



BIO

Rachid Bakas, General Manager of Anantara Retreat Santorini Abu Dhabi



Rachid Bakas is a seasoned hospitality professional with over two decades of experience in the industry. After earning a bachelor's degree in 2001, Rachid furthered his education with a Higher Diploma in Hospitality Management from the prestigious Institut Supérieur International de Tourisme de Tanger (ISITT) in Morocco. His career in hospitality began in 2004 when he moved to Dubai, where he embarked on his journey in guest services with Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts. Over the next eight years, he steadily climbed the ranks, from Bellboy to Assistant Front Office Manager, gaining invaluable experience in customer service, operations, and management.

Recognizing his potential, Rachid took on roles that would further sharpen his leadership skills. His dedication and hard work led him to positions such as Duty Manager at Shangri-La Abu Dhabi, where he honed his operational expertise and led a team in delivering high-quality guest services. Motivated by continuous personal and professional growth, he enrolled in an 18-month corporate management training program to refine his leadership abilities.

In 2014, Rachid joined Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas, beginning as Front Office Manager at the renowned **Sir Bani Yas Islands Resort**. His expertise quickly shone through, and he progressed to several key positions, including Director of Rooms and Resort Manager, a role he assumed in 2020. During his time at Sir Bani Yas, Rachid showcased his versatility by managing multiple departments, including guest services, operations, and team development.

In September 2021, Rachid made another career leap, taking on the role of Hotel Manager at **Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort**, a 293-key property where he demonstrated exceptional leadership. He

ANANTARA RETREAT SANTORINI ABU DHABI

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spearheaded operations while maintaining Anantara's reputation for luxury and excellence in the competitive Dubai market. His leadership style fostered a culture of collaboration, commitment to excellence, and a team-oriented environment, earning him the respect of his colleagues.

Now serving as the **General Manager of Anantara Retreat Santorini Abu Dhabi**, Rachid brings a wealth of operational knowledge and a profound understanding of the Anantara brand to his role. His experience is especially valued in the launch and management of this exclusive, adults-only luxury retreat, which quickly garnered attention for its innovative offerings. Rachid's meticulous planning and strategic vision were key to introducing this unique concept to the market, significantly elevating the resort's profile and appeal.

Outside of his professional achievements, Rachid enjoys football and cherishes spending quality time with his two children. His leadership philosophy is deeply rooted in the work ethic and appreciation for teamwork that he developed from his humble beginnings, making him not just a respected figure within Anantara, but also a devoted family man.

With his deep commitment to excellence and unparalleled operational expertise, Rachid Bakas continues to lead by example, inspiring his teams to deliver exceptional guest experiences and ensuring the continued success of Anantara resorts under his management.

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For more information on Anantara Retreat Santorini Abu Dhabi please visit:

www.anantara.com/en/santorini-abu-dhabi

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TikTok: tiktok.com/@anantarasantorini

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ABOUT ANANTARA RETREAT SANTORINI ABU DHABI

Anantara Retreat Santorini Abu Dhabi is an exclusive adults-only retreat nestled on the shores of Ghantoot, between Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Inspired by the iconic beauty of Santorini and infused with the warmth of Arabian hospitality, the intimate retreat features 22 sea-view rooms, two dining venues offering Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cuisine, Designer dining experience, a fitness centre, luxury indoor cinema, the world-renowned Anantara Spa, an infinity pool, and curated wellness and leisure experiences. Combining Cycladic-inspired architecture with the natural beauty of the Arabian Gulf, the retreat offers a serene escape centred on privacy, personalised service and meaningful experiences.

ABOUT ANANTARA HOTELS & RESORTS

A luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, Anantara Hotels & Resorts connects guests to genuine places, people and stories in some of the world's most extraordinary destinations. Each Anantara embraces the surroundings and culture of its destination, creating unforgettable memories for every guest since 2001. From city to sea and desert to jungle, Anantara delivers heartfelt, Thai-inspired hospitality at its over 50 hotels and resorts across Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean.

Anantara Hotels & Resorts is a [Minor Hotels](#) brand and recognises its guests through one unified loyalty programme, [Minor DISCOVERY](#), part of GHA DISCOVERY.

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ABOUT MINOR HOTELS

Minor Hotels is a global leader in the hospitality industry with more than 640 hotels, resorts and branded residences across 67 countries. The group crafts innovative and insightful experiences through its hotel brands including Anantara, Elewana Collection, The Wolseley Hotels, Tivoli, Minor Reserve Collection, NH Collection, nhow, Avani, Colbert Collection, NH, Oaks and iStay, as well as a diverse portfolio of restaurants and bars, travel experiences and spa and wellness brands. With over four decades of expertise, Minor Hotels builds stronger brands, fosters lasting partnerships and drives business success by always focusing on what matters most to our guests, team members and partners.

Minor Hotels is a proud member of the [Global Hotel Alliance \(GHA\)](#) and recognises its guests through one unified loyalty programme, [Minor DISCOVERY](#), part of GHA DISCOVERY.

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