



**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, Vice President Development CIS, Georgia, Cyprus and Israel, Accor
11:35-11:55	Coffee break

11:55–13:00	<p>Panel 2 “Georgia's Tourism Story: What Turns Interest into Investment?”</p> <p>Moderator: Shota Digmelashvili, Editor in Chief of Forbes Georgia</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sérgio Guerreiro, Chair of Tourism Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Bulut Bağcı, President of World Tourism Forum Institute Nika Chkheidze, Corporate Banker, EBRD Eva Bochorishvili, Head of Research, Galt&Taggart Natia Sonishvili, Senior Vice President, TBC Bank, Corporate business
13:00–13:20	<p>Presentation Spectrum Architecture “Context as Strategy in Hospitality Development”</p> <p>David Nikuradze, Managing Partner, Spectrum Architecture</p>
13:20–13:30	<p>Signing ceremony between HIF & BAG</p>
13:30–14:30	<p>Networking lunch</p>
14:30–14:45	<p>Presentation STR Market Overview “Key Market Trends and Benchmarking Tools in Hospitality Investment”</p> <p>Ryan Bains, Account Director, STR</p>

14:45 – 15:45	<p>Panel 3 “Hospitality 2.0: The New Hotel Formats, Lifestyle Concepts and Hybrid Models”</p> <p>Moderator: Zoltan Szabo, Hospitality Consultant CEE & SEE, Cushman & Wakefield</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>Coffee break</p>
16:05 – 17:15	<p>Panel 4 “Branded Residences and Serviced Apartments: The Next Growth Engine in Hospitality Real Estate, From concept to delivery and long-term performance”</p> <p>Moderator: Armin Eberhard, Vice President Operations, Aimbridge Hospitality EMEA</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>Nimbi wine Presentation & Degustation & Networking</p>