



**HOSPITALITY
INVESTMENT FORUM**

Tbilisi 2026

HIF TBILISI 2026 PROGRAM

February 18



**Sheraton Grand Tbilisi
Metechi Palace**

09:30-10:00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00-10:05	Welcome by forum host
10:05-10:25	Opening addresses Revaz Sokhadze, Minister of Infrastructure of Georgia
10:30-11:35	Panel 1 “Catalyzing Luxury: What Government Should Do to Bring Premium Hospitality to Georgia” Moderator: Takuya Aoyama, CEE Hotel Expert Panelists: Irakli Nadareishvili, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Ivan Kiseev, Vice President, International Hotel Development CIS&Turkey, Marriott International Mikhail Kolesnik, Regional Development Director Eastern Europe & CIS, Minor Hotels Alexis Feuillat, Senior Director of Development, Banyan Group Philippe Bone, Director of Development CIS, Ukraine and Georgia, Accor
11:35-11:55	Coffee break

11:55–13:00	Panel 2 “Georgia's Tourism Story: What Turns Interest into Investment?”
	Moderator: Shota Digmelashvili , Editor in Chief of Forbes Georgia
	Panelists: <p>Sérgio Guerreiro, Chair of Tourism Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</p> <p>Bulut Bağcı, President of World Tourism Forum Institute</p> <p>Nika Chkheidze, Corporate Banker, EBRD</p> <p>Eva Bochorishvili, Head of Research, Galt&Taggart</p> <p>Natia Sonishvili, Senior Vice President, TBC Bank, Corporate business</p>
13:00–13:20	Presentation Spectrum Architecture “Context as Strategy in Hospitality Development” David Nikuradze , Managing Partner, Spectrum Architecture
13:20 –14:20	Networking lunch
14:20–14:40	Presentation STR Market Overview “Key Market Trends and Benchmarking Tools in Hospitality Investment” Ryan Bains , Account Director, STR

14:40 – 15:45

Panel 3 “Hospitality 2.0: The New Hotel Formats, Lifestyle Concepts and Hybrid Models”

Moderator:

Zoltan Szabo,
Hospitality Consultant
CEE & SEE,
Cushman & Wakefield

Panelists:

Valeri Chekheria,
Co-Founder, Salt Projects

Eric Baumgartner,
Managing Director, Dôme Hospitality International

Mircea Drăghici,
CEO, EST Hospitality Consulting

Vassilis Themelidis,
Regional Director South and East Europe,
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

Stefan Dubbeling,
Managing Director, Development EMEA, BWH Hotels

15:45 – 16:05

Coffee break

16:05 – 17:15

Panel 4 “Branded Residences and Serviced Apartments: The Next Growth Engine in Hospitality Real Estate, From concept to delivery and long-term performance”

Moderator:

Armin Eberhard,
Vice President
Operations, Aimbridge
Hospitality EMEA

Panelists:

Temo Bitsadze,
Commercial Director, Alliance Group

David Jenkins,
Vice President, Business Development
Eastern Europe at Radisson Hotel Group

Frederic Perrin,
General manager, Artlife Kempinski Residences Yerevan

Giorgi Vakhtangishvili
CEO, CMC

Soso Beridze,
Co-Founder / CEO, LSG SOLUTIONS

17:15-18:00

Nimbi wine Presentation & Degustation & Networking