for a distinguished career leading landmark luxury properties and large, multicultural teams across Monaco, Paris, Rome and beyond. His leadership is grounded in strong ethical values, an unwavering commitment to people development and a consistent ability to elevate service culture at the highest level.

From **Italy**, **Giacomo Battafarano**, Managing Director for **Hotel de Russie & Southern Italy** at **Rocco Forte Hotels**, earned recognition for his strategic stewardship of multiple flagship destinations and his proven ability to deliver growth through operational excellence, major refurbishment programmes, rebranding initiatives, and sustained investment in team performance across key luxury markets.

Together, these exceptional leaders — united by their dedication to excellence — reflect the vibrancy, strength and forward-looking ambition that continue to define European luxury hospitality.

About the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA)

Founded in Rome in 1974, the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA) is a prestigious non-profit organisation committed to excellence in Europe’s luxury hospitality industry. With a membership of 500 top professionals overseeing more than 400 premier hotels across 24 countries, EHMA fosters leadership, innovation, and the highest service standards. Through educational initiatives, networking events, and industry research,

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EHMA drives knowledge-sharing and professional growth while shaping a sustainable, forward-thinking future for European hospitality.

Website: <https://ehma.com>

Event Website: <https://ehma.com/london2026/>

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