



HENRY KALLAN
President

Henry Kallan emigrated from the former Czechoslovakia in 1968 at the age of 21 and, with no knowledge of English, began his career in the hotel industry as a busboy. With his passion for hospitality and keen eye for detail, he soon became the youngest general manager in New York City for the Gotham Hotel (currently the Peninsula) at the age of 27.

Now 60, Kallan is regarded as one of the most innovative and exciting “indie” hoteliers in New York. The veteran hotelier brings his impeccable flair for quality and unique design to all his properties, as well as his gracious charm and European sense of hospitality. Each of his four Manhattan hotels offer a vast array of complimentary amenities designed to make each guest feel pampered and cared for. Guests at his hotels are welcome to enjoy 24 hour a day complimentary refreshments, including a lavish Continental breakfast buffet and a wine and cheese reception each weeknight from 5-8 p.m. Wireless high speed internet is complimentary for all guests as are daily passes to nearby health clubs. His guests have clearly responded to HKHotels brand of hospitality, keeping all his hotels consistently ranked on the top of the list of most popular hotel by the members of TripAdvisor.com as well as the 2007 BOC Best Boutique Hotels in NYC by the members of Citysearch.com

Kallan’s Manhattan offerings include the 60-room **Library Hotel** with 6,000 books organized throughout the hotel based on the Dewey Decimal System. The **Library** was named one of the *Hottest New Hotels in the World* by Conde Nast **Traveler** magazine in 2001 and, in 2002, the **Zagat’s** Survey named the **Library** one of America’s *Best New Hotels*. The **Library Hotel** was also recently featured on the **Travel Channel’s**, “Great Hotels”.

The ultra-posh **Hotel Giraffe** opened in late 1999 with 73 units, one-third of which are suites. Most rooms feature Juliet balconies and are astoundingly well-equipped and spacious by New York City hotel room standards. The **Hotel Giraffe’s** design, reflecting the style and grace of the European Moderne period of the 20's and 30's, has earned over five awards for architecture and design. Within months of its opening, the **Hotel Giraffe** was included as one of the top, hippest and hottest boutique hotels in round-up stories featured by Conde Nast **Traveler**, **New York Post**, **The New York Times**, and the *Delta Shuttle Sheet*, to name but a few.

The jewel-like **Casablanca Hotel**, opened in 1997 with only 48 units, offers an oasis of hospitality just off world-famous and busy Times Square. Kallan, with partner Jan Kalanda and designer George Portero, set the **Casablanca** in an exotic, yet cozy Moroccan theme within a family townhouse ambiance. The **Casablanca**, which features a gracious living room for the guests on the second floor called Rick’s Café, is a popular with both international visitors and business travelers seeking a serene alternative to larger convention hotels in the area.



Henry Kallan is also the managing partner of the 101-unit **Hotel Elysée** on 54th Street between Madison and Park Avenues - the epicenter of the world's most elegant shopping, corporate, cultural and dining neighborhood. The **Hotel Elysée**, home of the famous **Monkey Bar**, was renovated and reopened in 1992 as a luxury boutique hotel with French Country décor. Once home to Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote, the **Hotel Elysée** soon won many accolades including "*Best Small Hotel in New York*" by **Travel and Leisure** magazine.

In 2003, HKHotels opened the **Aria Hotel** in Prague, the first world-class luxury boutique hotel in Mala Strana, the Little Quarter. One of the finest hotels in the country, the **Aria** is already outperforming the competition based on a level of service unparalleled in the region plus its unique concept. Kallan commissioned Italian master architect Rocco Magnoli to design the **Aria** as a reflection of Prague's passion for music. The **Aria** was sold in March of 2005.

The **Hotel Gansevoort** was originally launched by HKHotels and managed by them until December 2005. When the **Gansevoort** opened in early 2004, it immediately became the new anchor of the Meat Packing District, the ultra-hip location for the art, fashion and film industries in New York City. This chic, downtown property, featuring a roof garden with an outdoor swimming pool, has been acclaimed as one of the hottest new hotels in the world by both the domestic and international press.

Kallan greatly believes that by giving an eager staff the opportunity to learn, take responsibility, and make entrepreneurial decisions, his guests consistently receive the highest level of responsive and personalized service. He has spoken as an industry leader at New York University, Columbia University and in Prague at the Specialist International Conference: "Hotel of the Third Millennium". Presently, Henry is working on developing new projects for HKHotels in the US, Canada and in Europe.