

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Four Seasons CEO transitions out of role

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Four Seasons is searching for a new CEO. Image credit: Four Seasons

By STAFF REPORTS

Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts' president and CEO will be leaving after five years.

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Allen Smith, who has been leading the company since 2013, plans to exit at the end of 2018. The executive will be remaining in his role until Four Seasons' board of directors can pick a replacement.

Moving on

Mr. Smith was appointed as president and CEO in 2013. His five-year contract expires at the end of the year, at which point he is planning to exit the company.

"It is a profound honor and privilege for me to lead Four Seasons and I am deeply grateful to my colleagues whose passion for being the best is evident every day in all that they do," Mr. Smith said in a statement. "I have been fortunate to enjoy the tremendous support of our board of directors and hotel owners, who share a deep sense of commitment to our long term success."



J. Allen Smith. Image courtesy of Four Seasons

During Mr. Smith's time at Four Seasons, the hospitality brand launched new products such as private jet tours, which took its experience to the skies ([see story](#)).

In line with the overall forward momentum in the hospitality industry, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts is also ramping up its expansion strategy via new property openings in popular and emerging tourist destinations.

As affluent travelers' values change and shift toward experiencing new things rather than returning to the same locations, luxury hospitality brands are branching out. Four Seasons is the latest hotel brand to announce a global expansion plan, in which it will enter new markets as well as build up its residential business ([see story](#)).

"Through his five years of leadership, Allen has built an outstanding senior management team and successfully pursued strategic initiatives so the company is well positioned for the next chapter of its evolution and leadership," said Isadore Sharp, founder and chairman of Four Seasons. "The board and Allen are committed to a successful CEO transition and meeting their responsibility to maintain and enhance Four Seasons brand, people and service culture and management capabilities.

"Four Seasons has never been stronger," she said.

Mr. Smith began his career as a real estate investment manager within Prudential Real Estate Investors' hotel investment group. He became the CEO of the company in 2008.