



**JERRY INZERILLO, FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE VICE CHAIRMAN, NAMED
‘CORPORATE HOTELIER OF THE WORLD’ BY *HOTELS* MAGAZINE**

*The Prestigious Honor Recognizes a Lifetime of Achievement and Advocacy
in Tourism and Hospitality*

ATLANTA, JULY 22, 2021 — Gerard “Jerry” Inzerillo, vice chairman of Forbes Travel Guide and CEO of Saudi Arabia’s Diriyah Gate Development Authority (DGDA), has been voted “Corporate Hotelier of the World” by the readers and subscribers of *HOTELS* magazine in its prestigious annual awards.

The highly distinguished accolade is reserved for the true greats of the hotel sector, having previously been bestowed upon giants in the field of hospitality, including J. Willard Marriott Jr. of Marriott Hotels; M.S. Oberoi of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts; Isadore Sharp, founder and chairman of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts; and Horst Schulze of The Ritz-Carlton Hotels.

The “Hotelier of the World” award recognizes individuals whose careers and accomplishments demonstrate unparalleled standards of service, operational excellence and performance, creativity in management, and legacies for the greater good of the global hotel business. Inzerillo’s historic win marks the first time in its 41-year history that *HOTELS*’ “Hotelier of the World” has been awarded to someone who is not leading a global hotel company, but who has exhibited all of the winning criteria throughout a career.

Across his esteemed five-decade career—which began as a busboy at the age of 13—Inzerillo has been a stalwart champion for the sector and its people. From CEO of Forbes Travel Guide to president of Kerzner Entertainment Group and CEO of Morgan’s Hotel Group, to now leading the transformation of the iconic tourism destination, Diriyah, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Inzerillo has innovated and excelled his entire professional working life.

On being named “Corporate Hotelier of the World,” Inzerillo said: “I am incredibly humbled and honored to receive this recognition and to sit alongside the true greats of our wonderful industry. For me, service is a noble calling as there is no greater honor than making people feel welcome, no matter who they are, or where they are from. I want to dedicate this award to those on the ground of this industry—the busboys, the valets, the trainee chefs, the concierges, the housekeepers, and all those who work hard every day behind the scenes to make us feel at home. This past year has been an unprecedented challenge for our sector, and it is those individuals who have dug deep in these uncertain times to set us on the road to recovery as we emerge from the pandemic.

“As we look at this historic time for tourism and hospitality in Saudi Arabia, with the world’s leading hotel brands signed to operate luxury and ultra-luxury properties here, this accolade highlights the Kingdom’s commitment to tourism actively welcoming everyone from around the world.”

According to Filip Boyen, CEO of Forbes Travel Guide, Inzerillo is a staunch advocate for the industry. “Jerry embodies hospitality. His leadership style is known for being one that boosts the self-esteem of everyone around him,” Boyen says. “He has the wonderful ability to make everyone feel special, and he takes time to recognize each individual’s unique strengths. Jerry knows that the success of any company comes down to that of its employees feeling valued and appreciated, and he places tremendous value on human connection—he is a natural-born leader for hospitality. We are proud to have Jerry as our vice chairman.”

Jeff Weinstein, editor of *HOTELS* magazine, said: “Jerry Inzerillo is a hugely deserving winner of ‘Corporate Hotelier of the World.’ The fact he has done so, despite not being a current hotel operator, only speaks to Jerry’s incredible abilities and singular impact on the community he has served now for over five decades, and demonstrates the respect he commands from our industry. No one has more passion and feel for hospitality than Jerry, which is obvious to the many individuals he has supported and inspired in his five-decade career. Jerry is simply an incredible ambassador for the global hospitality industry, and we are honored to name him ‘Corporate Hotelier of the World.’”

In his personal life, Inzerillo has long been involved with philanthropy and is the proud recipient of a host of awards and distinctions, including the “CEO of the Year in Tourism” award and the “Tourism for Peace Award” from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations, which was given in recognition of his unique contributions to world peace through travel and tourism.

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About Diriyah Gate Development Authority: Diriyah Gate Development Authority was established in July 2017 to preserve Diriyah’s history, celebrate its community and develop the historic site into one of the world’s greatest gathering places, creating a hub for Saudi Arabian culture and heritage.

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