

LEMON TREE HOTEL

RESULT UPDATE

KEY DATA

Rating	BUY
Sector relative	Outperformer
Price (INR)	146
12 month price target (INR)	168
52 Week High/Low	162/112
Market cap (INR bn/USD bn)	116/1.3
Free float (%)	0.0
Avg. daily value traded (INR mn)	701.2

SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

	Dec-24	Dec-22	Mar-23
Promoter	22.77%	22.77%	22.77%
FII	20.01%	21.75%	27.61%
DII	20.80%	18.91%	15.20%
Pledge	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

FINANCIALS

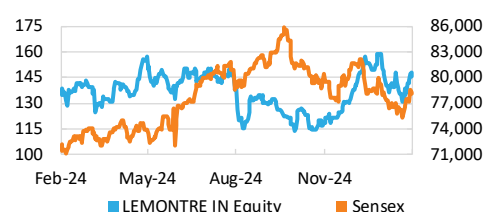
(INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue	10,711	12,631	14,609	16,361
EBITDA	5,232	6,145	7,111	8,630
Adjusted profit	1,486	1,782	2,238	3,368
Diluted EPS (INR)	1.9	2.3	2.8	4.3
EPS growth (%)	nm	55.5	50.6	88.9
RoAE (%)	16.3	16.6	16.8	19.8
P/E (x)	77.9	64.9	51.7	34.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	25.6	21.1	17.7	13.9
Dividend yield (%)	0	0	0	0

CHANGE IN ESTIMATES

	Revised estimates		% Revision	
Year to March	FY25E	FY26E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	12,631	14,609	0.0%	0.2%
EBITDA	6,145	7,111	2.4%	-3.5%
Adjusted profit	1,782	2,238	16.6%	-3.2%
Diluted EPS (INR)	2.3	2.8	16.6%	-3.2%

PRICE PERFORMANCE



Aurika's occupancy scale-up lifts results

Return of recently renovated rooms and a strong ramp-up in Aurika Skycity's occupancy helped Lemon Tree (LT) post a strong operating performance in Q3. Margins were higher YoY led by uptick in occupancy across categories. PAT and cash profit posted a significant jump. Growth has been secular in corporate and retail room rates.

Management has guided for increased renovation spends in FY26 to finish up the planned portfolio renovation. Building in the current run-rate, we are tweaking FY25E/26E revenue marginally and EBITDA by 2.4%/-3.5% and roll forward to FY27, yielding a revised TP of INR163 (earlier INR158); maintain 'BUY'.

Strong growth fuelled by Aurika Skycity; margins improve

Lemon Tree reported a 23% YoY surge in revenue to INR3.55bn driven by better occupancy rates and increased ARR. A 20% YoY increase in RevPAR was driven by both improved occupancy, which rose from 66% to 74%, and 6.8% gain in ARR. Occupancy ramp-up in Aurika MIAL drove the performance. RevPAR increase ex-Keys was 20.5% YoY. Total management fee grew +35% YoY to INR437mn while management fee from third-party owned rooms was INR184mn (23.5% growth YoY).

On the cost side, LT paused renovation spends this quarter and shall pick it up in H1FY26. EBITDA margin was up 346bp to 51.9%. Keys portfolio EBITDA margins improved 17pp to ~36% versus 19% in Q3FY24. PAT jumped 84% because of a lower tax rate, improved EBITDA, and lower interest costs. Cash profit stood at INR1,148mn in Q3FY25, which was up 65% from INR697mn in Q2FY25 and was up 50% compared with INR768mn in Q3FY24.

Mumbai/Delhi outperform; strong RevPAR growth

The Mumbai and Delhi markets witnessed the highest RevPAR improvement among other micro markets on a YoY basis. Growth in the Mumbai region was driven by the strong performance of Aurika MIAL with 70%-plus occupancies and INR9,000-plus ARR. Corporate room rates reported growth of 5% YoY, whereas growth in retail room rate was at 7%YoY. Across LT's key brands, Aurika Hotels and Resorts/Lemon Tree Premier/Lemon Tree/Red Fox/ Keys reported a YoY RevPAR growth of 66%/12%/9%/17%/15%. The company's pace of signing new properties has been healthy over the past quarter wherein LT signed 13 new management and franchise contracts, adding 766 rooms to the pipeline. In addition, the company operationalised one hotel during the quarter adding 38 rooms to the portfolio.

Financials

Year to March	Q3FY25	Q3FY24	% Change	Q2FY25	% Change
Net Revenue	3,552	2,887	23.0	2,844	24.9
EBITDA	1,842	1,397	31.8	1,307	40.9
Adjusted Profit	625	354	76.5	296	110.8
Diluted EPS (INR)	0.8	0.4	76.5	0.4	110.8

Financial Statements

Income Statement (INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Total operating income	10,711	12,631	14,609	16,361
Gross profit	10,083	11,873	13,732	15,379
Employee costs	1,878	2,190	2,377	2,557
Other expenses	2,973	3,539	4,244	4,193
EBITDA	5,232	6,145	7,111	8,630
Depreciation	1,121	1,408	1,513	1,545
Less: Interest expense	2,016	2,037	1,910	1,323
Add: Other income	56	60	60	60
Profit before tax	2,158	2,760	3,749	5,821
Prov for tax	341	607	825	1,281
Less: Other adj	0	0	0	0
Reported profit	1,486	1,782	2,238	3,368
Less: Excp.item (net)	0	0	0	0
Adjusted profit	1,486	1,782	2,238	3,368
Diluted shares o/s	792	792	792	792
Adjusted diluted EPS	1.9	2.3	2.8	4.3
DPS (INR)	0	0	0	0
Tax rate (%)	15.8	22.0	22.0	22.0

Important Ratios (%)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Room Count - Total	9,863.0	11,320.0	13,834.0	14,654.0
Gross ARR (INR)	6,085.9	6,572.8	7,098.6	7,666.5
Occupancy (%)	70.6	75.0	75.0	75.0
EBITDA margin (%)	48.8	48.7	48.7	52.7
Net profit margin (%)	13.9	14.1	15.3	20.6
Revenue growth (% YoY)	22.4	17.9	15.7	12.0
EBITDA growth (% YoY)	16.9	17.4	15.7	21.3
Adj. profit growth (%)	29.7	20.0	25.6	50.5

Assumptions (%)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
GDP (YoY %)	6.9	6.0	6.2	6.2
Repo rate (%)	6.5	6.0	5.0	5.0

Valuation Metrics

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Diluted P/E (x)	77.9	64.9	51.7	34.4
Price/BV (x)	12.0	9.8	7.8	6.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	25.6	21.1	17.7	13.9
Dividend yield (%)	0	0	0	0

Source: Company and Nuvama estimates

Balance Sheet (INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Share capital	7,918	7,918	7,918	7,918
Reserves	1,750	3,903	6,827	11,368
Shareholders funds	9,669	11,822	14,746	19,286
Minority interest	5,795	5,369	5,562	6,836
Borrowings	18,891	19,395	13,395	9,395
Trade payables	859	964	1,115	1,249
Other liabs & prov	661	2,374	2,516	2,627
Total liabilities	40,329	44,378	41,789	43,847
Net block	31,137	30,291	29,443	28,719
Intangible assets	1,357	1,356	1,356	1,356
Capital WIP	248	248	248	248
Total fixed assets	32,742	31,895	31,047	30,323
Non current inv	70	70	70	70
Cash/cash equivalent	537	4,834	2,551	4,789
Sundry debtors	715	1,038	1,201	1,345
Loans & advances	0	0	0	0
Other assets	1,158	1,182	1,269	1,343
Total assets	40,329	44,378	41,789	43,847

Free Cash Flow (INR mn)

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Reported profit	1,486	1,782	2,238	3,368
Add: Depreciation	1,121	1,408	1,513	1,545
Interest (net of tax)	1,697	1,589	1,489	1,032
Others	0	0	0	0
Less: Changes in WC	(381)	1,472	43	26
Operating cash flow	4,265	6,859	6,109	7,252
Less: Capex	(4,409)	(561)	(665)	(822)
Free cash flow	(144)	6,299	5,444	6,430

Key Ratios

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
RoE (%)	16.3	16.6	16.8	19.8
RoCE (%)	12.6	13.5	16.1	20.6
Inventory days	64	55	59	53
Receivable days	17	23	24	27
Payable days	420	393	411	411
Working cap (% sales)	0.5	(11.3)	(10.0)	(9.1)
Gross debt/equity (x)	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.4
Net debt/equity (x)	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.2
Interest coverage (x)	2.0	2.3	2.9	5.4

Valuation Drivers

Year to March	FY24A	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
EPS growth (%)	nm	55.5	50.6	88.9
RoE (%)	16.3	16.6	16.8	19.8
EBITDA growth (%)	16.9	17.4	15.7	21.3
Payout ratio (%)	0	0	0	0

Q3FY25 conference call highlights

Q3FY25

- LT received a Letter of Award from the Directorate of Tourism, Government of Meghalaya, for the redevelopment, operation, and maintenance of the existing Orchid Hotel, Shillong on a Public Private Partnership basis.
- The company has the ability to sustain growth of increasing portfolio
- Aurika SkyCity Mumbai was not fully stabilized in Q3 and has seen better Q4, The company aspires for this hotel to be in ARR of INR11,500-plus and occupancy of 85% for this hotel
- The company is close to signing a long-term lease for Aurika Varanasi
- Concern in signed properties where owners have been unable to fund the hotel construction
- Renovation is yielding positive results and has shown increased ARR and occupancy
- Excluding the impact of Lemon Tree's development fee charges to Fleur Hotels, which inflated last year's PAT, the standalone entity's current year performance has improved.
- The company has paid back INR1.5bn of debt and has cash of INR400mn

Fleur

- Listing to happen in the next one–two years and LT will go debt free instantly after that happens
- It will have EBITDA of USD100mn when it lists
- Fleur to be an independent entity, which can deal with companies other than Lemon Tree
- All assets owned to be under Fleur
- Within three–four months, clarity on Fleur listing is expected
- Lemon Tree investors expected to gain significantly on Fleur listing

Outlook

- Debt to EBITDA will be under 1.7x by next year
- LT to build a network presence everywhere and place itself as a mid-market brand
- The company is focusing on increasing RevPAR
- Increased renovation expenses to continue till FY26 and a bit of it in FY27 post which renovation expenses will close at 1.5% to 1.7% of revenue on an ongoing basis.
- LT to position itself as the largest mid-market hotel brand
- LT anticipates a post-renovation EBITDA of INR 600mn for the Keys portfolio, yielding an EBITDA of INR 0.65mn per room once stabilized

- 4500 rooms need renovation, of which 900 rooms are of Keys, 70% of the more significant hotels have been renovated and by end of FY25, 2,600 rooms will be renovated including all rooms of significant hotels
- With a target of reaching 20,000 rooms within the next 12-15 months, Lemon Tree Hotels anticipates exceeding expectations.
- EBITDA margins post renovation to be at 60%
- Temporary disruption can be experienced in Aurika Mumbai on account of Navi Mumbai Airport opening
- Rate of growth of RevPAR to be in mid-teens
- Management fee income to double in next 2 years
- Revenue growth is expected to drive operating leverage, especially within the wage bill line item.

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Exhibit 1: Quarterly snapshot

Particulars (Rs. mn)	Q3FY25	Q3FY24	YoY (%)	Q2FY25	QoQ (%)	9MFY25	9MFY24	Q3FY25
Net Sales	3,552	2,887	23	2,844	25	9,076	7,401	3,552
Operating Expenses:								
Power Oil and Fuel	215	199	8	228	(6)	676	583	215
Cost of food and beverages consumed	196	166	18	172	14	532	423	196
Other Expenses	734	634	16	594	24	1,953	1,536	734
Rent	-	-		-		-	-	-
Employee Cost	564	490	15	543	4	1,614	1,379	564
Total Expenditure	1,710	1,490	15	1,536	11	4,776	3,920	1,710
EBITDA	1,842	1,397	32	1,307	41	4,300	3,481	1,842
Other Income	6.2	22	(71)	4.7	31	15	55	6.2
Depreciation	351	333	5	348	1	1,044	787	351
EBIT	1,498	1,086	38	964	55	3,270	2,748	1,498
Interest	503	534	(6)	513	(2)	1,534	1,489	503
PBT before exceptional item	994	552	80	451	120	1,736	1,259	994
Exceptional Item	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PBT after exceptional item	994	552	80	451	120	1,736	1,259	994
Total tax	197	118	67	102	92	390	291	197
PAT	798	434	84	349	129	1,346	969	798
Share of profit from associates	1	3	(75)	2	(43)	4	9	1
Minority Interest	174	84	107	54	221	231	162	174
Net Income	625	354	77	296	111	1,119	815	625
Margins(%)			bps		bps			
EBITDA margin	51.9%	48.4%	346	46.0%	589	47.4%	47.0%	51.9%
PBT margin	28.0%	19.1%	887	15.9%	1,213	19.1%	17.0%	28.0%
Tax rate	19.8%	21.3%	(151)	22.7%	(290)	22.4%	23.1%	19.8%
NPM (after MI and share of associates)	17.6%	12.3%	533	10.4%	717	12.3%	11.0%	17.6%
EPS	0.79	0.45		0.37		1.41	1.03	0.79
Shares Outstanding	792	792		792		792	792	792

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

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Exhibit 2: Keys portfolio snapshot (Quarterly)

Keys (INR mn)	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24
Inventory	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936	936
ARR	2,053	2,331	2,374	3,211	3,355	3,512	3,264	3,434	3,524	3,585	3,637	3,637	3,677	3,733
Occupancy	30%	38%	32%	56%	53%	51%	56%	57%	59%	53%	56%	56%	56%	59%
RevPAR	611	891	759	1,784	1,771	1,778	1,815	1,965	2,085	1,907	2,018	1,975	2,071	2,191
	-	-55%	-47%	400%	273%	-10%	26%	10%	18%	7%	11%	1%	-1%	15%
Revenue from Operations	71	102	80	171	176	179	182	194	203	196	215	205	210	224
EBITDA Margin (%)	19%	20%	10%	22%	32%	16%	40%	23%	27%	19%	26%	19%	30%	36%
EBITDA w/o Other Income	9	18	(16)	36	54	24	69	43	54	34	38	39	62	79
EBITDA margin before Other Income (%)	12%	18%	-20%	21%	31%	13%	38%	22%	27%	17%	18%	19%	30%	35%
PBT	(55)	(37)	(32)	(23)	(6)	(29)	19	(28)	(13)	(28)	(11)	(29)	(8)	8

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

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Exhibit 3: Quarterly snapshot by region (Consolidated)

Occupancy	Q3FY22	Q4FY22	Q1FY23	Q2FY23	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25
Delhi	69%	64%	73%	79%	81%	88%	74%	76%	81%	87%	75%	78%	84%
Gurgaon	51%	36%	57%	65%	68%	77%	68%	74%	70%	72%	76%	80%	74%
Hyderabad	66%	45%	73%	81%	74%	77%	84%	85%	78%	79%	73%	76%	80%
Bengaluru	41%	39%	76%	68%	64%	63%	71%	74%	55%	58%	65%	68%	65%
Mumbai	76%	69%	74%	77%	79%	84%	86%	87%	53%	73%	59%	62%	76%
Pune	0%	0%	71%	69%	69%	72%	72%	71%	65%	75%	76%	74%	73%
ROI	0%	0%	53%	52%	64%	70%	60%	60%	68%	69%	61%	60%	72%
Combined	58%	46%	65%	66%	68%	74%	70%	72%	66%	72%	67%	68%	74%
ARR													
Delhi	3,902	3,912	4,895	4,941	6,090	6,352	5,744	5,757	6,803	7,055	5,971	6,318	7,949
Gurgaon	3,812	4,186	4,758	4,654	5,286	5,412	5,078	4,865	5,832	5,985	5,226	5,197	6,146
Hyderabad	3,467	4,125	5,300	5,390	6,245	6,459	5,627	5,775	6,678	7,156	6,038	6,483	7,298
Bengaluru	3,086	3,399	4,352	4,661	5,205	5,050	4,878	4,910	5,016	5,218	4,890	4,897	5,023
Mumbai	4,120	4,762	7,114	7,101	8,473	9,064	7,721	7,786	8,844	9,077	8,405	8,642	9,052
Pune	-	-	4,501	4,703	4,978	4,857	4,920	4,997	5,315	5,231	5,252	5,497	5,762
ROI	-	-	4,431	4,374	5,317	5,341	4,510	4,550	5,822	5,813	4,614	4,780	5,862
Combined	3,901	4,093	4,822	4,917	5,738	5,824	5,237	5,268	6,333	6,605	5,686	5,902	6,763
RevPAR													
Delhi	2,692	2,504	3,549	3,928	4,941	5,559	4,251	4,377	5,520	6,144	4,257	4,903	6,660
Gurgaon	1,944	1,507	2,693	3,005	3,587	4,191	3,448	3,582	4,097	4,335	3,997	4,137	4,561
Hyderabad	2,288	1,856	3,885	4,361	4,644	5,001	4,749	4,929	5,195	5,665	4,428	4,957	5,870
Bengaluru	1,265	1,326	3,299	3,178	2,805	3,178	3,444	3,640	2,738	3,029	3,187	3,340	3,263
Mumbai	3,131	3,286	5,293	5,438	6,683	7,657	6,656	6,762	4,674	6,616	4,937	5,353	6,916
Pune	-	-	3,209	3,225	3,436	3,494	3,518	3,565	3,469	3,911	3,999	4,056	4,186
ROI	-	-	2,348	2,282	3,419	3,718	2,724	2,723	3,933	4,026	2,799	2,891	4,220
Combined	-	-	3,139	3,257	3,877	4,287	3,676	3,775	4,176	4,754	3,788	4,035	5,018

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

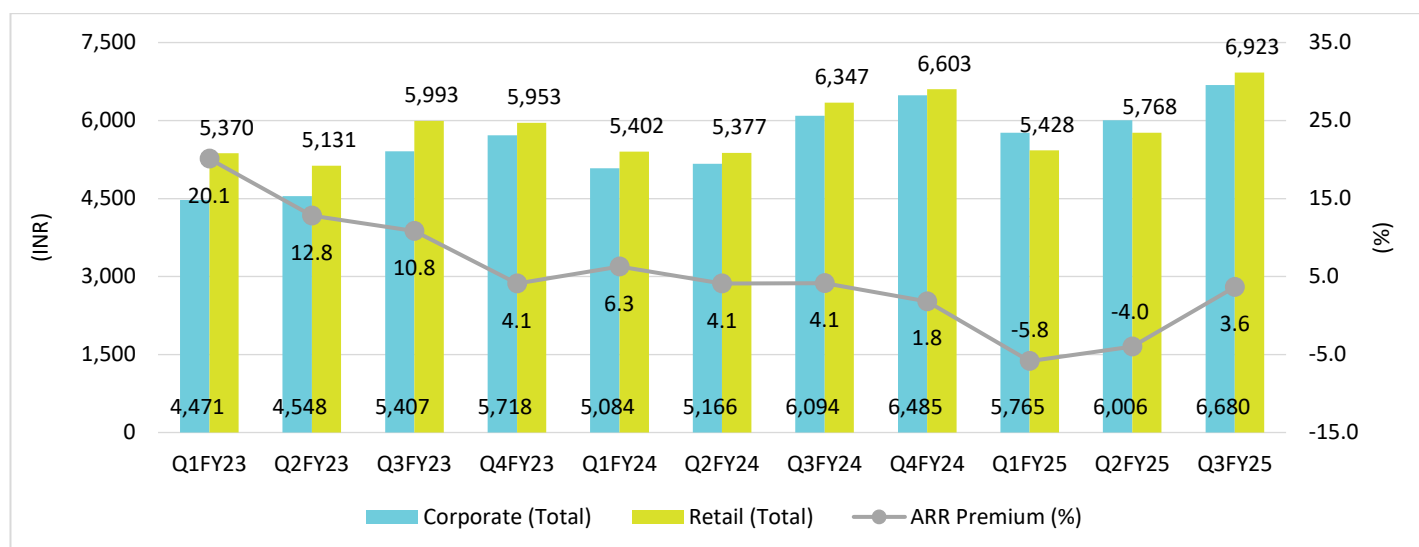
Exhibit 4: ARR by market segment

	Q3FY23	Q4FY23	Q1FY24	Q2FY24	Q3FY24	Q4FY24	Q1FY25	Q2FY25	Q3FY25	YoY
Corporate	5,315	5,517	4,909	4,995	5,855	6,414	5,497	5,755	6,549	12%
Airline	5,611	5,824	5,922	6,017	6,642	6,603	6,910	6,637	6,923	4%
Travel Trade	5,611	6,471	5,182	5,265	6,199	6,603	5,654	6,882	6,923	12%
OTA	5,972	6,200	5,339	5,420	6,406	6,603	5,364	5,720	6,923	8%
Web	5,611	5,824	5,182	5,265	6,199	6,603	5,654	5,899	6,923	12%
Others FITs	6,172	5,295	5,829	5,265	6,199	6,603	5,654	5,899	6,923	12%
Corporate (Total)	5,407	5,718	5,084	5,166	6,094	6,485	5,765	6,006	6,680	10%
Retail (Total)	5,993	5,953	5,402	5,377	6,347	6,603	5,428	5,768	6,923	9%

Source: Nuvama Research

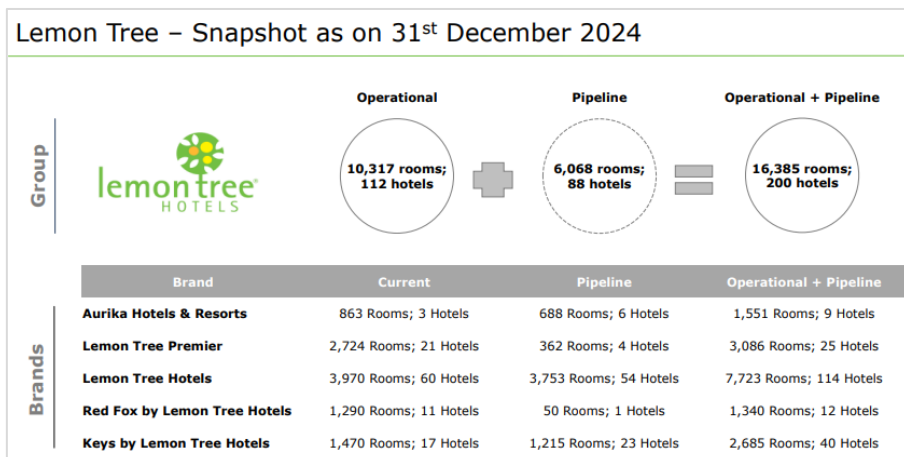
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Exhibit 5: Retail ARR premium over corporate ARR



Source: Nuvama Research

Exhibit 6: Lemon Tree - Operational and pipeline supply



Source: Company

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Exhibit 7: SotP valuation

	Labels	Criteria	Value (Rs mn)	Multiplier	FY27 Valuation
EV (Standalone)	A	EBITDA (FY27)	1,491	18	26,847
EV (Subs)	B	EBITDA (FY27)	3,574	18	64,333
EV (Management Contract)	C	EBITDA (FY27)	2,038	22	44,840
EV (Total)	D=A+B+C				1,36,020
Net Debt	E				2,939
CWIP	F				-
Valuation of Equity (Rs. mn)	G=D-E+F				1,33,080
Number of Shares Outstanding (mn)	H				792
Fair Value	I=G/H				168
CMP	J				146
Upside	K=I/J-1				15%

Source: Company, Nuvama Research

Company Description

Lemon Tree was established in 2002 under the leadership of Mr. Patanjali Keswani and commenced operations by opening a 49 room hotel in Gurugram in 2004. The company has positioned itself as a market leader in India's mid-priced hotel sector. With ~10,125 rooms in 107 hotels, Lemon Tree is India's largest hotel chain in the mid-priced hotel sector and the third largest overall (on the basis of controlling interest in owned and leased rooms). The company operates in the mid-priced hotel sector comprising upper-midscale, midscale and economy hotel segments. It has created three brands to cater to the midscale segment—Lemon Tree Premier, Lemon Tree Hotels and Red Fox.

Investment Theme

Best-in-class performance parameters

Lemon Tree's clear location and brand identification criteria along with better distribution & branding and higher base of corporates underpin its industry-leading occupancy. Thus, operating at close to peak occupancy, while efficiently managing costs, helped the company drive significant operating leverage, which along with ARR hikes powered up EBITDA margin about 1,800bps over FY14–19 to among the highest in the industry. The company's development costs (~15%) and time (~10%) are also lower than peers owing to its background in developing hotels.

One of the strongest pipelines imparts visibility

Presence in the less-penetrated mid-scale category along with right brands and positioning led to Lemon Tree's emergence as the leader in the mid-priced segment. Besides, regular engagement of external equity investors (APG) helped it monetise completed projects to fund further growth, thereby creating regular inflows. After clocking a 19% CAGR in room inventory over FY13–19, Lemon Tree continues to have one of the strongest room addition pipelines, imparting it significant growth visibility.

Key Risks

Adverse industry cycle could impact performance: The current supply situation in the industry remains stable with ARR hikes expected to sustain. However, any increase in supply, could impact the industry's as well Lemon Tree's operating performance.

Lower-than-expected scale up of or delay in MIAL airport property: Lemon Tree's new 669 room property at MIAL is its biggest and among the single largest properties in India. This property alone is expected to contribute ~13% to the company's room revenue from FY22E and a much higher share to its EBITDA.

Competition from emerging brands in mid-scale segment: While the mid-scale segment—Lemon Tree's key segment—remains the fastest growing, emerging competition from brands like Oyo Townhouse, Treebo and Fab Hotels could intensify the competition, impacting incremental management contract growth and also rate hikes in the segment.

Additional Data

Management

CEO	Patanjali Keswani
CFO	Kapil Sharma
COO	
Other	
Auditor	Deloitte Haskins & Sells

Holdings – Top 10*

% Holding		% Holding	
SBI Funds manag	7.18	L&T MF	1.85
Franklin Resour	6.88	Nippon Life Ind	1.72
Nomura Holdings	3.74	Blackrock	1.13
Vanguard Group	3.03	Vanguard Intern	1.07
Nomura India	2.35	Norges Bank	0.86

*Latest public data

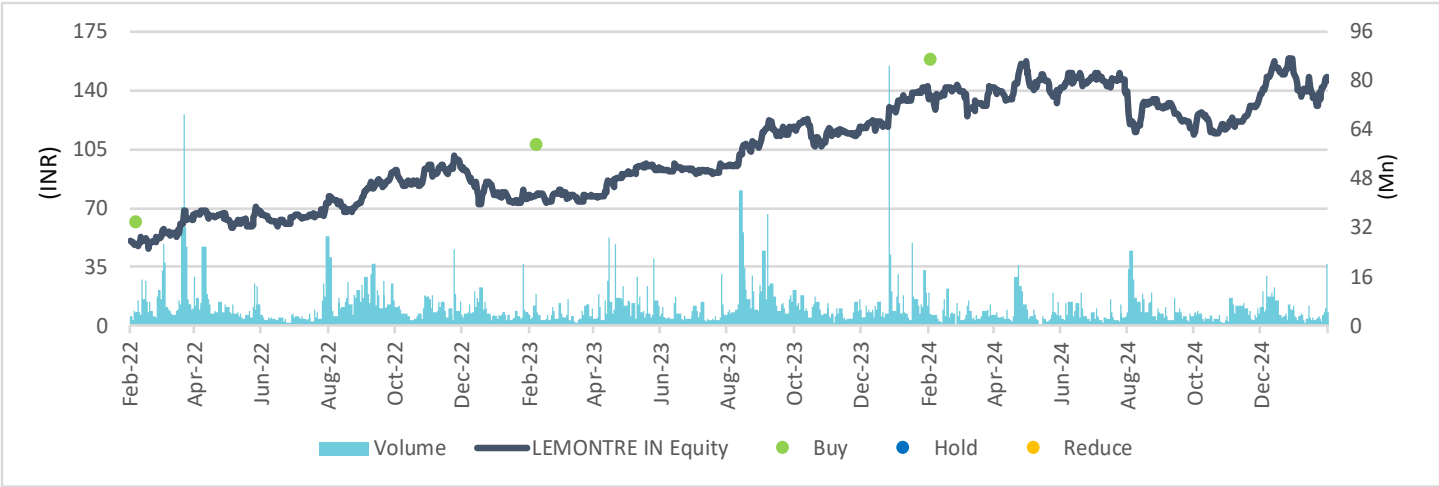
Recent Company Research

Date	Title	Price	Reco
18-Nov-24	Lemon Tree Hotel (LEMONTRE IN, INR 122, ; Result Update	122	Buy
09-Aug-24	Renovations and Aurika hurt margins; Result Update	120	Buy
03-Jun-24	Performance in line; stable showing; Result Update	137	Buy

Recent Sector Research

Date	Name of Co./Sector	Title
17-Jan-25	INDIAN HOTELS CO	Mid-teen growth with double-digit opex ; Result Update
05-Dec-24	Leisure & Hotels	Leisure & Hotels – Q2FY25 Results Review; Sector Update
21-Nov-24	INDIAN HOTELS CO	Takeaways from Capital Market Day—2024; Company Update

Rating and Daily Volume Interpretation



Source: Bloomberg, Nuvama research

Rating Rationale & Distribution: Nuvama Research

Rating	Expected absolute returns over 12 months	Rating Distribution
Buy	15%	225
Hold	<15% and >-5%	64
Reduce	<-5%	28

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