THE Legend IS Awakening
A Palatial Welcome

Earlier this month, the Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai was privileged to welcome a delegation from the Kempinski Headquarters in Geneva, led by Mr. Markus Semer, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Management Board.

Colin Lubbe, Chief Financial Officer, and Henk Meyknecht, Chief Operating Officer Middle East & Africa, joined the visit and were personally welcomed by Dr. Nver Mhitaryan, Chairman, Emerald Palace Group, and Mr. Mohammad Kamran Wajid, Group Chief Executive Officer.

The delegation enjoyed a full tour of the Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai, including the grand entrance and the foyer, as well as a selection of rooms, suites, restaurants, banqueting facilities and other public areas.

In this issue, we invite you to learn more about Kempinski Hotels, the managing hotel group.
Kempinski is Europe’s oldest luxury hotel group with a history of more than 121 years. The history began in 1897 with the foundation of the ‘Hotelbetriebs-Aktiengesellschaft’ in Berlin. This was the time when the first comfortable hotels were already appearing in the biggest German city, and included some belonging to the company. A parallel development was that of M. Kempinski & Co, founded by Berthold Kempinski, which was acquired in 1953.

Kempinski currently operates 75 luxury hotels in 33 countries. This collection is continually extended by the addition of new hotels in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas without losing sight of Kempinski’s claim to exclusivity and individuality, thus demonstrating the Group’s capacity for expansion.

The portfolio includes historic grand hotels, city hotels, resorts and residences. It includes such famous establishments as the Hotel Adlon Kempinski in Berlin, the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi and the Çiragan Palace Kempinski in Istanbul.

Strategic partner of the Emerald Palace Group, Kempinski Hotels is also a founding member of the Global Hotel Alliance, the world’s largest alliance of independent hotel brands with more than a million members.

On previous page:
Berthold Kempinski (1843-1910), Founder.
Kempinski Milestones

1897
Hotelbetriebs-Aktiengesellschaft Hotel management company was established in Berlin

1957
Hotel Atlantic Hamburg becomes a Kempinski Hotel

1992
Kempinski is the first international luxury hotel group to enter the Chinese market

1992
Kempinski is the first international luxury hotel group to enter the Russian market

1997
The Adlon joins the Kempinski Collection
Kempinski opens its first hotel in the Middle East signaling its commitment to the region.

Kempinski enters Africa, showing its belief in the region for both business and leisure.

Kempinski introduces The Lady in Red, an iconic figure.

Key International (joint venture between Beijing Tourism Group and Kempinski) opens NUO, a modern luxury hotel inspired by Chinese Culture.

Kempinski prepares to set a new standard of luxury with the opening of the Emerald Palace Kempinski.
Markus Semer guides the overall strategy and management of Kempinski, setting the direction for the group as a pioneering European luxury hotelier.

As Chairman of the Management Board, he leads the company’s senior executive team and drives forward the company’s strategy to deliver unique guest experiences rooted in craftsmanship. He is also directly responsible for overseeing Corporate Affairs and Communications, Brand Strategy, Guest Experience Strategy and Standards, and Legal Services.

Markus was appointed Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of Kempinski Hotels in March 2016, and has been a Member of the Management Board of Kempinski AG and on the Board of Directors of Kempinski Hotels SA since 2008.

Markus is a founding member of BE Health Association, a non-profit association supported by Kempinski. A classical music enthusiast, he is a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees of Beethoven-Haus Bonn. He studied economics at the University of Würzburg, Germany, and holds a Master of Business Administration from the Ecole Hotelière de Lausanne in Switzerland.

On previous page: Markus Semer
“After 120 years, we’re delighted to pay tribute to an extraordinary past, and herald an exciting future.

Our founder, Berthold Kempinski, paved the way for a new standard of hospitality, based on timeless European elegance and impeccable service.

He created venues that introduced guests to new experiences, in unique and original surroundings, and his innovative and entrepreneurial approach has remained the inspiration for our development over the years.”

Marcus Semer
Chief Executive Officer
Chairman of the Management Board
Kempinski Hotels SA
EPG Management FZE and Kempinski Hotels became partners in 2009 in preparation for the opening of Kempinski Residences Palm Jumeirah.

To be a member hotel in the Kempinski portfolio means being incorporated into a network of specialists, to rely on their project management experience, and to learn from the renowned operational expertise.

Hotels are supported by the strong international network of marketing, reservations and sales services, they experience the Kempinski culture and spirit, take advantage of the brand’s state-of-the-art technology and negotiating power, and benefit from its financial competence.

Kempinski’s mission is to be a market leader within its location, reinforcing its reputation for operating unique, individual and profitable hotels in a distinctively European flair. It is not a hotel chain, but “a collection of individuals” who all adhere to the highest level of luxury service.

Hotel management agreements are tailor-made and formulated according to the individual needs of each business. Through its management contract, Kempinski provides the essential operational expertise necessary for establishing and preserving the long-term profitability of each investment.
A long-standing member of the Kempinski Hotels family, French native Sébastien Mariette joined the group in January 2007. Over the next decade, his journey with Europe’s oldest luxury hotel group took him across the globe. Perfect for a man who considers travel to be one of his main passions.

Sebastien’s first Kempinski role was as Resident Manager at Kempinski Hotel Grand Hermitage in Varna, Bulgaria, before moving to Africa in 2008 to Djibouti Palace Kempinski. Next assignment was China in 2010, where he led the opening team at Kempinski Hotel Huizhou. In 2012, Sébastien had a particularly eventful year, leading another opening team at Kempinski Hotel Yixing while taking the reins as General Manager at Kempinski Hotel Wuxi.

From the Far East to the Middle East, in 2014 Sébastien crossed the world again, this time as General Manager at Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea. Driving the hotel’s performance to new heights, he was promoted to Cluster General Manager for both of Kempinski’s Jordan properties – Ishtar Dead Sea and Aqaba in July 2016 and continued to prove his undeniable ability to lead a hotel to success. After joining the team at Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai in March 2018, Sébastien looks forward to bringing his extensive industry knowledge to this new and exciting challenge.
Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai is finalising the appointment of its Executive Committee members who will be responsible for the daily management of the hotel, working closely with the Managing Director.

The commercial success of the complex is contingent upon its leadership team, their ability to position the resort as a market leader and deliver its distinctly unique character in today’s extremely competitive marketplace.

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce Andrea Strim, Hotel Manager, and Galina Antonyuk, Director of Spa and Wellness.
Andrea prides himself in his strong entrepreneurial skills with a focus on delivering quality service and leading world-class standards – something he looks forward to implementing at Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai.
With more than 20 years experience in luxury hospitality, Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai’s Hotel Manager Andrea joined the opening team in September 2016.

Having worked with some of the UAE’s most distinguished hotels including Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah Beach Hotel and Jumeirah Emirates Towers, Andrea joined the Kempinski group in 2015 as Executive Assistant Manager of Food and Beverage at Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates. From the Middle East to West Africa, Andrea went on to head up the team of the newly opened Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City Accra in Ghana before taking on his current challenge on Dubai’s Palm Jumeirah as Hotel Manager of the Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai.

During Andrea's earlier career in his native Italy, he was awarded the title of Chef of the Year. After just three days he received a call from the main judge in Japan, offering him a job in Tokyo. Andrea took a leap and moved from a small village in the Alps with 6,000 people to the metropolis of Tokyo with 60 million people at The Hamilton Hotel Ureshino in Japan. Since stepping out of his chef whites, Andrea has gained various hotel management qualifications including Project Management Essentials and Restaurant Revenue Management from The Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management.
Galina's many career achievements include winning Middle East’s Leading Spa Resort at the World Travel Awards and joining the opening team of Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai.
Galina Antonyuk
Director of Spa and Wellness
Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai

Responsible for the 3,000 sq.m. Cinq Mondes Spa and the resort’s extensive recreation facilities, Galina will spearhead the hotel’s groundbreaking approach to wellness.

Galina started her impressive career in 1998 at Ajman Kempinski Hotel and Resort. After four years, she moved to Dubai taking a position as Assistant Recreation Manager at Le Royal Meridien Beach Resort and Spa. Rising up the ranks fast, by 2008 she was Complex Director of Spas, responsible for Le Royal Méridien Beach Resort & Spa and Grosvenor House West Marina Hotel.

As well as her native Russian, Galina speaks fluent English and Italian. She loves and has a talent for Latin American dancing. She is also an accomplished musician, often singing Italian opera and playing classical music such as Bach and Beethoven on a pianoforte. A keen traveller and photographer, she has visited more than 50 countries and always has a camera on hand to capture the local culture.
Kempinski takes pride in delivering exceptional service for each and every guest. For employees, they provide a stage on which they can flourish and realise their full potential.

Dedicated to please, educated to entertain and never compromising on the European elegance of service, the company is driven by its passion for crafting the rich and meaningful experiences that inspire guests to become regular patrons.

Once fully open, the Emerald Palace Kempinski Dubai will have a team of more than 650 employees from all over the world.

Recruitment is in progress with more than 10,000 applications reviewed for the current vacancies.

In May, the hotel hosted two recruitment days, where more than 200 potential candidates were interviewed by the hotel's department heads and senior management team. The next recruitment phase is scheduled for June.
To be continued
The “Emerald Palace Kempinski Hotel Palm Jumeirah” is developed by and the Hotel Units are sold by Sunrise Properties Limited, a company independent from the Kempinski group, and the “Kempinski” name is used by the developer under a license from Kempinski Hotels SA. The role of the Kempinski group is limited to the management of the hotel.