

# ISSUE 206

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## WEEKLY INSIGHTS

## HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



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# The Langkasuka, a mega project in Langkawi by Dubai's Bin Zayed International is set to begin in the next quarter

The Langkasuka, an RM40 billion mixed-use complex in Langkawi, will have its groundbreaking ceremony in the second quarter of this year.

The 809.7-hectare development is a joint venture between Widad Business Group Sdn Bhd (WBG) and Dubai-based Bin Zayed International LLC (BZI), according to a statement released today.

WBG and BZI will commence The Langkasuka with phase 1, which has a gross development value of RM4.5 billion and will be completed in four years.

Phase 1 will include an international grade and tournament-ready golf course by the sea, luxury villas, a shopping utopia named Designers' Brand Mall with international brand names, a shopping bazaar called The Langkasuka Village, a five-star seafronting hotel, and luxurious residences. [READ MORE](#)



# Malaysia Aviation Group aims to restore 70% of capacity by end-2022

Malaysia Aviation Group Bhd (MAG), the parent of national carrier Malaysia Airlines, Firefly, MASwings and Amal, expects to achieve approximately 70% of its pre-Covid-19 capacity by the end of 2022 as Malaysia gears up to reopen its borders to international travellers starting April 1.

"For January and February 2022, we operated at about 23% of 2019's available seat kilometres (ASK) levels for the same period. Moving forward, we intend to ramp up capacity in line with borders re-opening and demand forecasts," a spokesperson for MAG told theedgemarkets.com.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the airline industry. Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, airlines have cut their capacity by as much as 96% and grounded most of their aircraft due to travel restrictions.

However, more countries in Asia-Pacific, including the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and Bali in Indonesia, are reopening their doors to foreigners. [READ MORE](#)



# IHG to expand Crowne Plaza brand in Asia Pacific

IHG Hotels and Resorts is accelerating its growth of its Crowne Plaza brand across Asia Pacific.

The Asia Pacific region already counts over 160 hotels under the premium brand, with the hotel group planning to open an additional 74 hotels in the coming years.

This comes after the opening of the Crowne Plaza Phu Quoc Starbay in December 2021, which features 308 rooms, suites and villas in Vietnam's Phu Quoc. The opening included the brand's debut of its 'Plaza Workspace' product in Southeast Asia.

Forthcoming openings include hotels in Vietnam, Thailand and Australia, along with the brand's debut in **Malaysia**. [READ MORE](#)

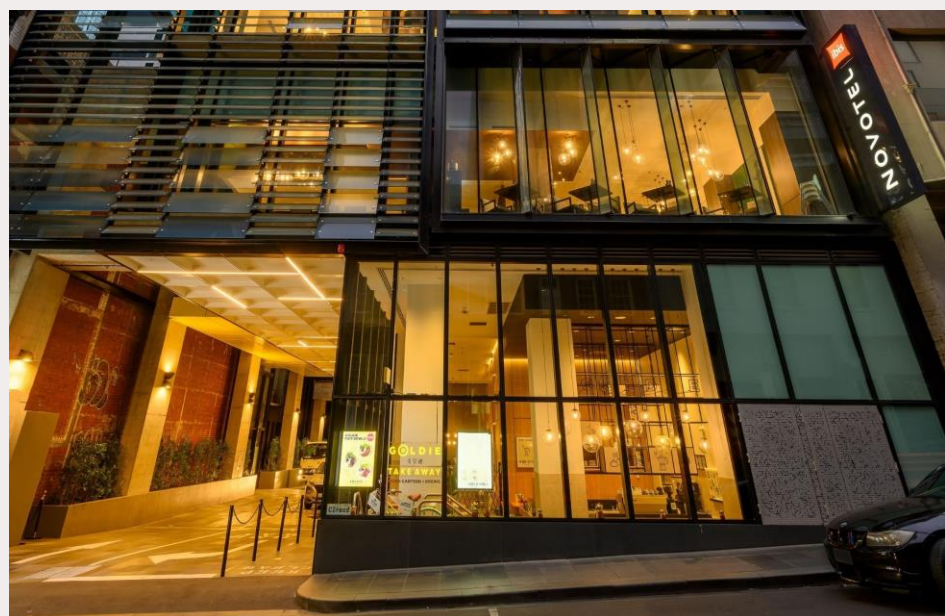
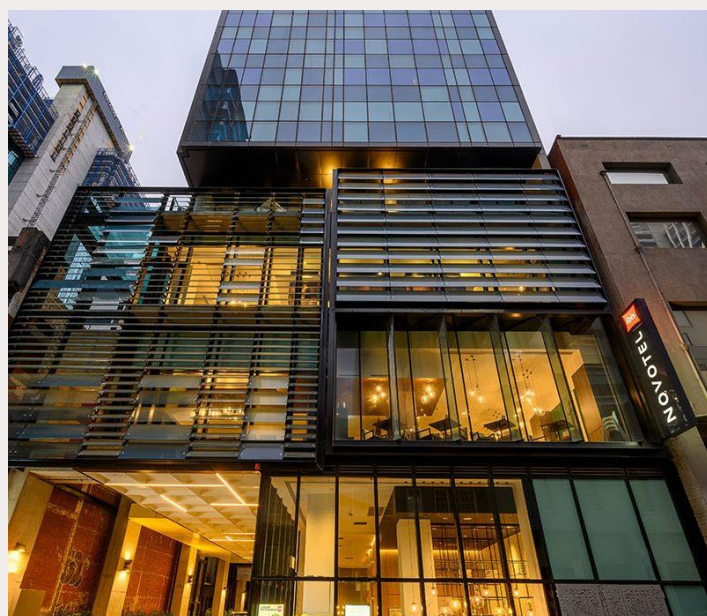


# Australia's first dual-branded high-rise hotel listed for sale

THE reopening of international borders has awakened the hotel investment scene with Singaporean group Well Smart Investment Holdings moving to sell Australia's first dual-branded high-rise hotel, which is expected to fetch around \$180 million.

Well Smart has put the 35-storey Novotel and ibis Melbourne Central tower on the market after testing the waters last month with the sale of the ibis Budget Melbourne CBD for \$25 million and the Mantra Terrace Hotel in Brisbane, as part of its asset recycling program in Australia and New Zealand.

The Novotel and ibis Melbourne Central tower is one of Melbourne's largest hotels comprising 472 rooms – 259 in the lower-level ibis component and 213 in the Novotel. [READ MORE](#)



# Mandarin Oriental Launches a Luxury Vacation Rental Brand

Mandarin Oriental has made a jump into the vacation rental space, launching a branded collection of high-end homes.

Offered in partnership with luxury vacation rental platform StayOne, the Mandarin Oriental Exclusive Homes collection is available for bookings starting this summer.

The brand's inaugural selection of homes includes eight private properties in destinations throughout Europe, including the South of France, Ibiza, Mallorca and the Cotswolds.

According to Mandarin Oriental, all homes in the portfolio are vetted by StayOne and Mandarin Oriental to meet safety and quality standards, and are available solely through the Mandarin Oriental Exclusive Homes platform. [READ MORE](#)

