

## Choice Hotels Promotes Ralph Thiergart to Vice President and General Manager of Extended Stay Brands



**ROCKVILLE, Md. (March 19, 2018) –**Choice Hotels International, Inc. (NYSE: CHH), one of the world's largest hotel companies, announced the promotion of Ralph Thiergart to vice president and general manager of extended stay brands. In this new role, Thiergart will oversee Choice's extended stay portfolio and operations, highlighted by the recently acquired WoodSpring Suites as well as MainStay Suites and Suburban Extended Stay.

Thiergart has been an integral part of Choice's franchise services team since 2005, most recently serving as vice president of franchise services. During his tenure, he led the company's domestic franchise onboarding and field-based property performance teams as well as brand standards and compliance organization. In addition, he facilitated the creation of the company's award-winning franchisee training platform, Choice University, and worked closely with Choice's franchisee advisory councils.

“WoodSpring Suites is the nation's fastest growing economy extended-stay hotel brand and the acquisition adds more than 240 properties across 35 states to the Choice portfolio. Sustaining the brand's success and integrating best practices across Choice's extended stay brands is imperative to our success,” said John Bonds, senior vice president, enterprise operations and technology, Choice Hotels. “Ralph is a compelling leader with extensive understanding of Choice's owner base and industry operations. Coupled with his background in the extended stay segment, it makes him the ideal leader to successfully grow the WoodSpring Suites brand and expand Choice's presence in the extended stay category.”

Earlier in the year, Choice Hotels acquired the WoodSpring Suites brand and franchise business. The addition nearly triples the size of Choice's extended stay footprint and creates more options and opportunities for the company's franchisees and guests.

“Extended stay has reported some of the most impressive gains in industry demand, and WoodSpring Suites fits perfectly into Choice's well-segmented family of brands as a new construction, highly profitable, economy extended-stay brand. I look forward to taking on this new role overseeing Choice's extended-stay operations, including MainStay and Suburban, and solidifying Choice's position as a leader in extended stay,” said Thiergart.

Thiergart has more than 30 years of industry experience. Prior to joining Choice Hotels, he oversaw sales and marketing for the Lexington Hotel Suites brand, and led sales, marketing and operations at a leading hotel management company, Dimension Development. Earlier in his career, he held influential franchisor and franchisee representative roles in the early development of both the Residence Inn and Homewood Suites brands. Thiergart earned his bachelor's degrees in biology and business administration from Newman University, and is a member of the International Franchise Association and the Asian American Hotel Owners Association.

### **About Choice Hotels**

Choice Hotels International, Inc. (NYSE: CHH) is one of the world's largest hotel companies. With over 6,800 hotels franchised in more than 44 countries and territories, Choice Hotels International represents

more than 500,000 rooms around the globe and more than 1,000 hotels were in our development pipeline. Our company's Ascend Hotel Collection®, Cambria® Hotels, Comfort Inn®, Comfort Suites®, Sleep Inn®, Quality®, Clarion®, MainStay Suites®, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel®, WoodSpring Suites®, Econo Lodge®, Rodeway Inn®, and Vacation Rentals by Choice Hotels® brands provide a spectrum of lodging choices to meet guests' needs. With more than 35 million members, our Choice Privileges® rewards program enhances every trip a guest takes, with benefits ranging from every day rewards to exceptional experiences, starting right when they join. All hotels and vacation rentals are independently owned and operated. Visit us at [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com) for more information.

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