

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

## AccorHotels grows presence in Africa with acquisition of Mantis Group

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*Mantis Group operates luxury hotels in Africa and around the world. Image credit: Mantis Group*

By STAFF REPORTS

European hotel group AccorHotels is expanding its presence in Africa by acquiring a 50 percent share of South African luxury hotelier Mantis Group.

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Mantis Group owns a large number of luxury hotels around the world, with a major focus in its home country of South Africa. The acquisition will give AccorHotels a major presence in South Africa, a country where luxury accommodations are at a premium.

"Mantis is a pioneer in customized one-of-a-kind travel services in some of the most imaginative hotels across the world," said Sebastien Bazin, CEO of AccorHotels, in a statement. "With this strategic partnership, we are reinforcing the group's footprint in Africa and we have access to a brand with strong roots and heritage, recognized for its commitment to preserve the environment and its prestigious credentials in the hospitality space."

### African expansion

Mantis Groups' portfolio includes large resorts, boutique hotels, rentable luxury houseboats and eco lodges, giving it a diverse set of assets that span many continents.

AccorHotels, by contrast, operates everything from budget and economy hotels to five-star luxury ones. By acquiring such a large share of Mantis Group, Accor is significantly expanding its luxury presence around the world.

In addition to the acquisition, both groups are launching a joint program called the Community Conservation Fund Africa, a non-profit group that will see both groups helping to prevent the accelerated decline of Africa's wildlife and natural resources.

Accor is hoping that the partnership will help expand its holdings in Africa, bring in new customers and continue the group's commitment to conservation of the environment and wildlife.



*AccorHotels' location in Turkey. Image credit: AccorHotels*

The group has looked outside of Europe recently for a number of new partnerships recently. For example, it entered a long-term joint venture with Turkey-based resort company Rixos as it looks to further its presence in upscale hospitality.

Through this partnership, AccorHotels and Rixos will work together to develop and manage Rixos hotels and resorts around the world. After purchasing FRHI Hotels & Resorts in 2016, which included the Fairmont brand, AccorHotels has its sights set on further expanding its luxury footprint ([see story](#)).

"AccorHotels is one of the fastest growing hotel and travel operators worldwide," said Adrian Gardiner, founder and chairman of Mantis Group, in a statement. "This agreement presents an attractive proposition for the Mantis Group to utilize AccorHotels' robust distribution channels and world-wide reach to further develop the hospitality concepts and sustainability projects we have worked so tirelessly to grow.

"We are excited to embark upon this new chapter alongside AccorHotels where we will act as ambassadors for the development of both our groups' portfolios and offerings," he said.

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