



A view from the top

The Teleferique, Lebanon's cable-car, is to add a new family entertainment center at the station. During a press conference for the announcement Joe Boulos, chairman of the board of directors, delivered the strategic overview of the Teleferique management. With the number of passengers increasing every year, he revealed plans to upgrade the infrastructure of the cable-car station. Nagi Morkos, managing partner, Hodema, a Lebanese hospitality development company, provided a detailed brief on a new food court (with an area reserved for a Lebanese restaurant) and a children's playground project.

www.hodema.net

Staff celebration at Heliopolitan

The Safir Heliopolitan Hotel of Beirut hosted a dinner honoring its employees, on Saturday January 31st in the Emerald Ballroom, where general manager, Tarek Ammache thanked the employees for their hard work, dedication and trustworthiness. During the dinner "the best employee of the year 2008" was elected and many gifts and prizes distributed.

www.safirheliopolitan.com



Tarek Ammache, GM

Semiramis champion program



Guest relations and reception team members of the Semiramis InterContinental Hotel Cairo won the prize of the top sales team for Ambassador memberships throughout the region. Nesma Atef, Shahenda Ibrahim, Nevine Farouk, Nermaine Nabil, and Karim Tamara

InterCon Mzaar goes Czech

In collaboration with the Czech embassy and InterContinental Prague, a weekend of mouthwatering Czech cuisine and its intriguing culture took place in Lebanon's most popular mountain resort, InterContinental Mzaar in February. The event was inaugurated with presentations on tourism and spa destinations in the Czech Republic and on its intriguing cuisine. An opening reception launched by the "Janáček Quartet" and commemorated by the ambassador of the Czech Republic to Lebanon, His Excellency Jan Cizek, took place after the workshop.

www.ichotelsgroup.com



Selim Deriane, HE Jan Cizek, Dr. Jean Rizk, Mrs. Deriane, Joost Komen

Travelport launches in Lebanon



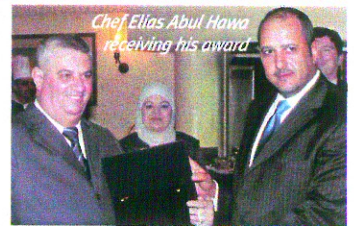
Rabih Saab, Travelport GDS's Dubai-based vice-president for the Middle East

Lebanon's travel trade community gathered at the Phoenicia Hotel in February for a special gala event celebrating the launch of Travelport Lebanon, distributor of the Galileo Global Distribution System (GDS) brand in Lebanon. Travelport GDS recently made a multi-million dollar investment to set up direct operations in the Middle East, including restructuring its distributor relationships in key markets in order to solidify its position as the region's preferred GDS. In Lebanon, it extended its partnership with Gate 7, the distributor of its Worldspan products, which will work together with Travelport Lebanon. Travelport GDS recently announced a new content agreement with former Galileo distributor Middle East Airlines, which guarantees that all of the airline's fares and inventory will be accessible to all Travelport GDS users worldwide.

www.travelport.com

Smiles all around in Amman

The Amman InterContinental Hotel celebrated the winning of 'Best Chef Of The Year' award for Chef Elias Abul Hawa with a reception at its Café Boulevard. Known to many as the life of the kitchen, Chef Abul Hawa is renowned for being a leader at his job. He was also instrumental in the openings of new numerous InterContinental hotels throughout the Middle East and Africa.



Chef Elias Abul Hawa receiving his award

Recently, the hotel's spa department was recently involved in the organization of a staff football tournament in which the steward team won with a distinctive margin over the Kitchen team. And a South African wine evening was also held at the Café Boulevard as part of a series of wine evenings to take place every second Monday of the month, serving exclusive wines from around the world to guests.

www.ichotelsgroup.com

Golden Palm for Fresh Mama

Belgian vegetable and fruit sellers Fresh Mama have been elected by 200 international professionals of the industry to receive the Palme d'Or Internationale de la Restauration, a price awarded for the third time by Leaders Club International. The ceremony took place in January at Paul Bocuse's Abbaye de Collonges, as part of the Foodservice Exchange trade fair. The Silver Palm went to Swiss vegetarian restaurant Haus Hiltl, while French chocolatier Declinaison Chocolat received the Bronze Palm.

www.leadersclub.fr



Rotana workshopping in Dubai

Rotana held a three-day Marketing & Communications Workshop at the newly opened Media Rotana, Dubai for 30 executives from its Marketing & Communications departments in the UAE, Beirut, Cairo, Kuwait and Khartoum. Media Rotana, Dubai was selected due to its ideal location and to showcase the state of the art meeting facilities as well as the mouthwatering food and beverage outlets. Nima Abu-Wardeh (BBC World), Ghaith Sarriddine (Universal Media) and Kristie Goshow (Smart Thynking) contributed case studies and practice sessions.

www.rotana.com



Imad Elias, executive vice president & chief operating officer
Amal Harb, associate vice president marketing & communication