

Best Western Targets Quality Growth Across Asia

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(Bangkok – March 17, 2017): Best Western® Hotels & Resorts is aiming to increase its Asian inventory by 40% in the coming years, with the addition of multiple high-quality hotels, including many new-builds all across the region.

At present, Best Western operates 107 hotels in Asia and, with a regional pipeline now standing at 49 hotels and nearly 10,316 keys, Best Western's Asian presence is set to increase significantly in the coming years. Many of these hotels are larger, with an average room size of 220 units.

Much of this expansion will be driven by Best Western's newest brand concepts, including VÄ«b® and GL , which are designed for the new generation of tech-savvy travellers, and BW Premier Collection®, a premium selection of independent upscale hotels.

And most recently Best Western unveiled SureStay , its revolutionary white label concept aimed at capturing the huge market of unbranded hotels. This new concept features three tiers - SureStay Hotel (premium economy), SureStay Plus Hotel (lower midscale) and SureStay Signature Collection (midscale soft brand) - and is expected to grow rapidly in Asia.

Best Western has already signed VÄ«b projects in several key Asian cities, including Bangkok, Danang, Vientiane and Yangon. And the region's first ever BW Premier Collection hotel will rise near the popular Thai resort town of Pattaya.

In addition to these two brands, the company continues to develop its portfolio of midscale Best Western®, upper-midscale Best Western Plus® and upscale Best Western Premier® hotels across Asia.

Japan is a key area of development, with new Best Western properties having opened recently in Tokyo and Okinawa, while the Best Western Plus brand is driving development in The Philippines. In Malaysia, a new Best Western Premier hotel is coming to the Genting Highlands and a Best Western Plus is rising in Kuching.

Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos are all set for further development, and the company is also targeting a return to Singapore.

But perhaps the most significant expansion is coming in Thailand, where Best Western recently signed a landmark deal for four hotels in the popular destinations of Pattaya and Hua Hin, comprising more than 4,000 rooms.

"Best Western recently celebrated our 15th anniversary in Asia, and in that time, our hotel portfolio has developed considerably - not only in terms of quantity, but also in terms of quality," said Olivier Berrivin, Best Western's Managing Director of International Operations - Asia. "Our Asian development strategy is now entering an exciting new phase, with multiple new hotels and brand concepts set to be launched in the coming months and years.

“With the unveiling of our new global brand strategy in 2015 we set the foundations for an exciting new era in Best Western’s long and distinguished history. This new generation of Best Western hotels will rise rapidly in Asia, providing guests with a vast network of comfortable, convenient and well-connected accommodation options all across the region,” Mr. Berrivin added.

Best Western’s Asian development has already attracted attention; this year the company was named as Asia’s “Best Midscale Hotel Chain” in both the TTG and Travel Weekly awards. The company has now won these titles for multiple years in succession, and Berrivin believes that the new brand concepts being introduced to the region will enhance the company’s reputation even further in the future.

“We are extremely grateful to have been honored in both of Asia’s leading award ceremonies. I am confident that our new hotel brands, including the ultra-modern VÄ«b and GL , will be similarly well-received by the Asian travel trade and guests alike, leading to further awards in future,” he concluded.

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About Best Western® Hotels & Resorts:

Best Western Hotels & Resorts headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, is a privately held hotel brand with a global network of 4,200* hotels in more than 100* countries and territories worldwide. Best Western offers seven hotel brands to suit the needs of developers and guests in every market: Best Western®, Best Western Plus®, Best Western Premier®, Executive Residency by Best Western®, VÄ«b®, BW Premier Collection® and GL . Now celebrating more than 70 years of hospitality, Best Western provides its hoteliers with global operational, sales and marketing support, and award-winning online and mobile booking capabilities. Best Western continues to set industry records regarding awards and accolades, including nearly sixty percent of the brand’s North American hotels earning a TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence award in 2016, Business Travel News® ranking Best Western Plus and Best Western in the top three upper-mid-price and mid-price hotel brands for three years in a row, and Best Western receiving five consecutive Dynatrace® Best of the Web gold awards for best hotel website. Best Western has also won eight AAA®/CAA® Lodging Partner of the Year awards, recognizing the brand’s commitment to providing exceptional service and great value to AAA’s 56 million members in the U.S. and Canada. Nearly 30 million travelers are members of the brand’s award-winning loyalty program Best Western Rewards®, one of the few programs in which members earn points that never expire and can be redeemed at any Best Western hotel worldwide. Best Western’s partnerships with AAA/CAA and Harley-Davidson® provide travelers with exciting ways to interact with the brand. Through its partnership with Google® Street View, Best Western is the first major company of its size and scale to launch a virtual reality experience for customers, setting a new industry standard and reinventing how guests view hotels.

* Numbers are approximate, may fluctuate, and include hotels currently in the development pipeline.

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