**AVANI HOTELS & RESORTS CONTINUES TO EXPAND**

**ACROSS ASIA, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

**November 2017:** In the first six months of 2017, AVANI Hotels & Resorts announced further expansion of the brand in the Middle East, Asia, Australasia and the debut of its first European Hotel in Lisbon. Most recently further development announcements have been made for the continued expansion of the brand in Thailand and its launch in Tunisia, the Maldives and Mauritius.

On November 1, 2017, AVANI announced the acquisition of a 50% shareholding in H&A Park Co. Ltd which currently owns and operates the Ananda Hua Hin Resort & Spa. The resort will be rebranded to **AVANI Hua Hin Resort & Spa** in February 2018 and will offer 196 guest rooms including Standard Rooms, Pool Villas and Suites with impressive views of the garden and ocean.

Also in Thailand, AVANI will be introducing an amazing Villa concept when **AVANI Sunset Coast Samui Resort & Villas** opens in September 2018. Located within an enclave on the unspoiled southeast coast of Koh Samui, the 58-key resort will offer 25 AVANI Rooms, 27 AVANI One Bedroom Pool Villas, 2 AVANI One Bedroom Beachfront Pool Villas and 4 AVANI Two Bedroom Beachfront Pool Villas.

Scheduled to open in the coming month, **AVANI Les Berges Du Lac Tunis Suites** located in the prime commercial, residential and diplomatic area of Tunis, the 41-key property will offer exclusive serviced apartment accommodation options ranging from Studios to Three-Bedroom Apartments and Lofts.

Alejandro Bernabe, VP of Operations, AVANI Hotels & Resorts commented: *“AVANI Les Berges Du Lac Suites will fill the demand for corporate and extended-stay accommodation in Tunis. Facilities include an all-day dining restaurant and a health club with a gym, two spa treatment rooms, sauna and steam rooms, and an indoor swimming pool – great amenities that will further appeal to this audience.”*

In addition in Tunisia and currently in its design phase, **AVANI Gammarth Tunis Resort & Spa** is expected to open in 2021 and will offer 250 keys in a prime beachfront location. Gammarth is an upmarket coastal resort area of Tunis, catering to a mix of Leisure, Government, Corporate and MICE demand. The new upscale hotel will offer 232 rooms and 18 private beach villas, five food & beverage outlets including a destination beach club, meeting space including a 1,000 square metre ballroom, a health club and AVANI Spa, in addition to two swimming pools and a kid’s club.

**AVANI Fares Maldives Resort** will be located on Fares Island, a private 12.4 hectare island on Baa Atoll and will comprise 200 guest rooms, including Deluxe Rooms, Beach Villas, Pool Villas and Overwater Villas. In addition, the resort will also offer Two-Bedroom Family Villas and a Three-Bedroom Family Villa. This USD 70-million resort development, a joint venture partnership between Minor Hotels and Cyprea Group, is scheduled to open in Q4 2019.

AVANI will open its first property in Mauritius with the launch of **AVANI Bel-Ombre Resort** in the south of the island. The 150-key beachfront resort will open in 2021 comprising 150 guest rooms, including 134 Standard Rooms, 16 AVANI Suites and twelve, offer for purchase, residential 4-bedroom pool villas which will also be included in the development.

The new upscale resort will offer a specialty restaurant, an all-day dining restaurant, large multi-functional meeting space catering for MICE and weddings, AVANI Spa, AVANIFIT gym, AVANI Pantry, AVANI Kids Club, beach activities centre and two swimming pools.

Alejandro Bernabe, Group Director AVANI Hotels & Resorts said: *“Both the Maldives and Mauritius are recognised globally as offering an incredible beach experience and AVANI is the ideal lifestyle brand to offer travellers an alternative dynamic hospitality offering in both these regions.”*

**AVANI Avenida Liberdade Lisbon Hotel** which opened in May,   
has already been lauded by Conde Nast Traveler readers as one of the Top 10 Hotels in Spain and Portugal. The hotel, voted as No.3, offers travellers a stylish and upscale base in the city centre. The 119-key contemporary hotel meets the needs and aspirations of modern independent travellers. Prior to opening, the hotel underwent an extensive 1.5 million Euro refurbishment. The upgrade included the redesign of the façade, the guest rooms, lobby, and the installation of an AVANIFIT gym.

In May, AVANI acquired Auckland’s Metro Suites business in a deal worth over NZD11-million. A major room refurbishment programme was undertaken and **AVANI Metropolis Residences** is due to open its doors on 13 November, signalling AVANI’s debut in New Zealand.

During the first two weeks of opening guests can connect with Auckland city experts in real time via the world’s first *Keys to the City* experience. AVANI has partnered with Facebook to bring guests an unusual guide to the city. Using their mobile phone, guests scan a Facebook Messenger code on their residence key and chat to experts any time they need a city recommendation.

The upscale One and Two Bedroom Residences feature spacious lounge and dining areas, well-equipped kitchens and laundry facilities, and boast impressive stunning views of the city skyline, harbour and beyond. Leisure facilities include a 22-metre heated swimming pool, indoor and outdoor spas, sauna and gym with male and female facilities and steam room.

The 219-key **AVANI Broadbeach Residences** currently being built in the Gold Coast is on track to open ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games in April next year. Signalling the first AVANI to open in Australia, construction of the $150 million 35-floor tower, is well advanced. The upscale residences will feature contemporary One and Two-Bedroom Beachside Apartments offering impressive ocean, city and hinterland views. The open layout encompasses a lounge, dining room and kitchen complete with modern appliances and all complemented by a beach-inspired, natural colour scheme.

*“With the expected influx of thousands of domestic and international visitors to the upcoming Commonwealth Games, we anticipate the opening of AVANI Broadbeach Residences will be met by great enthusiasm from tourists wanting to experience AVANI’s genuine hospitality and contemporary style,”* said Bernabe.

AVANI will further be making its presence felt in the UAE with the launch of the 372-key **AVANI Ibn Battuta Dubai Hotel** and 225-key AVANI AL Marjan Resort in Ras Al Khaimah, both new builds scheduled to open in 2019. The 18-storey AVANI Ibn Battuta Dubai Hotel will be directly connected to Ibn Battuta Mall and will feature a pool, a spa, a gym, an all-day dining restaurant, a coffee shop and masses of parking.

Al Marjan Island in Ras Al Khaimah has become a leading luxury lifestyle and tourist destination for visitors not just from the GCC, but internationally and **AVANI Al Marjan Island Resort** will prove to be a perfect fit for this fast growing Emirate, bringing an upscale yet affordable option to leisure and business travellers. The inventory will include a selection of King, Twin and Disabled Access guest rooms and AVANI Suites, an all-day dining and poolside restaurants, meeting and event facilities for up to 200 people, a kids’ club, Pantry and a spa. In addition, the new resort will have an outdoor swimming pool and beachfront access.

Bernabe said, *“The UAE while an established market is also rapidly developing and the future launch of all these new, purpose design AVANI Hotels & Resorts represents just how dynamic this region really is.”*

*“Another exciting development in the pipeline is our first property in South Korea. We’ve signed a management agreement with UL Group to operate a 400-key AVANI Hotel and 136 branded residences in Busan, South Korea. The property is scheduled to open in 2019,”* adds Bernabe.

Currently under development in South Korea, **AVANI Busan** **Resort** will be situated in the East Busan Tourism Complex, an impressive zone for both shopping and entertainment. The new upscale hotel will offer an all-day dining restaurant, event space and meeting rooms, a rooftop specialty bar, a Korean style bathhouse and spa, a gym and swimming pool.

AVANI Hotels & Resorts currently operates 21 properties in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa and Europe, most recently debuting in both Australia and New Zealand. The brand has a strong pipeline of new properties under development including in new destinations such as South Korea, the Maldives, Mauritius, Tunisia and Oman.

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**Editor’s Notes:**

**About AVANI Hotels & Resorts**

AVANI Hotels & Resorts is the vibrant upscale brand from Minor Hotels. Offering relaxed comfort and contemporary style in city and resort destinations, AVANI was launched in response to an increasingly influential group of discerning travellers who appreciate stylish design and excellent service, but also demand great value.

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**For further media information, please contact:**

Adhiyanto Goen

Director of Public Relations – AVANI Hotels & Resorts

T: +66 2 365 6000 Ext. 5729

E: agoen@minor.com

Natasha Rhymes

Director PR & Corporate Communications, Minor Hotels

E: [nrhymes@minor.com](mailto:nrhymes@minor.com)