# U.S. Lodging Industry H1 2023



June 7, 2023

Daniel H. Lesser

Co-Founder, President & CEO (212) 300-6684 x101

daniel.lesser@lwhadvisors.com www.lwhospitalityadvisors.com



# U.S. Lodging Industry H1 2023

### **Summary**

- Lodging fundamentals remain solid despite all the noise in the background.
  - RevPAR has never increased during a recessionary environment, however today rates continue to rise, and demand outpaces supply.
  - Continued sector growth will need to be fueled by corporate and group segments which are sensitive to macro economic conditions.
- ADR will continue to be the driver for RevPAR growth.
  - 2023 RevPAR growth will be front-loaded as Jan/Feb 2022 included negative impact of Omicron variant.
    - Balance of 2023 will realize decelerating RevPAR growth.
- Inflationary expense pressure will persist.
- Diminishing new supply will be a tailwind for most markets.
- Investment dollars continue to prioritize acquisition over construction.



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- Transaction volume has slowed, though not due to liquidity issues.
  - Market participants are adjusting to the rising cost of capital and uncertainty surrounding when interest rates will stabilize.
- Transaction volume will accelerate in 2H 2023, generally at reduced prices per key.
  - Rising debt costs, private equity fund-life expirations, impending interest rate cap renewals, a high volume of loans reaching maturity, and depleted capex reserves with PIPs being reinstituted should all catalyze hotel transaction activity over the medium-term.
  - Current wide bid-ask spreads will decrease during 2H 2023.
  - Some sponsors will be forced to sell in a high-interest rate environment resulting in a compelling investment basis for many buyers.
  - Preferred equity will become backstop for sponsors unable to secure traditional bank financing.
  - Distress deals are coming soon however many compelling opportunities will not represent distressed pricing.



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- \$15B hotel CMBS is coming due in 2023 of which \$5B will be stressed.
  - Future lender credit defaults will be dealt with more aggressively when compared to the notion during peak COVID of "lets all play nicely in the sandbox" a.k.a. "kick the can down the road."
- Billions of dollars have been raised to deploy debt and equity into the U.S. lodging sector.
  - Long term well capitalized opportunistic investors that bet big, at the right basis, and early in the cycle acquiring and/or investing in loans, assets, and operating companies will likely reap financial rewards that generate outsized returns .....particularly contrarian sponsors who acquire large urban corporate and group meeting/convention hotels at fractions of replacement cost.
- Capital originating from Asia, Europe and the Middle East seeking safe-haven markets such as the U.S. will result in increased cross-border investment opportunities.
- First-time hotel buyers, predominantly comprised of family offices and high net-worth individuals are increasing.
- Some lodging investors are adjusting their internal rates of return (IRR) downward to consummate acquisitions.

