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POWER

100

TOP 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

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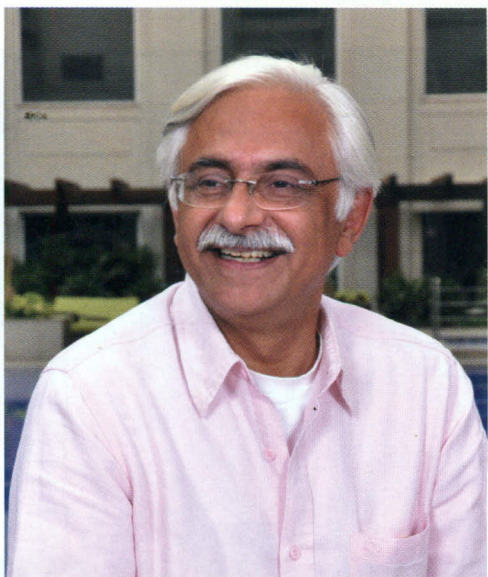
2013

Patanjali G Keswani

Chairman and MD, Lemon Tree Hotels



An electrical engineer by training, Patanjali Keswani (better known as Patu), joined the TATA Administrative Service (TAS) in 1983 and worked with the TATA Group for over 15 years. His last assignment was as senior VP and COO of the Taj Group of Hotels. He subsequently worked with management consulting firm, AT Kearney Inc. as director. It was during this stint that Patu anticipating the enormous yet latent demand for mid-market and economy hotels in India, promoted Lemon Tree Hotels in late 2002 and Red Fox Hotels in mid 2006 – two companies that were eventually merged in 2012 to form Carnation Hotels. The group currently owns and operates 24 hotels with 2,800 rooms across 14 cities in India, and plan to have six more hotels, aggregating over 1,200 rooms under development.



Ratan Keswani

Co-promoter and MD,
Carnation Hotels Pvt. Ltd

Aveteran with 31 years in the industry, Rattan Keswani has worked across various Oberoi Hotels & Resorts in India and overseas, including supervising the re-opening of the 100-year-old Heritage Hotel in Shimla, The Oberoi Cecil in 1997. He was also the president of Trident Hotels and was responsible for ten Trident Hotels in India. Effective May 2012, Carnation Hotels, which is a joint venture with Lemon Tree Hotels, manages hotels in the luxury, upper upscale and mid-scale segments for Lemon Tree Hotels as well as create a new brand in the near future. Today at the helm of the brand, Keswani oversees the healthy running of all its properties including two erstwhile hotel properties that were converted into Lemon Tree Premier – Golden Tulip and Meridien Hotel in Ahmedabad. While the current projects include a 55 room Lemon Tree Hotel in Poonamalee Road, Chennai and a few properties in Faridabad, Trivandrum, Varanasi and a couple of other key business/leisure destinations across India, he plans to target at least 10-12 new properties by 2015.