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KIMPTON'S EPIC HOTEL APPOINTS A TRIO OF HOSPITALITY VETERANS TO ITS PRESTIGIOUS MANAGEMENT TEAM ROSTER

MIAMI – Aug. 21, 2014 – Kimpton's EPIC Hotel today announced the addition of three major hospitality innovators to round out the property's management team, which remains committed to the delivery of the brand's pillars of style and spirit. They are as follows: Ericka Nelson as general manager, Fernando Rivera as director of group sales, and Gabriela Rojo as director of catering sales & conference services.

Ericka Nelson, General Manager



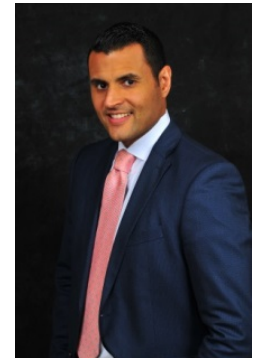
A 20-year veteran of the hospitality industry, Nelson joins EPIC Hotel as general manager. Nelson will oversee and manage all aspects of the hotel's operations with close attention ensuring that guests and employees alike are touched and inspired through the many programs and personal services Kimpton offers.

No stranger to the Kimpton family, Nelson previously held general manager positions at Kimpton's New York City properties, The Muse and its adjacent restaurant, Nios; as well as 70 park avenue, where she broke records with outstanding employee opinion surveys and operations revenue year after year despite the economic downturn. Before hitting the Big Apple, Nelson worked in our nation's capital serving as assistant general manager at Hotel Helix; and sales manager representing Hotel Rouge, Topaz Hotel, Hotel Helix and Hotel Madera.

Fernando Rivera, Director of Group Sales

With more than 18 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Rivera will lead group sales at EPIC while also developing a new group business development strategy.

As director of group sales, Rivera will be responsible for managing all group sales efforts while optimizing the group customer experience. He will serve as an active collaborator in the development of overall sales strategies and creative services to insure the hotel is exceeding the evolving group customer's expectations.



A native of the Dominican Republic, Rivera graduated with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management from Florida International University. Rivera also earned a master's degree in international business from the University of Miami, and a Certificate in Asset Management from Cornell University in Nanyang, Singapore.

Gabriela Rojo, Director of Catering Sales & Conference Services



Catering to the needs of the events and meetings market within EPIC is nine-year veteran Gabriela Rojo, the new director of catering sales & conference services. Her well-rounded knowledge and expertise in group room sales, food and beverage, menu conception, and event set-up complement her new duties which include maximizing catering sales and executing successful banquet operations with meeting space capacities of over 15,000 square feet.

Rojo previously worked as area director of catering and conference services at three West Coast Kimpton properties, including the Cypress Hotel in Cupertino, located at the southern end of the San Francisco Bay. Before joining Kimpton, Rojo was the Northern California regional sales manager at Marriott International, where she managed the sales and marketing efforts for 41 hotels and five brands.

"Each individual brings a tremendous amount of talent and industry acumen to EPIC with their robust background in sales, food and beverage, and management," said Eric Jellson, area director of sales and marketing. "As one of Miami's premier luxury event hotels, we must be committed to continually expand on personalized and creative services and we are confident and look forward to welcoming their fresh perspectives and innovative contributions within their specialized areas that will only enhance EPIC's present overall offerings."

Located along the Miami River overlooking Biscayne Bay and famed Brickell Avenue, EPIC offers guests a true cosmopolitan resort experience that combines Miami's indisputable international vibe and energy with exclusive amenities such as a marina, top-rated restaurants and Exhale spa. With one-of-a-kind attractions, boutiques, restaurants and entertainment just steps away, EPIC offers superior service, effortless style, diverse event space and distinctive luxury at the epicenter of everything Miami.

EPIC recently enhanced its group offerings, bringing the total amount of event space at the hotel to 50,000 square feet with the ability to accommodate events of up to 400. EPIC's enhanced function space makes the hotel's offerings among the most comprehensive in the downtown Miami area – from its executive boardrooms and indoor Metropolis ballroom, to its outdoor 16th floor pool deck. With an already full slate of distinctive meeting offerings such as inspired spaces, chef-driven menus, perks including yacht excursions, and the latest in state-of-the-art technologies and audio-visual equipment, EPIC's meeting space gives groups of all sizes plenty of options to suit their needs and goals.

For more information on EPIC and/or reservations, please call (866) 760-3742 or (305) 424-5226 or visit www.EpicHotel.com. To stay up-to-date on the latest news and travel deals, become a fan of the EPIC [Facebook page](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT KIMPTON'S EPIC HOTEL

A member of the award-winning San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants, EPIC – voted among the Top 20 Hotels in Florida on *Condé Nast Traveler's* Reader's Choice list for the last three consecutive years, a Top 30 Hotel in the U.S. in *Celebrated Living's* 2013 Platinum List, a 2013 TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence winner, a Gold List recipient of World's Best Places To Stay in 2012 and Best Miami Accommodations by *Porthole Magazine* in 2012 – combines the style of a cosmopolitan boutique hotel with the amenities of a resort to create a sophisticated oasis for guests amidst the energy and pulse of Miami. Located at the edge of the Miami River and Biscayne Bay, EPIC's 411 rooms and suites are artfully designed by Cheryl Rowley, with furnishings that convey an understated sense of cool and private balconies that provide inspiring views of the city and bay. Hotel offerings include a 13,752-square-foot wrap-around pool deck with private cabanas; Area 31 restaurant and famed ZUMA, an internationally acclaimed restaurant offering a sophisticated cuisine philosophy inspired by the informal Japanese dining style called Izakaya; a spa and fitness center operated by Exhale, featuring a full array of innovative spa therapies, wellness options and transformational mind body fitness experiences; 50,000 sq. ft. of meeting and event space; and a private marina. For more information on EPIC and/or reservations, please call (866) 760-3742 or (305) 424-5226 or visit www.epichotel.com.

ABOUT KIMPTON HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is the leading collection of boutique hotels and restaurants in the United States and the acknowledged industry pioneer that first introduced the boutique hotel concept to America. In 1981, Bill Kimpton founded the company that today is renowned for making travelers feel genuinely cared for while away from home through thoughtful perks and amenities, distinctive design that tells a story and inspires a sense of fun at each hotel and a sincerely personal style of guest service. Out to help people live full, balanced lives, Kimpton aims to inspire with touches like yoga mats in every room, complimentary coffee and tea to start the day, hosted evening Wine Hour, in-room fitness programming and complimentary bike rentals. The award-winning restaurants and bars are led by talented chefs and bartenders that offer guests a chance to dine like a local. Kimpton also leads the hospitality industry in eco-friendly practices that span all hotels and restaurants, and is consistently ranked as one of the top companies in the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, Upper Upscale Segment, for Customer Satisfaction. The company is highly-regarded for its innovative employee culture and benefits and has been named a Fortune magazine "Best Place to Work" five times since 2009. Kimpton is continuously growing and currently operates more than 60 hotels and nearly 70 restaurants, bars and lounges in 26 cities and counting. For more information, visit www.KimptonHotels.com.

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