

THE WESTIN MELBOURNE WELCOMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Distinguished hotelier, Richard Bussiere joins award winning property

21 May 2007: (TBC) The Westin Melbourne today formally welcomed **Richard Bussiere** to lead the award winning property as its new General Manager.

Bussiere replaces former General Manager, Rudy Markl who retired last month after a 43 year career in hospitality and a ten year history with The Westin Melbourne.

“To join such a well regarded hotel with a loyal base of guests and associates is indeed an honour and I am looking forward to becoming part of the Australian hotel industry,” comments Mr Bussiere.

Bussiere’s distinguished 27 year career with Starwood across the Westin, Sheraton, St Regis and Luxury Collection brands has seen him work throughout the world including his home country of the United States of America as well as China, Thailand, New Zealand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

He joins The Westin Melbourne from Fiji, where he held the role of Vice President and Managing Director of Sheraton and Westin resorts in Fiji for the past three years.

“After 21 years in the Asia Pacific division, I’m thrilled to be moving to such a vibrant destination as Melbourne,” he adds.

On congratulating Bussiere on his new appointment at The Westin Melbourne, Starwood’s Regional Vice President for Australia, New Zealand & Pacific, Sean Hunt commented:

“Richard Bussiere is very well regarded and accomplished hotelier and we’re sure his professionalism and unique hospitality style will ensure The Westin Melbourne continues to be a market leader.”

The Westin Melbourne has become the most decorated Westin property in the world since opening in 2000, receiving dozens of international, national and state accolades for service, financial performance and product offering - including the recent “Best Luxury Hotel” at the National Tourism Awards; the AHA’s “Best Overall Hotel”; “Australia’s Best Meeting Venue - 150 Delegates or Less” by Meetings Events Australia and the “Leading Australasian Corporate Hotel” presented at the 13th World Travel Awards.

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