



Ensana plans Bulgarian debut

European health spa hotel operator Ensana has announced plans to begin operating its first Bulgarian location.

Launched in 2019, Ensana manages 27 hotels in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and the UK, many of which are located in historic spa towns renowned for their natural healing resources and restorative properties.

Ensana's new location – The Aquahouse Hotel & Spa – will be located in the Northern Bulgarian seaside resort town of Sts. Constantine & Helena.

The destination has long been a historic wellness tourist hotspot thanks to its naturally occurring mineral springs. In a nod to this, the hotel is complete with an array of indoor and outdoor pools as well as an extensive water and



■ Ensana will take over the management of the Aquahouse Hotel on 1 October 2023

ENSANA

ENSANA



Bulgaria has a rich spa history dating back to ancient Roman times

Frank Halmos

thermal zone including steam baths and various saunas.

“We’re very happy to announce that we’re extending to Bulgaria, a country with a rich spa history dating back to ancient Roman times,” said Frank Halmos, CEO of Ensana.

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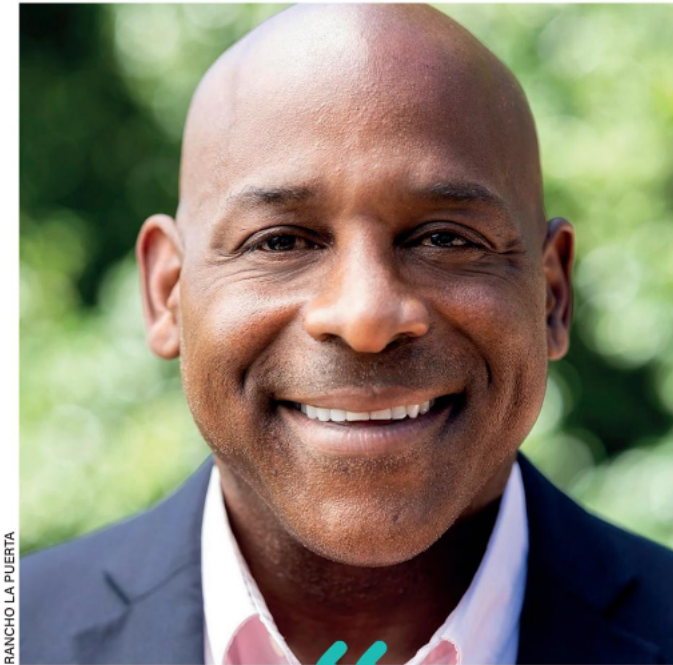
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AMAN



RANCHO LA PUERTA



We look forward to seeing Eliezer's positive impact on our guest experience

Sarah Livia Brightwood Szekely

Rancho La Puerta names Eliezer Quiñones new GM

Iconic wellness and fitness destination Rancho La Puerta is under new leadership with the appointment of Eliezer Quiñones as its general manager.

A hospitality industry veteran with more than two decades of experience, Quiñones will be leading the iconic Baja California resort in Tecate, which spans 4,000 private acres of gardens, mountains and meadows.

"Eliezer's expertise in the luxury hotel industry makes him the ideal fit for us," said Sarah Livia Brightwood Szekely, president of Rancho La Puerta. "We look forward to seeing his positive impact on our guest experience and beloved community and nurturing the next generation of leaders at The Ranch."

Originally from Puerto Rico, Quiñones' hospitality career began in the US 25 years ago but it grew in Mexico, where he has opened luxury resorts and residences for brands such as The Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis Hotels & Resorts, Auberge Resorts Collection and Banyan Tree Group.

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Wild wellness

Studio Apostoli shares its plans for a wellness oasis in a Mongolian national park with *Spa Business*

Verona-based spa and wellness design firm Studio Apostoli has been appointed to support the creation of a wellness-centric eco-resort 40km from the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar.

The vision

Developed by Devjikh Tsog Khugjil, Tavan Jargal Resort is currently in the preliminary design and business planning stages.

The vision for the 13-hectare development is to create a high-end wellness oasis tucked away in a protected national park that showcases Mongolian culture and the area's natural beauty through thoughtful architecture.

Nestled between rolling hills and water sources, the resort has been designed with organic shapes and natural materials to help it integrate seamlessly into the landscape.

The resort, owned by the Altangobi Group, will consist of a two-level hotel,

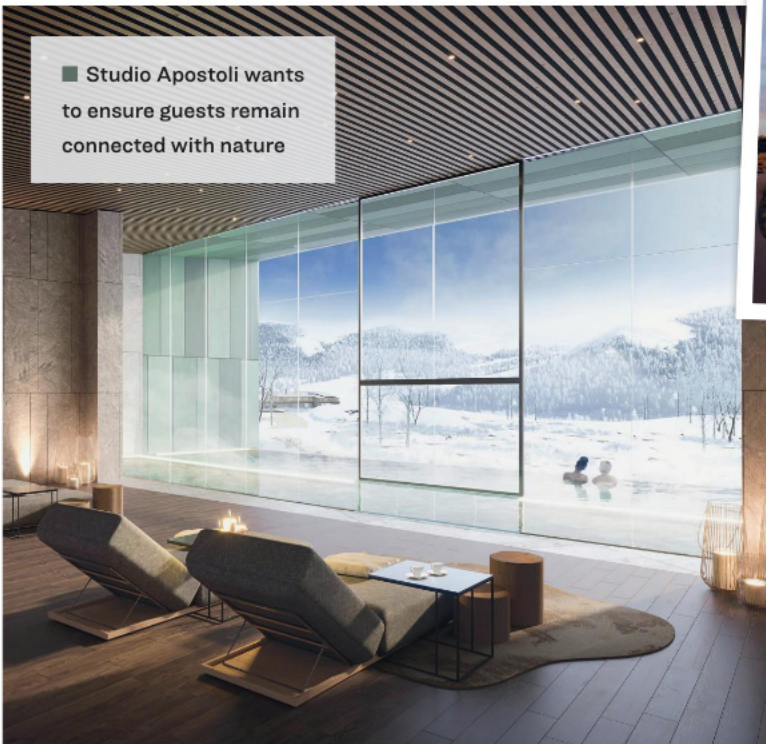
a 2,650sq m spa, 27 villas – some featuring their own wellness facilities – and 19 traditional Mongolian nomadic dwellings called Gers. Three F&B areas will complete the offering.

Wellness facilities

Studio Apostoli founder Alberto Apostoli told *Spa Business* that his team is overseeing architectural and interior design, spa consulting and management, business modelling and planning, marketing and the sustainability strategy.



STUDIO APOSTOLI



“The concept behind Tavan Jargal is rooted in wu xing, or the five elements of Eastern philosophy,” he said. “They’re combined to ensure harmony and balance and are nurtured by sustainability, one of the founding values of the development.

“We’re creating a paradise immersed in a nature reserve. Here the human/nature relationship will be the subject of a true celebration of wellbeing, stimulated and pursued in every detail, choice of materials, orientation of buildings, volumetric composition and more.”



The concept behind Tavan Jargal is rooted in wu xing, or the five elements of Eastern philosophy

The spa will feature five treatment rooms – three single and two double – and be divided into a family area and an adults-only space. Facilities confirmed so far include two pools, an onsen and a fitness area.

While devising the treatment menu, Studio Apostoli was inspired by the practice of chua k’a: an ancient Mongolian massage approach that is claimed to offer deep relaxation using slow manoeuvres to reharmonise energies throughout the body. ●