

Hilton Hotels and Raptis Group Unveil Hilton Surfers Paradise Hotel & Residences

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Raptis Group today unveiled plans for a new deluxe hotel to be created in central Surfers Paradise - the Hilton Surfers Paradise Hotel and Residences. The development will house approximately 170 luxury hotel rooms and 340 premier apartments.

The AUD\$700 million development will comprise dual beachside towers on the prized site where one of the Gold Coast's best known landmarks, the Dolphin Arcade, once stood. The first tower will front Surfers Paradise Boulevard and measure 32 levels while the second tower will front Orchid Avenue and measure 57 levels.

Raptis Group is to develop the deluxe, full-service hotel and residential apartment towers which on completion will be managed by a subsidiary of Hilton Hotels Corporation.

'The creation of Hilton Surfers Paradise Hotel and Residences is the next step in reshaping Surfers Paradise from a traditionally tourist town to a metropolitan, urban-chic beach city. The project will deliver a new level of luxury accommodation and shopping for residents and visitors, at the same time, becoming a professional business hub,' said Raptis Group Chairman, Jim Raptis.

The development will be completed in two stages. The first stage, the Boulevard Tower, housing the residential apartments, is due for completion in late 2009. The second stage, the Orchid Tower, housing both residences and hotel suites is due for completion in late 2010. Both towers will be managed by Hilton Hotels.

The property will be the first Hilton Hotel on the Gold Coast and the third Hilton in Queensland.

Koos Klein, President, Hilton Hotels Asia Pacific, expressed his enthusiasm for the project, saying: 'Hilton Hotels is thrilled to be managing such a significant development on the Gold Coast.'

According to Gold Coast Tourism, tourism is the region's number one industry and currently attracts 4.4 million overnight visitors annually making it Australia's third most popular destination behind Sydney and Melbourne. The Gold Coast region is the number one regional visitor destination in Australia and Asia Pacific's third most popular business tourism resort destination.

'In line with our strategy to develop our leisure offering in Australasia, we have been looking at various opportunities to manage a hotel on the Gold Coast,' continues Klein. 'When considering Raptis Group's reputation for building quality projects and the site's prime beachside location it was the clear choice for the Hilton Surfers Paradise Hotel and Residences.'

'The diversity of Hilton's hotel portfolio is designed to give guests more choice over their travel needs,' stated Jeff Diskin, senior vice president of brand management - Hilton Hotels. 'With the opening of the Hilton Surfers Paradise we'll be able to offer our unique blend of Hilton hospitality to the increasing number of travelers to this burgeoning region.'

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