



HOSPITALITY  
INVESTMENT FORUM

*Tbilisi 2026*

# HIF TBILISI 2026 *PROGRAM*

February 18



Sheraton Grand Tbilisi  
Metechi Palace

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

11:55–13:00	<p><b>Panel 2 “Georgia's Tourism Story: What Turns Interest into Investment?”</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Shota Digmelashvili,</b> Editor in Chief of Forbes Georgia</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Sérgio Guerreiro,</b> Chair of Tourism Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</p> <p><b>Bulut Bağcı,</b> President of World Tourism Forum Institute</p> <p><b>Nika Chkheidze,</b> Corporate Banker, EBRD</p> <p><b>Eva Bochorishvili,</b> Head of Research, Galt&amp;Taggart</p> <p><b>Natia Sonishvili,</b> Senior Vice President, TBC Bank, Corporate business</p>
13:00–13:20	<p><b>Presentation Spectrum Architecture</b></p> <p><b>“Context as Strategy in Hospitality Development”</b></p> <p><b>David Nikuradze,</b> Managing Partner, Spectrum Architecture</p>
13:20–13:30	<b>Signing ceremony between HIF &amp; BAG</b>
13:30–14:30	<b>Networking lunch</b>
14:30–14:45	<p><b>Presentation STR Market Overview</b></p> <p><b>“Key Market Trends and Benchmarking Tools in Hospitality Investment”</b></p> <p><b>Ryan Bains,</b> Account Director, STR</p>

14:45 –15:45	<p><b>Panel 3</b> “Hospitality 2.0: The New Hotel Formats, Lifestyle Concepts and Hybrid Models”</p> <div> <div> <b>Moderator:</b>   <b>Zoltan Szabo,</b>  Hospitality Consultant  CEE &amp; SEE,  Cushman &amp; Wakefield </div> <div> <b>Panelists:</b>   <b>Valeri Chekheria,</b>  Co-Founder, Salt Projects   <b>Eric Baumgartner,</b>  Managing Director, Dôme Hospitality International   <b>Mircea Drăghici,</b>  CEO, EST Hospitality Consulting   <b>Vassilis Themelidis,</b>  Regional Director South and East Europe,  Wyndham Hotels &amp; Resorts   <b>Stefan Dubbeling,</b>  Managing Director, Development EMEA, BWH Hotels </div> </div>
15:45–16:05	Coffee break
16:05 – 17:15	<p><b>Panel 4</b> “Branded Residences and Serviced Apartments: The Next Growth Engine in Hospitality Real Estate, From concept to delivery and long-term performance”</p> <div> <div> <b>Moderator:</b>   <b>Armin Eberhard,</b>  Vice President  Operations, Aimbridge  Hospitality EMEA </div> <div> <b>Panelists:</b>   <b>Temo Bitsadze,</b>  Commercial Director, Alliance Group   <b>David Jenkins,</b>  Vice President, Business Development  Eastern Europe at Radisson Hotel Group   <b>Frederic Perrin,</b>  General manager, Artlife Kempinski Residences Yerevan   <b>Giorgi Vakhtangishvili</b>  CEO, CMC   <b>Soso Beridze,</b>  Co-Founder / CEO, LSG SOLUTIONS </div> </div>
17:15–18:00	<b>Nimbi wine Presentation &amp; Degustation &amp; Networking</b>