

COMMERCE

## IHG promotes regional leader to CEO post

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*Having amassed eight years of experience as IHG Americas CEO, Elie Maalouf will soon transition into the Group's top spot. Image credit: InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British multinational InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) is hiring from within to fill a top role.

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The company has announced that IHG CEO and board member Keith Barr will end his term on June 30, 2023, whereupon he will remain available for advising until the end of the year. Taking over as CEO of IHG on July 1, 2023, is Elie Maalouf, whose eight years of experience leading IHG Americas as CEO renders the executive especially fit for the promotion.

"Succession planning has been a hallmark of the business for many years and Elie's appointment is the result of a rigorous process and a commitment to invest in the development of our leaders, as was the case when Keith became CEO in 2017," said Deanna Oppenheimer, chairperson of the board at IHG Hotels & Resorts, in a statement.

"Elie has been an instrumental part of our business in his eight years running our largest operating region and as a member of the Board since 2018," Ms. Oppenheimer said. "His significant industry experience and deep understanding of our business make him extremely well placed to take on the role of CEO and ensure we continue to progress and execute against our successful strategy.

"The Board and I look forward to working with him in his new position."

### Making moves

Mr. Maalouf has helmed a number of hospitality departments over the course of the last few decades, bringing experiences branding, finance, real estate, development and operations management to the table. The executive began serving IHG as CEO of the Americas region in 2015.

During Mr. Maalouf's time in the position, the company's regional footprint grew from an initial 3,700 hotels to over 4,350 present-day. Mr. Maalouf also led charitable efforts in the United States, most recently hosting an educational forum in Atlanta with an organization that provides support to survivors of human trafficking ([see story](#)).

IHG's incoming chief executive officer will operate out of the United Kingdom.

"I am extremely proud to be appointed CEO of one of the world's leading hotel companies and excited to work with

our talented teams and owners around the world on what will be an important new chapter for IHG," said Mr. Maalouf, in a statement.

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A post shared by InterContinental Hotels Group (@ihgcareers)

"Working closely with Keith and as an Executive Committee, we've made a number of critical strategic investments in recent years that position us with exciting opportunities to realize IHG's full industry-leading potential, by driving the performance and growth of our fantastic brands and delivering strong returns for all our stakeholders."

Mr. Maalouf will ascend into a position previously held by a 30-year company veteran.

Mr. Barr led the group through a period of uncertainty, guiding teams through hardships brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. During his six-year tenure as CEO, Mr. Barr also strategized IHG's move into the future through responsible business practices, and among other things, expanded the company's portfolio to seven new brands ([see story](#)).

"He has rallied a business around a clear strategy with hotel owners and guests at its heart, strengthened IHG's enterprise platform, and placed the business on a path to long-term sustainable growth and to continue an excellent track record of shareholder value creation," said Ms. Oppenheimer, in a statement.

"He has achieved this with great warmth and personality not least during the depths of the pandemic and we wish him the very best for the future."

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