

PPHE Hotel Group

Q3 update

Making the most of it

PPHE has again hit the spot with a “strong” Q3 (like-for-like RevPAR +9%, albeit currency-boosted), driven by Croatia and London. This is all the more encouraging as it is entirely rate-led, the peak trading period of Arena and proof of resilience in the capital despite a market slowdown. There is further reassurance in management’s confidence about Q4, given its significance and a demanding comparative. Development continues apace with openings and renovations on track and the company’s reassertion of its enhanced financial flexibility after the recent Waterloo sale.

Year end	Revenue (£m)	EBITDA (£m)	PBT* (£m)	EPS* (p)	DPS (p)	EV/EBITDA (x)
12/15	218.7	80.1	31.8	76.1	20.0	10.5
12/16	272.5	94.1	34.2	73.9	21.0**	11.0
12/17e	326.0	106.0	33.5	65.9	22.0	9.6
12/18e	350.0	113.0	40.0	78.5	23.0	8.7

Note: *PBT and EPS are normalised, excluding amortisation of acquired intangibles, share-based payments. **Plus 100p special dividend.

PPHE is on course to meet current-year earnings expectations after Q3, notable for “strong trading” by key constituents, Croatia and London. In the absence of detailed regional breakdown, overall 10% higher like-for-like revenue reflects a record summer in Croatia (revenue +8%, per listed subsidiary Arena accounts, plus 6% currency). Apart from the growing popularity of main trading area, Pula, marked by new flight routes and sports and cultural activities, there has been clear pay-off from increased investment, particularly in online campsite booking systems (revenue +16%). As for London, adjusting for the flattering inclusion of the Riverbank extension, assumed low-digit RevPAR gain implies PPHE beats the market, as newly reported by STR (+2%), AccorHotels (+1%) and Millennium (-2%). However, management is typically prudent ahead of its strongest quarter. Concerns persist about room supply, which is set to rise above its long-term trend, and rising operating costs from the National Living Wage and imported inflation. GL, London’s largest hotel owner/operator, recently confirmed “a cautious outlook.”

Travel & leisure

6 November 2017

Price 1,055p
Market cap £446m

Net debt (£m) at 30 June 2017	559.0
Shares in issue	42.3m
Free float	23%
Code	PPH
Primary exchange	LSE
Secondary exchange	N/A

Share price performance



Business description

PPHE Hotel Group (formerly Park Plaza Hotels) is an integrated owner and operator of four-star, boutique and deluxe hotels in gateway cities, regional centres and select resort destinations, predominantly in Europe.

Analysts

Richard Finch	+44 (0)20 3077 5700
Paul Hickman	+44 (0)20 3681 2501

consumer@edisongroup.com

[Edison profile page](#)

PPHE Hotel Group is a research client of Edison Investment Research Limited

Edison is an investment research and advisory company, with offices in North America, Europe, the Middle East and AsiaPac. The heart of Edison is our world-renowned equity research platform and deep multi-sector expertise. At Edison Investment Research, our research is widely read by international investors, advisers and stakeholders. Edison Advisors leverages our core research platform to provide differentiated services including investor relations and strategic consulting. Edison is authorised and regulated by the [Financial Conduct Authority](#). Edison Investment Research (NZ) Limited (Edison NZ) is the New Zealand subsidiary of Edison. Edison NZ is registered on the New Zealand Financial Service Providers Register (FSP number 247505) and is registered to provide wholesale and/or generic financial adviser services only. Edison Investment Research Inc (Edison US) is the US subsidiary of Edison and is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Edison Investment Research Limited (Edison Aus) [46085869] is the Australian subsidiary of Edison and is not regulated by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. Edison Germany is a branch entity of Edison Investment Research Limited [4794244]. www.edisongroup.com

DISCLAIMER

Copyright 2017 Edison Investment Research Limited. All rights reserved. This report has been commissioned by PPHE Hotel Group and prepared and issued by Edison for publication globally. All information used in the publication of this report has been compiled from publicly available sources that are believed to be reliable, however we do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this report. Opinions contained in this report represent those of the research department of Edison at the time of publication. The securities described in the Investment Research may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain categories of investors. This research is issued in Australia by Edison Aus and any access to it, is intended only for "wholesale clients" within the meaning of the Australian Corporations Act. The Investment Research is distributed in the United States by Edison US to major US institutional investors only. Edison US is registered as an investment adviser with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Edison US relies upon the "publishers' exclusion" from the definition of investment adviser under Section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and corresponding state securities laws. As such, Edison does not offer or provide personalised advice. We publish information about companies in which we believe our readers may be interested and this information reflects our sincere opinions. The information that we provide or that is derived from our website is not intended to be, and should not be construed in any manner whatsoever as, personalised advice. Also, our website and the information provided by us should not be construed by any subscriber or prospective subscriber as Edison's solicitation to effect, or attempt to effect, any transaction in a security. The research in this document is intended for New Zealand resident professional financial advisers or brokers (for use in their roles as financial advisers or brokers) and habitual investors who are "wholesale clients" for the purpose of the Financial Advisers Act 2008 (FAA) (as described in sections 5(c) (1)(a), (b) and (c) of the FAA). This is not a solicitation or inducement to buy, sell, subscribe, or underwrite any securities mentioned or in the topic of this document. This document is provided for information purposes only and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation for investment in any securities mentioned or in the topic of this document. A marketing communication under FCA Rules, this document has not been prepared in accordance with the legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. Edison has a restrictive policy relating to personal dealing. Edison Group does not conduct any investment business and, accordingly, does not itself hold any positions in the securities mentioned in this report. However, the respective directors, officers, employees and contractors of Edison may have a position in any or related securities mentioned in this report. Edison or its affiliates may perform services or solicit business from any of the companies mentioned in this report. The value of securities mentioned in this report can fall as well as rise and are subject to large and sudden swings. In addition it may be difficult or not possible to buy, sell or obtain accurate information about the value of securities mentioned in this report. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Forward-looking information or statements in this report contain information that is based on assumptions, forecasts of future results, estimates of amounts not yet determinable, and therefore involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of their subject matter to be materially different from current expectations. For the purpose of the FAA, the content of this report is of a general nature, is intended as a source of general information only and is not intended to constitute a recommendation or opinion in relation to acquiring or disposing (including refraining from acquiring or disposing) of securities. The distribution of this document is not a "personalised service" and, to the extent that it contains any financial advice, is intended only as a "class service" provided by Edison within the meaning of the FAA (ie without taking into account the particular financial situation or goals of any person). As such, it should not be relied upon in making an investment decision. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Edison, its affiliates and contractors, and their respective directors, officers and employees will not be liable for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance being placed on any of the information contained in this report and do not guarantee the returns on investments in the products discussed in this publication. FTSE International Limited ("FTSE") © FTSE 2017. "FTSE®" is a trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTSE International Limited under license. All rights in the FTSE indices and/or FTSE ratings vest in FTSE and/or its licensors. Neither FTSE nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the FTSE indices and/or FTSE ratings or underlying data. No further distribution of FTSE data is permitted without FTSE's express written consent.