

## Press Information

For Immediate Release

### **Future Leaders Series to be launched at WIT Hospitality, Hong Kong SAR, China**

50 hospitality and travel executives attend Niccolo Lecture Series

January 2018 , Hong Kong SAR, China - As part of WIT Hospitality 2018, scheduled for 20 March in Hong Kong, WIT will launch a Future Leaders Series aimed at nurturing outstanding individuals to become future leaders in the digital travel space.

The half-day forum from 2:00 - 5.30pm, to be held the day before WIT Hospitality begins, will focus on inspiring and encouraging talent to build better careers in the hospitality and travel industry.

The Series will feature industry leaders and coaches who will share insights on the latest trends and issues impacting travel, and spark ideas and offer tips to executives on how to remain relevant in their careers, with lots of time for coaching and brainstorming activity in between.



The by-invitation forum will be open to 50 hospitality and travel executives under 35 and will be held at The Murray, Hong Kong, a Niccolo Hotel, the key flagship hotel under Wharf Hotels opening in January 2018, a high-profile preservation project by British international studio for architecture and integrated design, Foster + Partners.

Held as part of the group's branded Niccolo Lectures Series, WIT Future Leaders will blend seasoned minds and fresh voices to create two-way learning and encourage fresh thinking for a fast-changing industry. The Niccolo Lectures reflect the brand's mantra of New Encounters, Timeless Pleasures in every Niccolo property. Since it launched in 2015, Niccolo Lectures have curated programmes of inspirational talks featuring innovative thought leaders and creative thinkers.

Philip Schaetz, Vice President Sales and Marketing for Wharf Hotels said, "Nurturing is an instrumental part of our DNA in ensuring our associates' success, whether it is taking on a new role or working on a new project. The success of our Management Trainee Programme is testament to how we nurture young generation, providing them with guidance and support throughout their learning journey and groom them to be the future leaders in the hospitality and travel industry."

"Last year, the WIT Hospitality Thinktank 2.0 (held as part of WIT Hospitality 2017) identified four opportunities facing the industry at a time of digital transformation and one of these was the nurturing of future talent," said Yeoh Siew Hoon, founder, WIT.

"With the return of the third WIT Hospitality to Hong Kong, we felt it timely and relevant to actively engage with young talent in a format designed for them. As part of their participation in the forum, they will also be invited to attend the main WIT Hospitality event the next day."

# WHARF HOTELS

NICCOLO HOTELS      MARCO POLO HOTELS

WIT Hospitality 2018 will be held for the third year at Hotel ICON, and its one-day programme will revolve around the theme of “Better Hospitality”.

“The fact that we’ve chosen to hold WIT Hospitality at Hotel ICON, a hotel-teaching school, for the third year shows our commitment and belief in the nurturing of future talent. We’re delighted to partner with like-minded hotels who believe that a big part of creating “Better Hospitality” is through Better People,” added Siew Hoon.

## **About Wharf Hotels**

The Spirit of Discovery

Emanating the spirit of discovery, Wharf Hotels, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Wharf (Holdings) Ltd, is based in Hong Kong SAR of China, and currently operates 15 owned or managed hotels under Niccolo or Marco Polo Hotels in China, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Niccolo Hotels was added to the group’s portfolio in 2015 as the new luxury collection, positioning the brand as contemporary urban chic at its first hotel in Chengdu. Three new Niccolo hotels are currently under development in Hong Kong and China. Marco Polo’s premium hotels in established locations maintain their long-standing ethos to explore, discover and experience a destination, creating unique guest experiences and drawing on the key philosophies of its namesake, Marco Polo: an adventurer, a traveller, an entrepreneur and a connoisseur of culture - just as Marco Polo’s modern travellers are today. Further details on Wharf Hotels are available at [wharfhoteles.com](http://wharfhoteles.com).

## **About Niccolo Hotels**

*New Encounters. Timeless Pleasures.*

Niccolo is a collection of contemporary urban chic hotels with desirable, highly prized addresses. At heart, as discoverers and re-discoverers of luxury experiences, styles and tastes, its hotels are modern sophisticated spaces, where the timeless pleasures of impeccable hospitality from another golden era in travel is valued. Underpinning everything is the desire to make life effortlessly luxurious. Niccolo Chengdu was the first hotel to open followed by Niccolo Chongqing, with an additional 3 Niccolo hotels currently under development in Hong Kong Changsha and Suzhou, China. Further details on Niccolo Hotels are available at [niccolohoteles.com](http://niccolohoteles.com).

## **About Ultratravel Collection**

Ultratravel Collection brings together hotels of distinction for the discerning traveller. Its membership is reserved for the very best hotels and resorts in the world – genuinely luxurious and iconic properties that deliver the finest service and personalised guest experiences. Member hotels share an integrated global platform for guest recognition and loyalty rewards, the DISCOVERY programme from partner Global Hotel Alliance, as well as beneficial relationship with the multi-media brand Ultratravel, the other founding partner of Ultratravel Collection. The Niccolo brand is the first member brand of Ultratravel Collection (UTC) in China.

For more information visit [ultratravelcollection.com](http://ultratravelcollection.com).

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