# **ADD** Lemon Tree Hotels

# Aurika, managed portfolio to drive growth and deleveraging



Hotels → Result Update → February 8, 2024

**TARGET PRICE (Rs): 145** 

Lemon Tree Hotels' (LTH) Q3 revenue beats estimates, though margin missed estimates, led by higher renovation expenses. We remain positive on LTH's earnings and margin trajectory, prompted by: i) the opening of Aurika Mumbai Skycity in Q3; ii) further acceleration in the managed and franchise portfolios; iii) improvement in gross ARR on renovation. RoE is likely to reach 23% by FY26E vs. 14% in FY23. More hotels under management contracts and revenue from Aurika would help LTH to deleverage from FY25. We have increased our estimate of revenue beat but cut our FY24/25/26 margin estimates due to continued renovation expenses. We maintain ADD, with a target price of Rs145/share (21x Dec-25E EV/EBITDA) vs. Rs140/share earlier.

| Lemon Tree Hotels: Financial Snapshot (Consolidated) |         |       |        |        |        |  |  |  |
|--|---------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|
| Y/E March (Rs mn)                                    | FY22    | FY23  | FY24E  | FY25E  | FY26E  |  |  |  |
| Revenue  | 4,022   | 8,750 | 10,628 | 13,437 | 14,997 |  |  |  |
| EBITDA   | 1,187   | 4,524 | 5,244  | 7,163  | 8,126  |  |  |  |
| Adj. PAT   | (874)   | 1,193 | 1,378  | 2,466  | 3,222  |  |  |  |
| Adj. EPS (Rs)  | (1.1)   | 1.5   | 1.7    | 3.5    | 4.1    |  |  |  |
| EBITDA margin (%)                                    | 29.5    | 51.7  | 49.3   | 53.3   | 54.2   |  |  |  |
| EBITDA growth (%)                                    | 93.7    | 281.2 | 15.9   | 36.6   | 13.5   |  |  |  |
| Adj. EPS growth (%)                                  | 0.0     | 0.0   | 15.4   | 102.6  | 15.4   |  |  |  |
| RoE (%)  | (10.0)  | 14.2  | 14.9   | 22.2   | 23.1   |  |  |  |
| RoIC (%)   | 0.4     | 9.1   | 10.2   | 14.5   | 17.6   |  |  |  |
| P/E (x)  | (125.3) | 91.8  | 79.5   | 39.3   | 34.0   |  |  |  |
| EV/EBITDA (x)  | 104.9   | 27.5  | 23.8   | 15.1   | 14.3   |  |  |  |
| P/B (x)  | 13.2    | 12.8  | 11.1   | 7.8    | 7.0    |  |  |  |
| FCFF yield (%)                                       | 0.5     | 2.1   | 1.2    | 4.5    | 5.7    |  |  |  |

Source: Company, Emkay Research

#### Q3FY24 results: Revenue beats estimates; margin miss led by other expenses

The opening of Aurika in Q3 aided ARR growth of 10% YoY (20% QoQ); however, LTH's occupancy declined 170bps YoY to 65.9% (-580bps QoQ). This led to RevPAR growth moderating to 8% YoY (16% YoY in Q2). Revenue increased 23.6% YoY, beating our/consensus' estimates by 5%/2%. Margin disappointed, impacted by higher other expenses (+49% YoY), led by increased renovation expenses of Rs98mn (3.4% of revenue) vs. Rs48mn YoY (1.8% of revenue). PAT missed estimates on higher depreciation and interest costs.

#### Aurika, renovation, and Keys pipeline to drive revenue/margin improvement

We see four growth drivers for LTH: i) pickup in Aurika's occupancy (40% in Q3); ii) investing in renovations (focus on Delhi, Hyderabad, and Gurgaon), to reprice (up) its portfolio and increasing its ARR; iii) pipeline of 3,677 Keys under managed and franchised contracts; and iv) pickup in demand in Bangalore, Pune, and Hyderabad, driven by the IT sector. Margin is expected to increase to over 50%, as Aurika's occupancy improves and  $\sim$ 70% of incremental revenue flows to the bottom line with a stable cost structure. LTH expects RevPAR growth in mid-teens for FY25 (our est. 17% YoY) and occupancy at 73% when Aurika stabilizes (our est. 74%). LTH expects peak debt in FY24 and deleveraging thereon (net debt/EBITDA guidance at 3.7x/2.5x/1.5x for FY24E/FY25E/FY26E).

## Deleveraging on the cards, returns to improve; maintain ADD

Accredited Investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore

We expect LTH to log revenue/EBITDA CAGR of 20%/22% over FY23-26E, led by revenue from *Aurika Mumbai*, and the addition of hotels under management contracts. This will help LTH to deleverage from FY25E in the absence of major capex (Rs400mn capex/opex on renovation and ~Rs500mn on Shimla hotel). RoE should reach 23% by FY26E vs. 14% in FY23. We raise our FY24/25/26E revenue est. by 1%/2%/2%, resp., as we adjust for the revenue beat. We cut FY24/25/26E margin by 40/10/10bps due to renovation expenses. Maintain ADD, with a TP of Rs145 (21x Dec-25E EV/EBITDA) vs. Rs140 earlier.

| Target Price – 12M    | Dec-24 |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Change in TP (%)      | 3.6    |
| Current Reco.         | ADD    |
| Previous Reco.        | ADD    |
| Upside/(Downside) (%) | 4.8    |
| CMP (08-Feb-24) (Rs)  | 138.3  |

| Stock Data              | Ticker    |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 52-week High (Rs)       | 146       |
| 52-week Low (Rs)        | 73        |
| Shares outstanding (mn) | 792.2     |
| Market-cap (Rs bn)      | 110       |
| Market-cap (USD mn)     | 1,321     |
| Net-debt, FY24E (Rs mn) | 15,013    |
| ADTV-3M (mn shares)     | 7         |
| ADTV-3M (Rs mn)         | 938.5     |
| ADTV-3M (USD mn)        | 11.3      |
| Free float (%)          | -         |
| Nifty-50                | 21,718    |
| INR/USD                 | 83.0      |
| Shareholding, Dec-23    |           |
| Promoters (%)           | 23.2      |
| FPIs/MFs (%)            | 22.8/15.0 |

| Price Performance |     |      |      |  |  |  |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|--|--|--|
| (%)               | 1M  | 3M   | 12M  |  |  |  |
| Absolute          | 8.6 | 17.7 | 79.4 |  |  |  |
| Rel. to Nifty     | 7.6 | 5.4  | 47.6 |  |  |  |

# 1-Year share price trend (Rs)



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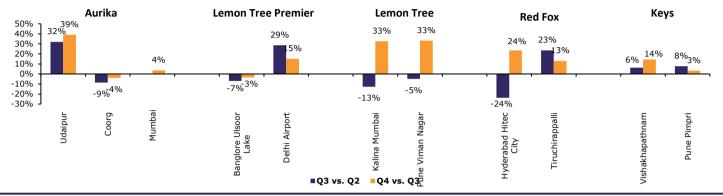
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# Pickup in ARR to continue for LTH

Gross ARR increased 10% YoY (7% YoY in Q2). The start of Aurika in Q3 helped in increasing blended ARR. Aurika is yet to stabilize and can continue to drive up ARR. Moreover, renovation will continue to increase ARR.

As per our checks, LTH's room rate is expected to increase further in Q4 across different categories, as travel for business picks up in Q4. Only Coorg and Bangalore are expected to see softness in room rates, as per our channel checks.

Exhibit 1: Lemon Tree ARR change QoQ (%) - ARR to pick up further QoQ in Q4 from Q3 levels



Source: Company website, Emkay Research

Exhibit 2: Aurika Mumbai's ARR to increase marginally QoQ in Q4



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 3: RevPAR YoY growth - Mumbai impacted by start of Aurika

20% 15% 14% 12% 12% 15% change in RevPAR (%) 8% 10% 5% 1% 0% -5% -2% -10% -15% -20% -25% -30% -35% -30% Rest of India LTH overall Gurugram Bengaluru Mumbai Delhi

Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 4: EBITDAR margin down YoY on increased renovation cost

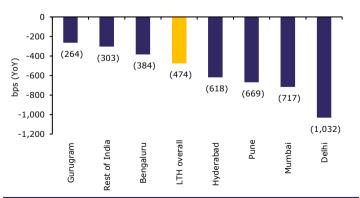
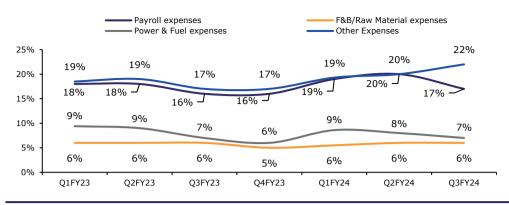


Exhibit 5: Cost structure (% of Revenue) - Other expenses up on higher renovation expense



## Key takeaways from the earnings call

- EBITDA margin to improve: The increase in expenses in terms of percentage of revenue can largely be attributed to payroll expenses (2.4%), renovations (1.6%), commissions to travel agents, and credit cards (0.8%), in line with the rise in retail contribution, rent for Aurika Mumbai (0.6%), and spa and transport service (0.5%). The salary hike was deferred since Covid-19 and is now implemented during this quarter. Additionally, a lower contribution from Aurika Mumbai (with 13-14% of the total inventory) keeps margins low. As Aurika Mumbai starts contributing more (GM of 60%) going ahead, management expects EBITDA margin of over 50% from FY25.
- Bangalore and Pune markets lack demand: About one-third of LTH's inventory is not performing well and is still below pre-Covid level, especially in the Bangalore and Pune regions. This is due to their higher dependency on the IT sector, which is experiencing layoffs instead of hiring. This has particularly impacted the Keys brand having the highest properties in these regions.
- Aurika Mumbai to stabilize in FY25: Aurika Mumbai operated at an occupancy of ~40% (250 rooms) in Q3, which has increased to 60% in Q4 (will be further aided by the Miss World event with 100 rooms occupancy for 14 days). With a fixed expense of Rs196mn (Rs130mn depreciation and Rs66mn interest) every quarter impacting the income statement, the impact will appear higher until occupancy stabilizes at an increased level, which management expects to achieve in FY25. The lease rental for Aurika Mumbai to be paid annually is Rs30mn and will increase every year (current NPV of Rs500mn). Also, until demand is built, the contribution of airline crew is higher, but that is a low-rate business, typically logging a room rate of ~Rs7,700/night. Hence, the company has guided to restrict crew rooms to 100, corporate rooms to 150, and 200-250 rooms for retail in FY25.
- Renovations to aid ARR growth: LTH constantly carries out expensive renovations at its properties, which in turn helps reprice higher and increase occupancy for those properties (aiding recovery of renovation expense within the next two years). This strategy is now being implemented in Delhi, Gurgaon, and Hyderabad. Renovation spends are estimated as Rs300mn for opex and Rs100mn for capex for FY24. With minimal capex requirement in FY25, LTH plans to complete renovation at most of its Keys portfolio (will help increase ARR by 8-12% every year) and Lemon Tree properties in Delhi and Hyderabad by H1FY25.
- Deleveraging plans: Management aims to bring down its Debt/EBITDA to 3.7 by FY24, 2.5 by FY25, and 1.5 by FY26 and eventually become debt-free in the next four years.
- Capex requirement: The company has decided to convert its under-construction Shimla property to Aurika (100 rooms) at an additional capex of Rs500mn over the already spent capex of Rs270mn. This property is expected to be in operation by Q1FY26.
- Higher focus on retail over corporate: Before Covid-19, there were higher negotiations for prices from corporates even during peak times, hence lowering the ARR. Hence, management has now increased its rates for corporates paying fair prices while lowering the rates for retail with an intent to expand its retail base. As a result, despite the reduction of corporate contribution in room night to 38%, revenue managed to stay flat at 36%, and management aims to fill this difference going forward. An inverse trend is witnessed on the retail side, where the revenue premium of 3% (compared to room night) has reduced to

- 1%. This has also led to the doubling (3% to 6%) of room night contribution from its own website.
- Current Indian occupancy does not imply an upcycle: The average occupancy in India is at ~60%. LTH (excluding Aurika Mumbai and Keys) occupancy is also lower at 73-76%. Hence, management believes until the average occupancy crosses 70-75%, the hotel industry cannot be said to be in the upcycle. It is expected that India will reach an occupancy level of ~70% in FY26, a point at which it can be called an upcycle.
- **Fleur divestment:** Over the longer term, management plans to list Fleur Hotels separately with a fresh issue of capital in it. This will benefit LTH in utilizing the funds for expanding its portfolio and further strengthening its brand to cater to the rising demand.
- Occupancy to rise in FY25: LTH is achieving higher occupancy levels of over 80% in Delhi, Mumbai (ex. Aurika), and Hyderabad and in mid-70s for Gurgaon. However, the regions of Bangalore and Pune remain subdued. As a result, management expects an average occupancy of ~65% in FY24. With Aurika stabilizing and contributing higher in FY25, occupancy is expected to increase to ~73% in FY25.
- Lower fees from Fleur: With a higher portfolio of Bangalore and Pune hotels under Fleur, which are not performing well along with under 40% occupancy for Aurika Mumbai meant that only the fixed portion of fees was received (incentive fees not received) from Fleur for these properties. The incentive fees portion will increase disproportionately as the revenue increases from these properties.
- Lower competition for Aurika Mumbai: Management believes Aurika Mumbai will face no impact from Hilton Garden property being built next to Aurika as both fall into different categories. Additionally, Lemon Tree hotels hotels cannot be compared with luxury hotels.

## Q3FY24 Results: Beat on revenue; miss on margin

#### KPIs impacted by the start of Aurika Mumbai in Q3FY24

- **Gross ARR up 10% YoY** (7% YoY in Q2) and 20% QoQ to Rs6,333, 1% beat to our estimate. In comparison, Q3 ARR was up 17%/8% YoY for Indian Hotels/Chalet.
- Occupancy was down 163bps YoY at 65.9% (vs. 71.3% in Q2FY24; 67.6% in Q3FY23) vs. our estimate of 68.3%. The decline was led by Mumbai occupancy (53% in Q3FY24 vs. 79% in Q3FY23) due to the opening up of Aurika in Q3. Occupancy was 77% (up 5ppts YoY)/71% (up 6ppts YoY) for Indian Hotels/Chalet in Q3.
- **RevPAR up 8%YoY** (+11% QoQ) to Rs4,176, at a 2% miss on our estimate, led by lower occupancy. RevPAR was up 25%/18% YoY for Indian Hotels/Chalet.

## **Financial performance**

- Revenue from operations grew 23.6% YoY to Rs2,887mn (up 27.1% QoQ), beating our/consensus estimate by 5%/2%. Total management fees (including fees from Fleur Hotels) grew 25% YoY (+29% YoY in Q2).
- Margin miss: EBITDA (excluding OI) stood at Rs1,397mn, +10.5% YoY/+37.2% QoQ (1% beat on our estimate). EBITDA margin (excluding OI) was down 575bps YoY and up 357bps QoQ to 48.4%, 90bps/190bps miss on consensus/our estimates. The margin miss was due to higher other expenses (+49% YoY). Other expenses include higher renovation expenses of Rs98mn for Q3FY24 (3.4% of revenue) vs. Rs48mn YoY (2.1% of revenue) for Q3FY23. Adjusting for this, the margin would have declined 440bps YoY to 50.1%.
- Cash profit came in at Rs771mn, up from Rs721mn in Q3FY23 and Rs490mn in Q2FY24.
- Finance cost increased 12.7% QoQ and 20% YoY due to higher debt. Cost of debt increased 20bps YoY to 8.85% in Q3FY24.
- Adjusted PAT stood at Rs354mn for Q3FY24 (-11.5% YoY; +56.3%QoQ). Higher D&A and increased finance cost (on the start of Aurika in Q3) led to lower PAT.

Exhibit 6: Q3FY24 results

| (Rs mn)                  | 3QFY23 | 2QFY24 | 3QFY24 | QoQ      | YoY      |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| Rooms (No. of)           | 5,090  | 5,090  | 5,759  | 13.1%    | 13.1%    |
| ARR (Rs)                 | 5,738  | 5,268  | 6,333  | 20.2%    | 10.4%    |
| Occupancy (%)            | 67.6   | 71.7   | 65.9   | -8.1%    | -2.5%    |
| RevPAR (Rs)              | 3,879  | 3,775  | 4,176  | 10.6%    | 7.7%     |
| Room Revenue             | 1,777  | 1,729  | 2,164  | 25.2%    | 21.8%    |
| Other Revenue            | 559    | 543    | 722    | 33.1%    | 29.3%    |
| Total Revenue            | 2,335  | 2,272  | 2,887  | 27.1%    | 23.6%    |
| Total RM Cost            | 131    | 132    | 166    | 26.1%    | 26.7%    |
| Employee Benefit Expense | 381    | 463    | 490    | 5.8%     | 28.5%    |
| Other Expenses           | 558    | 658    | 833    | 26.6%    | 49.3%    |
| Total Expenses           | 1,071  | 1,253  | 1,490  | 18.9%    | 39.1%    |
| EBITDA                   | 1,265  | 1,019  | 1,397  | 37.2%    | 10.5%    |
| D&A                      | 236    | 226    | 333    | 47.5%    | 41.5%    |
| Finance Cost (net)       | 445    | 473    | 534    | 12.7%    | 20.0%    |
| PAT                      | 400    | 226    | 354    | 56.3%    | -11.5%   |
| EPS (Rs)                 | 0.5    | 0.3    | 0.4    | 56.3%    | -11.5%   |
| % of revenue             |        |        |        |          |          |
| Total RM Cost            | 5.6    | 5.8    | 5.8    | -4 bps   | 14 bps   |
| Employee Benefit Expense | 16.3   | 20.4   | 17.0   | -341 bps | 64 bps   |
| Other Expenses           | 23.9   | 29.0   | 28.9   | -12 bps  | 497 bps  |
| EBITDA Margin            | 54.2   | 44.8   | 48.4   | 357 bps  | -575 bps |

## Other highlights

- New contract signings continue: During O3, the company signed nine new management and franchise contracts (vs. 11/6 in Q2/Q1), which added 621 rooms (vs. 639/548 in Q2/Q1) to the pipeline. As of 30-Dec-23, LTH's operational inventory comprises 100 hotels with 9,687 rooms, and the pipeline includes 55 hotels with 3,746 rooms.
- Share of room-nights sold on own website has increased from 3% in Q3FY23 to 6% in Q3FY24. The share of rooms booked for airlines increased from 8% in Q3FY23 to 14% in Q3FY24.
- Brand-wise RevPAR growth: Keys RevPAR increased 7% YoY, while it rose 12% YoY for LTH. Lemon Tree Premier and RedFox RevPAR were up 10% YoY each. Aurika's RevPAR fell 50% YoY because of the start of Aurika Mumbai. Aurika occupancy was down 11pp YoY on the start of Mumbai Aurika.
- Margin decline YoY was led by a decline in margin for Aurika, while Keys' margin was up YoY in Q3. Overall EBITDAR margin fell ~2pp YoY due to a significant increase in renovation expense YoY.
- Hyderabad, Rest of India, and Gurugram had the highest improvement in occupancy YoY.

### Changes in estimate and valuation

We increase our revenue estimates by 1.5%/2.2%/2.2% for FY24E/FY25E/FY26E on result beat. We have cut our margins for FY24/FY25/FY26 by 40bps/10bps/10bps on account of higher renovation expenses. We maintain our ADD recommendation, with a TP of Rs145/share (21x Dec-25E EV/EBITDA) vs. Rs140/share earlier.

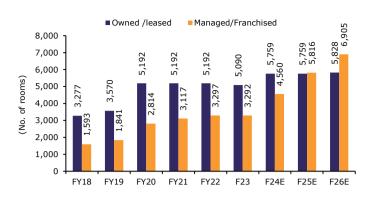
**Exhibit 7: Changes in estimate** 

|                       | FY24E FY25E |        |         | FY25E  |        | FY24E FY25E FY26E |        |        |         |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|---------|
|                       | New         | Old    | Chg     | New    | Old    | Chg               | New    | Old    | Chg     |
| Rooms (Nos)           | 5,759       | 5,759  | 0.0%    | 5,759  | 5,828  | -1.2%             | 5,828  | 5,828  | 0.0%    |
| ARR (Rs)              | 5,826       | 5,777  | 0.8%    | 6,470  | 6,365  | 1.6%              | 6,897  | 6,811  | 1.3%    |
| Occupancy (%)         | 70.2        | 71.1   | -1.4%   | 74.0   | 74.2   | -0.3%             | 75.2   | 75.4   | -0.3%   |
| RevPAR (Rs)           | 4,088       | 4,109  | -0.5%   | 4,786  | 4,720  | 1.4%              | 5,184  | 5,132  | 1.0%    |
| Room Revenue (Rs mn)  | 8,020       | 7,945  | 0.9%    | 9,933  | 9,826  | 1.1%              | 10,874 | 10,795 | 0.7%    |
| Other Revenue (Rs mn) | 2,608       | 2,526  | 3.2%    | 3,504  | 3,326  | 5.3%              | 4,123  | 3,875  | 6.4%    |
| Revenue (Rs mn)       | 10,628      | 10,471 | 1.5%    | 13,437 | 13,153 | 2.2%              | 14,997 | 14,670 | 2.2%    |
| EBITDA (Rs Mn)        | 5,244       | 5,213  | 0.6%    | 7,163  | 7,028  | 1.9%              | 8,126  | 7,968  | 2.0%    |
| EBITDA Margin (%)     | 49.3        | 49.8   | -44 bps | 53.3   | 53.4   | -13 bps           | 54.2   | 54.3   | -13 bps |
| APAT (Rs mn)          | 1,378       | 1,559  | -11.6%  | 2,466  | 2,756  | -10.5%            | 3,222  | 3,501  | -8.0%   |
| AEPS (Rs)             | 1.7         | 2.0    | -11.6%  | 3.1    | 3.5    | -10.5%            | 4.1    | 4.4    | -8.0%   |

| Exhibit 8: Valuation                   |         |
|--|---------|
| Valuation summary                      | Dec-25  |
| Consol. EBITDA (Rs mn)                 | 7,885   |
| EBITDA ex Fleur APG stake (75%)        | 5,914   |
| EV/EBITDA (x)                          | 21.0x   |
| Enterprise Value (Rs mn)               | 124,194 |
| Net debt                               | 16,335  |
| Less: Debt ex. Fleur APG stake (58.9%) | 9,621   |
| Equity Value (Rs mn)                   | 114,572 |
| Value per chare (Dc)                   | 145     |

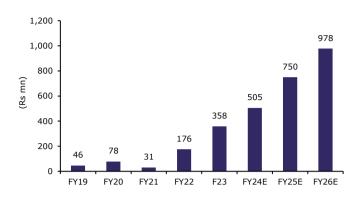
# **Story in Charts**

Exhibit 9: Number of managed rooms to grow at a faster pace



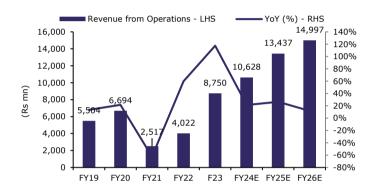
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 10: Revenue from management fees to aid growth



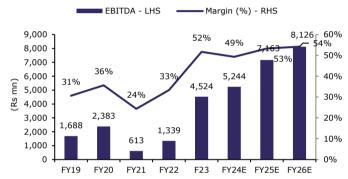
Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 11: Revenue jump in FY25E to be led by Aurika, Mumbai Skycity



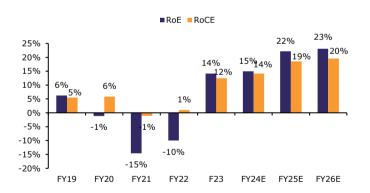
Source: Company, Emkay Research

**Exhibit 12: Margins** improve, pass-through led management fee



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 13: LTH set to report RoE of ~23% by FY26E



Source: Company, Emkay Research

Exhibit 14: Net debt-to-EBITDA to decline for LTH

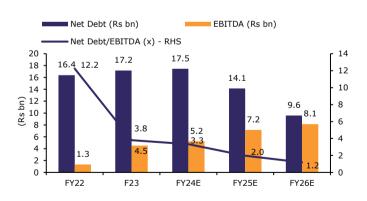


Exhibit 15: Sensitivity for a 5% decline in RevPAR

|                      |       | FY25   | FY26   |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Base RevPAR          | Rs    | 4,786  | 5,184  |
| New RevPAR           | Rs    | 4,546  | 4,925  |
| Change               | %     | -5.0%  | -5.0%  |
|                      |       |        |        |
| Base Revenue         | Rs mn | 13,437 | 14,997 |
| New Revenue          | Rs mn | 12,765 | 14,247 |
| Change               | %     | -5.0%  | -5.0%  |
| Base EBITDA          | Rs mn | 7,163  | 8,126  |
| New EBITDA           | Rs mn | 6,531  | 7,423  |
| Change               | %     | -8.8%  | -8.7%  |
|                      |       |        |        |
| Base PAT             | Rs mn | 2,466  | 3,222  |
| New PAT              | Rs mn | 2,089  | 2,774  |
| Change               | %     | -15.3% | -13.9% |
|                      |       |        |        |
| Base RoE             | %     | 22.2%  | 23.1%  |
| New RoE              | %     | 19.1%  | 20.8%  |
| Change               | bps   | -307   | -231   |
|                      |       |        |        |
| Base RoCE            | %     | 18.5%  | 19.5%  |
| New RoCE             | %     | 16.7%  | 17.9%  |
| Change               | bps   | -183   | -160   |
|                      |       |        |        |
| Base Net Debt        | Rs bn | 14.1   | 9.6    |
| New Net Debt         | Rs bn | 14.5   | 10.5   |
| Change               | %     | 2.8%   | 9.9%   |
| Base Net Debt/EBITDA | X     | 2.0    | 1.2    |
| New Net Debt/EBITDA  | х     | 2.2    | 1.4    |
| Change               | %     | 12.8%  | 20.3%  |
|                      |       |        |        |
| Base TP              | Rs    | 145    |        |
| New TP               | Rs    | 130    |        |
| Change               | %     | -10.3% |        |

Exhibit 16: One-year forward EV/EBITDA 34 Fwd EV/EBITDA (x) - +1 SD 30 26 22 18 14 10 Aug-18 May-19 Feb-Nov-

FY25E

7,916

FY26E

7,916

## **Lemon Tree Hotels: Consolidated Financials and Valuations**

| Profit and Loss             |         |         |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Y/E March (Rs mn)           | FY22    | FY23    | FY24E  | FY25E  | FY26E  |
| Revenue                     | 4,022   | 8,750   | 10,628 | 13,437 | 14,997 |
| Revenue growth (%)          | 59.8    | 117.5   | 21.5   | 26.4   | 11.6   |
| EBITDA                      | 1,187   | 4,524   | 5,244  | 7,163  | 8,126  |
| EBITDA growth (%)           | 93.7    | 281.2   | 15.9   | 36.6   | 13.5   |
| Depreciation & Amortization | 1,043   | 966     | 1,116  | 1,279  | 1,266  |
| EBIT                        | 143     | 3,557   | 4,128  | 5,883  | 6,861  |
| EBIT growth (%)             | 0.0     | 2,386.1 | 16.0   | 42.5   | 16.6   |
| Other operating income      | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Other income                | 140     | 36      | 97     | 102    | 107    |
| Financial expense           | 1,740   | 1,772   | 2,026  | 1,874  | 1,595  |
| PBT                         | (1,456) | 1,822   | 2,199  | 4,112  | 5,372  |
| Extraordinary items         | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Taxes                       | (72)    | 377     | 536    | 1,072  | 1,401  |
| Minority interest           | (499)   | 260     | 296    | 585    | 764    |
| Income from JV/Associates   | 10      | 9       | 10     | 12     | 14     |
| Reported PAT                | (874)   | 1,193   | 1,378  | 2,466  | 3,222  |
| PAT growth (%)              | 0.0     | 0.0     | 15.4   | 79.0   | 30.6   |
| Adjusted PAT                | (874)   | 1,193   | 1,378  | 2,466  | 3,222  |
| Diluted EPS (Rs)            | (1.1)   | 1.5     | 1.7    | 3.5    | 4.1    |
| Diluted EPS growth (%)      | 0.0     | 0.0     | 15.4   | 102.6  | 15.4   |
| DPS (Rs)                    | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    |
| Dividend payout (%)         | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    |
| EBITDA margin (%)           | 29.5    | 51.7    | 49.3   | 53.3   | 54.2   |
| EBIT margin (%)             | 3.6     | 40.7    | 38.8   | 43.8   | 45.7   |
| Effective tax rate (%)      | 5.0     | 20.7    | 24.4   | 26.1   | 26.1   |
| NOPLAT (pre-IndAS)          | 136     | 2,821   | 3,123  | 4,349  | 5,072  |
| Shares outstanding (mn)     | 792.2   | 792.2   | 792.2  | 792.2  | 792.2  |

| Reserves & Surplus           | 404    | 621    | 1,989  | 4,443  | 7,650  |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Net worth                    | 8,312  | 8,537  | 9,905  | 12,359 | 15,566 |
| Minority interests           | 5,676  | 5,597  | 5,893  | 6,478  | 7,242  |
| Deferred tax liability (net) | (685)  | (515)  | (537)  | (560)  | (583)  |
| Total debt                   | 21,532 | 22,404 | 23,425 | 23,879 | 24,385 |
| Total liabilities & equity   | 34,836 | 36,024 | 38,685 | 42,157 | 46,611 |
| Net tangible fixed assets    | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| Net intangible assets        | 30,533 | 29,704 | 28,762 | 27,604 | 26,448 |
| Net ROU assets               | 4,299  | 4,036  | 4,036  | 4,036  | 4,036  |
| Capital WIP                  | 2,946  | 4,691  | 7,616  | 8,745  | 9,711  |
| Goodwill                     | 951    | 951    | 951    | 951    | 951    |
| Investments [JV/Associates]  | 37     | 45     | 45     | 45     | 45     |
| Cash & equivalents           | 602    | 285    | 617    | 3,981  | 8,571  |
| Current assets (ex-cash)     | 1,527  | 2,047  | 2,471  | 2,690  | 2,837  |
| Current Liab. & Prov.        | 809    | 749    | 825    | 909    | 1,002  |
| NWC (ex-cash)                | 718    | 1,298  | 1,645  | 1,781  | 1,836  |
| Total assets                 | 34,836 | 36,024 | 38,685 | 42,157 | 46,611 |
| Net debt                     | 14,933 | 14,890 | 15,013 | 11,492 | 6,747  |
| Capital employed             | 28,838 | 28,794 | 30,890 | 33,750 | 37,544 |
| Invested capital             | 31,251 | 31,002 | 30,407 | 29,385 | 28,283 |
| BVPS (Rs)                    | 10.5   | 10.8   | 12.5   | 17.7   | 19.6   |
| Net Debt/Equity (x)          | 1.8    | 1.7    | 1.5    | 0.9    | 0.4    |
| Net Debt/EBITDA (x)          | 12.6   | 3.3    | 2.9    | 1.6    | 0.8    |
| Interest coverage (x)        | 6.1    | 0.5    | 0.5    | 0.3    | 0.2    |
| RoCE (%)                     | 1.0    | 12.5   | 14.2   | 18.5   | 19.5   |

FY22

7,908

FY23

7,916

FY24E

7,916

Source: Company, Emkay Research

**Balance Sheet** Y/E Mar (Rs mn)

Share capital

Source: Company, Emkay Research

| Cash Flows                   |         |         |         |         |         |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Y/E Mar (Rs mn)              | FY22    | FY23    | FY24E   | FY25E   | FY26E   |
| PBT                          | (1,456) | 1,822   | 2,199   | 4,112   | 5,372   |
| Others (non-cash items)      | 2,788   | 2,676   | 3,035   | 3,039   | 2,739   |
| Taxes paid                   | (17)    | (207)   | (558)   | (1,095) | (1,424) |
| Change in NWC                | 27      | (403)   | (234)   | (16)    | 72      |
| Operating cash flow          | 1,200   | 3,896   | 4,453   | 6,052   | 6,775   |
| Capital expenditure          | (668)   | (1,618) | (3,098) | (1,251) | (1,075) |
| Acquisition of business      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Interest & dividend income   | 81      | 57      | 97      | 102     | 107     |
| Investing cash flow          | (454)   | (2,832) | (3,052) | (1,199) | (1,018) |
| Equity raised/(repaid)       | 8       | 17      | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Debt raised/(repaid)         | 2,604   | 1,776   | 455     | (156)   | (155)   |
| Payment of lease liabilities | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Interest paid                | (1,400) | (1,432) | (2,026) | (1,874) | (1,595) |
| Dividend paid (incl tax)     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Others                       | (2,842) | (1,684) | 502     | 541     | 583     |
| Financing cash flow          | (1,630) | (1,323) | (1,069) | (1,489) | (1,167) |
| Net chg in Cash              | (884)   | (258)   | 332     | 3,364   | 4,590   |
| OCF                          | 1,200   | 3,896   | 4,453   | 6,052   | 6,775   |
| Adj. OCF (w/o NWC chg.)      | 1,173   | 4,299   | 4,686   | 6,068   | 6,702   |
| FCFF                         | 533     | 2,279   | 1,354   | 4,801   | 5,700   |
| FCFE                         | (1,126) | 564     | (575)   | 3,029   | 4,212   |
| OCF/EBITDA (%)               | 101.2   | 86.1    | 84.9    | 84.5    | 83.4    |
| FCFE/PAT (%)                 | 128.8   | 47.2    | (41.7)  | 122.8   | 130.7   |
| FCFF/NOPLAT (%)              | 391.8   | 80.8    | 43.4    | 110.4   | 112.4   |

| Source: | Company, | Emkay | Research |
|---------|----------|-------|----------|
|         |          |       |          |

| Valuations and Key Ratios |         |        |       |       |       |  |  |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| Y/E Mar                   | FY22    | FY23   | FY24E | FY25E | FY26E |  |  |
| P/E (x)                   | (125.3) | 91.8   | 79.5  | 39.3  | 34.0  |  |  |
| P/CE(x)                   | 556.2   | 43.5   | 37.7  | 22.2  | 21.0  |  |  |
| P/B (x)                   | 13.2    | 12.8   | 11.1  | 7.8   | 7.0   |  |  |
| EV/Sales (x)              | 31.0    | 14.2   | 11.7  | 8.1   | 7.8   |  |  |
| EV/EBITDA (x)             | 104.9   | 27.5   | 23.8  | 15.1  | 14.3  |  |  |
| EV/EBIT(x)                | 761.5   | 30.6   | 26.4  | 17.9  | 14.7  |  |  |
| EV/IC (x)                 | 3.5     | 3.5    | 3.6   | 3.6   | 3.6   |  |  |
| FCFF yield (%)            | 0.5     | 2.1    | 1.2   | 4.5   | 5.7   |  |  |
| FCFE yield (%)            | (1.2)   | 0.6    | (0.6) | 3.2   | 4.5   |  |  |
| Dividend yield (%)        | 0.0     | 0.0    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |  |  |
| DuPont-RoE split          |         |        |       |       |       |  |  |
| Net profit margin (%)     | (21.7)  | 13.6   | 13.0  | 18.4  | 21.5  |  |  |
| Total asset turnover (x)  | 0.1     | 0.3    | 0.4   | 0.4   | 0.4   |  |  |
| Assets/Equity (x)         | 3.4     | 3.4    | 3.2   | 2.9   | 2.6   |  |  |
| RoE (%)                   | (10.0)  | 14.2   | 14.9  | 22.2  | 23.1  |  |  |
| DuPont-RoIC               |         |        |       |       |       |  |  |
| NOPLAT margin (%)         | 3.4     | 32.2   | 29.4  | 32.4  | 33.8  |  |  |
| IC turnover (x)           | 0.1     | 0.3    | 0.3   | 0.4   | 0.5   |  |  |
| RoIC (%)                  | 0.4     | 9.1    | 10.2  | 14.5  | 17.6  |  |  |
| Operating metrics         |         |        |       |       |       |  |  |
| Core NWC days             | (45.2)  | (15.3) | (9.3) | (4.9) | (4.0) |  |  |
| Total NWC days            | 65.2    | 54.2   | 56.5  | 48.4  | 44.7  |  |  |
| Fixed asset turnover      | 0.1     | 0.3    | 0.4   | 0.5   | 0.6   |  |  |
| Opex-to-revenue (%)       | 63.6    | 42.6   | 44.9  | 40.7  | 39.6  |  |  |

## **RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - DETAILS**

| Date      | Closing<br>Price (INR) | TP (INR) | Rating | Analyst       |
|-----------|------------------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| 03-Jan-24 | 129                    | 140      | Add    | Santosh Sinha |
| 04-Dec-23 | 116                    | 130      | Add    | Santosh Sinha |
| 30-Nov-23 | 114                    | 130      | Add    | Santosh Sinha |
| 11-Nov-23 | 113                    | 130      | Buy    | Santosh Sinha |
| 05-Oct-23 | 118                    | 141      | Buy    | Santosh Sinha |

Source: Company, Emkay Research

### **RECOMMENDATION HISTORY - TREND**



Source: Bloomberg, Company, Emkay Research

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|         | ., 5  |  |  |
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| ADD     | 5-15% upside                                  |  |  |
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| SELL    | <15% downside                                 |  |  |

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