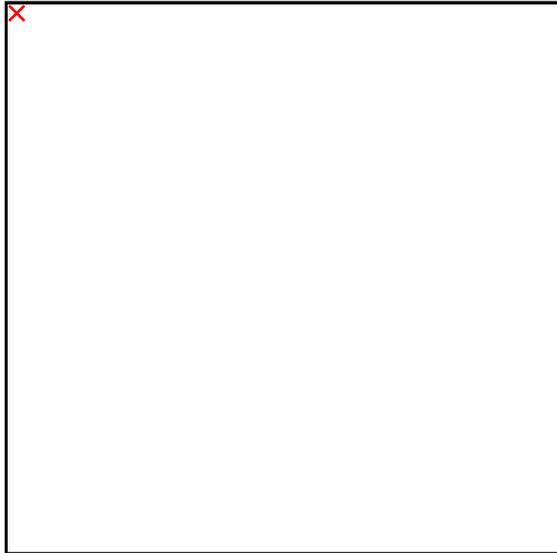


BENCHMARK® Expands in the Pacific Northwest Will Operate Avenue Bellevue InterContinental Hotel

01/30/2019



The Woodlands (Houston), Texas, January 30, 2019 ... BENCHMARK®, a global hospitality company, is expanding its presence in the Pacific Northwest and will operate the newly announced Avenue Bellevue InterContinental Hotel. Part of a new billion-dollar condo, hotel and retail development in downtown Bellevue, Washington, the spectacular new property will be InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts' first venture in the Pacific Northwest. With construction set to start in mid-2019, the dramatic and elegant two-tower development will feature 332 luxury residences and 85,000 sq. feet of high-end retail, food and nightlife – including a new restaurant from a three-Michelin-star chef. Avenue Bellevue (www.liveatavenue.com) will also feature the 252-guest room InterContinental Hotel, which will boast a full-service spa and fitness center, meeting space and other luxury amenities.

"We are tremendously proud to be part of this visionary project and to welcome InterContinental Hotels into the Benchmark management portfolio," says Alex Cabañas, Benchmark's CEO. "It is thrilling to be part of this thriving global city that is home to some of the world's most innovative technology companies and equally welcoming to new startups and smaller businesses."

Located just east of Seattle on the shores of Lake Washington, Bellevue is noted for its world-class shopping and dining, excellent transportation system, skilled workforce and high quality of life. Easily reached via I-405N and I-90, Bellevue is just 27 minutes from Seattle/Tacoma International Airport and 17 minutes from downtown Seattle.

The developer of this ambitious project is Fortress Development (www.fortressdevelopment.com), a commercial real estate developer and privately held investment company based in Bellevue. Its CEO and Principal, Andy Lakha, is a longtime resident of the city with a strong commitment to the community and great admiration for InterContinental's pioneering efforts in developing the luxury market in destinations on six continents. "Growing up in Pakistan, my entire world view of luxury was shaped by the InterContinental Hotel in Karachi, which at the time was the country's only five-star hotel," Mr. Lakha says. "I am delighted to be able to introduce this revered luxury brand to the Pacific Northwest for the first time." The world's largest luxury hotel brand, InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts includes 200 properties globally with 63 new hotels soon to open.

Designed in partnership with Seattle-based Weber Thompson (www.weberthompson.com) and HBA (www.hba.com), the largest hospitality design firm in the world, Avenue Bellevue residents will have access to the InterContinental Hotel amenities, including room service, housekeeping service, spa and fitness center, concierge assistance and valet parking.

Avenue Bellevue InterContinental Hotel Photo Link:

https://www.benchmarkglobalhospitality.com/press_media/benchmark_news/Hi_Res_Images/?galleryId=GAL_190130_09594503_E1J8E

About Fortress Development

Fortress Development is a commercial real estate developer and privately held investment company based in Bellevue, Washington. Founded by Andy Lakha, a Bellevue resident who has been in commercial real estate for more than two decades, Fortress' diverse team brings more than half a century of combined experience and a commitment to quality, and to creating homes and communities that matter. For more information, visit www.fortressdevelopment.com.

About BENCHMARK®, a global hospitality company.

BENCHMARK®, a global hospitality company, is a leader in the development, management, and marketing of independent, soft branded, and experiential hard branded resorts, hotels, and conference centers. In addition to the company's award-winning full service Benchmark Resorts & Hotels, its lifestyle and luxury Gemstone Collection, and its industry-leading Benchmark Conference Center division, etc.venues is a leading provider of contemporary city centre venues for meetings, signature events, and conferences. BENCHMARK's combined portfolio features more than 80 unique projects across three continents. The company is passionately committed to delivering personal, inspiring, and memory-making experiences, driving total revenue and profitability, and cultivating an award winning, "Be The Difference" culture for all its employees. BENCHMARK, is based in The Woodlands (Houston), Texas, with offices in London, England; Miami, Florida; Park City, Utah; Scottsdale, Arizona; New Brunswick, New Jersey; Seattle, Washington; and Tokyo, Japan.www.benchmarkglobalhospitality.com To become a fan on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/BenchmarkResortsandHotels, www.facebook.com/GemstoneHotelCollection. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/BenchmarkHotels, www.twitter.com/GemstoneHotels, on Instagram at www.instagram.com/benchmarkresortsandhotels, www.instagram.com/gemstonehotels, and on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com/benchmarkhotels/gemstone-hotels. At LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/benchmark-a-global-hospitality-company/>

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