# Status Update: The U.S. Hotel Industry

How hotels should focus their efforts in order to compete



What's really happening in the U.S. hotels industry? Despite shifts, hotels still lead market share. Though Airbnb and other homesharing services have generated strong conversation—and revenue—hotels still dominate the industry. Travel as a whole is thriving, and hotels are likewise experiencing positive lifts, with business up 4.2% over 2018. Even still, consumers and technology are delivering challenges to hotels, particularly in the digital realm. Strength in branding, re-evaluating media, and customer service will be the key focus areas that hotels must master in order to maintain market share.

#### **OUITE THE BILL AT CHECKOUT** RECEIPT The U.S. hotel industry generated an estimated

\$265.6B this year

Hotels and motels make up **77%** of all lodging revenue (casinos excluded)

Forecasts expect this industry to reach \$315.8B by 2024

#### **BUILD IT AND THEY WILL** (CONTINUE TO) COME

2018 reflected the **second-highest** year ever for an increase in hotel construction

In particular: mid-scale and luxury hotels are (literally) on the rise

#### **CONSUMER SENTIMENT:** VERY POSITIVE

- 81% of respondents appreciate hotels for the local recommendations from staff

72% noted that staying in a hotel makes them feel more "on

vacation"

A BRAND THEY DO **RECOGNIZE? AIRBNB** 



Though homesharing is still relatively small within the industry, the numbers are impressive

Airbnb now has 6 million flats, rooms, and houses available globally, outlisting the top six hotel chains combined

Airbnb is valued at \$31B



#### Hotels that wish to continue growth need to: Meet younger consumers 🛛 🖕 Strengthen brand efforts in the digital space

**Online Travel Agencies**—dispiriting news for brands hoping that guests will book directly

**OTAs MAKE IT EASY** 

• From 2015 to 2018 around 67%

• Watch out for Google: in March of 2019 the digital powerhouse rolled out their own version of an OTA

of consumers booked through

• Takeaway: hotel brands need to improve digital platform, media, and social efforts, particularly when trying to reach younger consumers

## TIME TO BUILD YOUR BRAND

80% like to stay at a familiar hotel when traveling to a new place

69% remarked that brand is important to them when selecting a hotel

Gen Z & Millennials are

overwhelmed by options: 59% and 54% respectively struggled to differentiate which brand they have stayed with

## WIN THE EDGE NOW

The average American has maintained their average of

three hotel stays annually

Rely on their advantages: customer service and experiences

Source: Mintel Hotels—US—June 2019, The Guardian How Airbnb Took Over the World, Airbnb, Wired Inside Airbnb's "Guerrilla War Against Local Governments"

**STELLA** RISING