

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Questex's Hotel Management Announces the 2023 List of Influential Women in Hospitality**

**NEW YORK, NY** – [Questex's Hotel Management](#) announces the sixth annual "Influential Women in Hospitality" list, honoring twenty-nine innovative, leading women in the hotel industry.

The 2023 honorees were selected by the Hotel Management staff for their strong leadership and dedication to excellence in hospitality. This influential group's list of accomplishments is as long as it is impressive, and Hotel Management is proud to feature these talented, inspiring women.

Hotel Management's 2023 Influential Women in Hospitality are:

1. Noha Abdalla, Chief Marketing Officer, Choice Hotels International
2. Erika Alexander, Chief Global Officer, Global Operations, Marriott International
3. Melissa Arana, VP Revenue Strategy, HVMG
4. Amber Asher, CEO, Standard International
5. Jennifer Barnwell, President, Curator Hotel & Resort Collection
6. Anna Blue, President, AHLA Foundation
7. Ave Bradley, VP of Design & Creative, Luxury & Lifestyle Brands, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants
8. Angel Brunner, Founder & CEO, EB5 Capital
9. Tiffany Cooper, Chief Development Officer, Americas & Caribbean, Aimbridge Hospitality
10. Michele Evans, EVP of Hospitality, Graduate Hotels
11. Sarah Gulla, Senior VP, Asset Management, Pebblebrook Hotel Trust
12. Elizabeth Harlow, Chief Marketing & Brand Officer, Sonesta
13. Joy Jolin, Senior VP, Asset Management, RLJ Lodging Trust
14. Emily Keip, Senior VP, Design Services—Americas, Hyatt
15. Greta Kipp, Chief Operating Officer, Main Street Hospitality
16. Sarah Koustrup, President, National Hospitality Services (Hotel Equities Division)
17. Christine M. Magrann, President & COO, Makeready
18. Deidre Mathis, Founder/Operator, Wanderstay Hospitality
19. Jennifer Mehra, Director, Prototype Design & Development, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts
20. Dayssi Olarte de Kanavos, President & COO, Flag Luxury Group
21. Lissa Pierce, Head of Renovations & Project Design Management—Premium Brands, IHG
22. Anne Marie Presutti, VP & GM, Hotel Nikko San Francisco

23. Peggy Roe, EVP & Chief Customer Officer, Marriott International
24. Melissa Ross Smith, COO, Peachtree Group
25. Rachael Rothman, Head of Hotels Research & Data Analysis, CBRE
26. Jyoti Sarolia, President & CEO, Ellis Hospitality Group
27. Lisa Waldron, VP & Managing Director, Hilton Development
28. Colleen Weiss-Hanen, President & CEO, East West Hospitality
29. Michelle Zajac, Director of Meetings & Events, BWH Hotels

“Hotel Management is thrilled to inspire the industry with the 29 outstanding women hoteliers who make up this year’s 2023 Influential Women in Hospitality list,” said Jennifer Glatt, Editor-in-Chief and Content Director with Questex Hospitality and Hotel Management. “From nonprofit leadership to lawyering, reimagining spaces to rendering real estate deals, these are women who wield creative influence and moxie with confidence, daily making their mark on the global hospitality market. We congratulate them sincerely on their accomplishments.”

The 2023 Influential Women in Hospitality honorees are featured in the October print issue of Hotel Management. Visit [www.hotelmanagement.net](http://www.hotelmanagement.net) to learn more.



**SARAH KOUSTRUP**  
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL  
HOSPITALITY SERVICES

Koustrup said she has always approached her position within the organization she works for and in the hospitality industry overall “with the goal of being a great hotelier and leader, period, not because I am a woman or despite being a woman. No matter who I am talking to or in what setting, my skills and experience are the only thing that matters.”

Koustrup joined National Hospitality Services in 2012 as the director of human resources, and she started the department from scratch. “In those early days I was given the opportunity to shadow every role in the organization from general manager to housekeeper, working alongside the team and learning about their role and the industry. Being an HR professional, the people aspect of the business was thrilling, and seeing how every team member worked together to provide a guest with a great

experience that in turn supported an owner reaching their goals clicked instantly, and I was hooked.”

She credits her business partner, mentor and industry veteran, Norman Leslie, with helping pave the way for her professional development, providing projects and opportunities outside of HR to grow her skill set.

“As women continue to be elevated, the value of diverse organizations with women in leadership roles are becoming visible and important. I will never forget how lucky I was to have had someone to see me for my skills versus my gender. I am always seeking ways to help mentor and advocate for women currently in or considering the hospitality industry.”

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## About Hotel Management, a Division of Questex Hospitality Group

Hotel Management is a leading B2B centralized print and online source for the latest news, trends and analysis across the hospitality industry. Stay up to date on breaking news in global and local investment, development, technology, operations, food & beverage and design.

## About Questex

**Questex helps people live better and longer.** Questex brings people together in the markets that help people **live better**: travel, hospitality and wellness; the industries that help people **live longer**: life science and healthcare; and the technologies that enable and fuel these **new experiences**. We live in **the experience economy** – connecting our ecosystem through live events, surrounded by data insights and digital communities. We deliver experience and real results. **It happens here.**

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