

Far East Hospitality Trust (FEHT SP) Riding the tailwinds

Robust 9M23 performance

FEHT's 3Q23 distributable income (DI) of SGD22.9m rose 19.3% QoQ and +51% YoY. 9M23 DI of SGD60.3m grew 36.7% YoY and was 80.5% of our fullyear forecast. Growth was underpinned by continued recovery of RevPAR for hotels and service residences (SRs), and distribution of divestment gains. Cost of debt held steady, helped by a lower hedge ratio. We raise our FY23 DPU forecast by 6% by factoring in better performance but lower our DDM-based TP to SGD0.75 (-6%) due to a higher discount rate. Maintain BUY on distribution stability and the sector's growth outlook.

Lodging keeps growing

3Q23 gross revenue of SGD30.2m grew 12.4% QoQ and 42.5% YoY. NPI grew 11.1% QoQ and 42.4% YoY. Growth was underpinned by hotels and SRs, while contribution from commercial premises dipped sequentially. 3Q23 revenue for hotels grew 15.9% QoQ and 56.3% YoY. Meanwhile, SRs saw 9.6% QoQ and 14.5% YoY revenue growth. On a 9M23 basis, gross revenue and NPI for the group rose 42.6% and 32.2% YoY respectively. The cost of debt was flat sequentially but rose 120bps YoY. Notwithstanding that, the growth in NPI and distribution of divestment gains led to 19.3% QoQ and 51% YoY growth in DI for 3Q23. On a 9M23 basis, DI grew 36.7%.

Operating metrics surprise on upside, divestment gains to offset potentially higher cost of debt

Hotel RevPAR for 3Q23 rose 12.8% QoQ and 42.9% YoY. This was primarily led by growth in occupancy (+8.4% QoQ). Room rates grew QoQ, albeit at a slower pace of 2.4%. RevPAR for SRs for 3Q23 rose 6.7% QoQ and 12.2% YoY. Unlike hotels, sequential growth was led by room rates. Occupancy was relatively flat while room rates rose 6.3% QoQ. Gearing is one of the lowest at 32.2%. Cost of debt was unchanged at 3.2%, helped by a lower hedge ratio of 40.6% (2Q23 47.2%, 2Q22 60.9%). FEHT is likely to distribute additional divestment gains from Central Square to offset potentially higher cost of debt. Management indicated a slower growth outlook for room rates and RevPAR growth will depend on occupancy levels. Year-end valuations are likely to remain sticky. FEHT will look to acquire overseas assets such as in Japan, which offer a healthy spread to local funding cost.

Trimming TP, but maintain BUY

We raise our FY23 DPU forecast by 6% but lower our TP to SGD0.75 due to a higher discount rate. We reiterate BUY. The sector continues to recover, albeit at a slower pace, and FEHT offers a stable distribution profile and a lowly geared balance sheet.

FYE Dec (SGD m)	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Revenue	83	84	110	108	111
Net property income	75	77	102	99	102
Core net profit	41	50	71	68	68
Core EPU (cts)	2.1	2.5	3.6	3.4	3.4
Core EPU growth (%)	20.1	19.5	42.6	(5.2)	(0.2)
DPU (cts)	2.6	2.8	4.0	4.0	4.0
DPU growth (%)	9.0	7.8	39.5	0.2	1.0
P/NTA (x)	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
DPU yield (%)	4.5	4.6	7.0	7.0	7.0
ROAA (%)	1.6	1.9	2.7	2.5	2.5
Debt/Assets (x)	0.36	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.27
Consensus DPU	-	-	3.8	4.0	4.3
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	4.4	(1.4)	(5.6)

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BUY

Share Price SGD 0.57 SGD 0.75 (+35%) 12m Price Target **Previous Price Target** SGD 0.80

Company Description

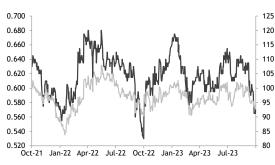
FEHT is the first and only Singapore-focused hotel and serviced residence hospitality trust listed on the SGX (portfolio 12 properties).

Statistics

52w high/low (SGD)	0.68/0.5/
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.6
Free float (%)	49.0
Issued shares (m)	2,000
Market capitalisation	SGD1.1B
	USD832M
Major shareholders:	

Najor shareholders:	
Golden Development Pte Ltd.	22.5%
F.E. Holdings Pte Ltd.	14.7%
Estate of Ng Teng Fong	6.7%

Price Performance



Far East Hosp. - (LHS, SGD) ——Far East Hosp. / Straits Times Index - (RHS, %)

	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	(10)	(12)	8
Relative to index (%)	(6)	(6)	4

Source: FactSet



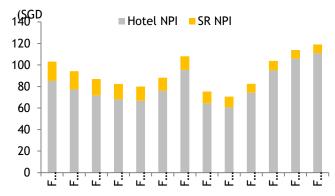
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Value Proposition

- Singapore-focused portfolio of SGD2.3b as of Dec 2021, comprising 12 properties with 2,775 hotel rooms and 368 serviced apartments.
- Backed by sponsor the Far East Organisation Pte Ltd group, Singapore's largest private property developer. Further entrenchment in Singapore after its Oasia Hotel Downtown acquisition in 1Q18 and completion of Sentosa JV hotels from 4O18.
- Sponsor has a pipeline of 1,767 rooms for acquisition potentially.

NPI breakdown (FY13-FY25E)



Source: Company

Price Drivers

Historical share price trend

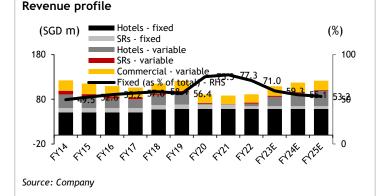


Source: Company, Maybank IBG Research

- 1. Apr-19: Opens two hotels in Sentosa the 606-room midtier Village hotel and 193-room upscale Outpost hotel.
- Jul-20: RevPARs/RevPAUs fell less than peers in 2Q20 due to demand from government agencies for isolation facilities and to house workers affected by border closures.
- 3. Dec-21: Announced divestment of Central Square for c.SGD313m (c.58% above book and c.71% premium to Aug 2012 purchase price) to deliver SGD112m in net gains.
- 4. Mar-23: Announced receipt of additional payment of SGD18m related to the divestment of Central Square.
- 5. Sep-23: Article in The Business Times stating FEHT eyeing maiden overseas acquisition and grow REIT market cap from SGD1.3b to SGD2.5b.

Financial Metrics

- DPU growth of 31.6%, 6.5% and 3.7% forecasted for FY23-25F.
- DPU growth driven by increase in RevPAR, which results in variable rents kicking in for hotels in FY23 and FY24. FY23 growth is also supported by SGD8m distribution of divestment gain from Central Square disposal. We forecast hotel RevPAR of SGD137 for 2023 and SGD153 by 2024. SR RevPAU is expected to stabilize at SGD200 in 2023 before falling to SGD180 for 2024.
- We expect all-in debt cost to rise from 2% to 3.4% by 2024.



Swing Factors

Upside

- Earlier-than-expected pick-up in corporate demand.
- Better-than-anticipated RevPAR and variable rents.
- Accretive acquisitions where cap rates exceed cost of funds, or divestments at low cap rates, which unlock asset values.

Downside

- Sizeable increases in hotel and serviced apartment room supply without corresponding growth in demand.
- Deterioration in global economy, resulting in decline in RevPARs.
- Sharper-than-expected rise in interest rates could increase cost of debt and affect earnings, with higher cost of capital lowering valuations.

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October 26, 2023

Far East Hospitality Trust





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Risk Rating & Score ¹	12.3(low)
Score Momentum ²	+2.6
Last Updated	22 Nov 2022
Controversy Score ³ (Updated: 22 Nov 2022)	

Business Model & Industry Issues

- FEHT draws on its available pool of funds to invest in hospitality and hospitality-related real estate, undertake AEIs, and redevelop properties to optimise value for its unitholders. It is susceptible to sustainability-focused investors with strong preference for investing in companies that meet specific ESG criteria, given its incessant need for additional capital.
- Its activities relating to permissible investments, leverage limits and annual reporting requirements are regulated by the MAS under Singapore's code on collective investment schemes. Independence, real estate and capital markets experience on its board is high, with representation by members with international experience, even as it focusses in Singapore.
- Improved 2 places in 2021 to rank 2nd out of 43 companies in the Singapore Governance and Transparency Index (from 4th of 45 in 2020, 6th of 46 in 2019); ranked 9th of 45 in the Governance Index for Trusts, also receiving 5th highest gov score.
- Introduced environmental action targets in 2020, to reduce energy consumption by 2% pa, and to ensure all new developments are designed to minimally qualify for the BCA Green Mark Gold status. We see room for an expansion of its reporting scope to disclose metrics at the asset-level and also to add targets to reduce water and carbon emissions.

Material E issues

- Four of its nine hotels achieved the BCA Green Mark certification in 2020 - Oasia Hotel Downtown, Village Hotel Changi, Rendezvous Hotel (Gold) and Village Hotel Albert Court (Platinum), while Village Hotel Bugis was certified as Gold-Plus from Nov 2021.
- Refinanced a SGD125m term loan in Mar 2021 with a first (5-year) sustainability-linked facility.
- Engaged KPMG as external consultant in FY21 to develop a GHG carbon inventory template for monitoring emissions, while adding disclosure of Scope 1 and 2 GHG.
- On track for the BCA certification of its new buildings in Singapore, in particular the Sentosa hotels (Village, The Outpost, and The Barracks), that are designed to minimally qualify for the BCA Green Mark Gold certification.

Material S issues

- Gender diversity is high, with females representing five of its eight permanent employees in FY21 (from 6 of 9 in FY20), 20% at the management level (similar to FY20), and half of the board's members.
- Achieved a 100% participation rate for the annual Colleague Engagement Survey in FY21 (from 88% in FY20), which seeks to assess its employees' level of engagement and to identify their strengths and areas for improvement.
- Have supported charities and not-for-profit organisations for various causes, and also participated in some of its sponsor's community activities; has committed an annual budget from FY21 to supplement efforts.
- Stepped up tenant engagement and assistance to pandemic-affected businesses with temporary revision of rental structure or rental rebates.

Key G metrics and issues

- Stapled group managed externally by wholly-owned subsidiaries of its sponsor Far East Orchard, which supports its growth via a pipeline of property assets from its development activities, and access to capital markets.
- Board independence is high it does not comprise any members with executive functions, and 4 of its 6 members are independent.
- Revised down base fee from 0.3% to 0.28% pa of deposited property, and performance fee to the lower of 4.0% of NPI or 4.0% of distributable income (after base fee, trust expenses and finance costs) in FY20 to better align its management fees to peers. As such, REIT management fees were lower by 12.3% YoY in FY21.
- Its CEO's salary is disclosed separately, while the cumulative remuneration of its key management team including the CEO, represented <3.5% of distributable income since this was first reported in FY15.
- Payout ratio for taxable income has been consistently maintained at above the minimum 90% threshold for tax transparency.
- Its 30% interest in a JV with its sponsor, an 839-room hotel development in Sentosa was at an estimated investment cost of SGD522k per key in Sep 2014, versus comparable market transactions of SGD1-1.3m per key when the property opened in 2019.
- Receives minimum gross revenue that is supported by the fixed rent component of the master leases, which is highest amongst its peers at an estimated 77% of its rental revenue in FY20, which provides downside support to DPUs
- Divested Central Square for a SGD112m gain, with the sales proceeds reducing borrowings, after securing an outline planning permission from the URA for a 78% increase in maximum GFA and evaluating options for the asset.
- Was added as a constituent of the FTSE EPRA Nareit Global Real Estate Index Series since Sep 2021.

<u>Raisk Rating & Score</u> - derived by Sustainalytics and assesses the company's exposure to unmanaged ESG risks. Scores range between 0 - 50 in order of increasing severity with low/high scores & ratings representing negligible/significant risk to the company's enterprise value, respectively, from ESG-driven financial impacts. <u>2Score Momentum</u> - indicates changes to the company's score since the last update - a <u>negative</u> integer indicates a deterioration. <u>3Controversy Score</u> - reported periodically by Sustainalytics in the event of material ESG-related incident(s), with the impact severity scores of these events ranging from Category 0-5 (0 - no reports; 1 - negligible risks; ...; 5 - poses serious risks & indicative of potential structural deficiencies at the company).

October 26, 2023

1. Results highlights

Fig 1: 3Q23 results highlights

SGDm	3Q22	2Q23	3Q23	% QoQ	% YoY	9M22	9M23	% YoY
Hotels	14.9	20.1	23.3	15.9	56.3	43.4	61.9	42.6
Serviced Residences	2.6	2.7	2.9	9.6	14.5	7.8	8.3	6.6
Commercial premises	3.7	4.1	3.9	-2.7	6.5	11.0	12.0	9.5
Gross revenue	21.2	26.9	30.2	12.4	42.5	62.2	82.2	32.2
Property expenses	-1.4	-1.5	-2.1					
Net property income	19.7	25.3	28.1	11.1	42.4	57.2	77.1	34.8
Income available for distribution	15.1	19.2	22.9	19.3	51.0	44.1	60.3	36.7
Hotels	3Q22	1H23	3Q23	QoQ	YoY	9MFY22	9MFY23	% YoY
Occupancy	76.1%	78.3%	86.7%	8.4%	10.6%	70.8%	81.2%	10.4%
ADR, SGD	137	169	173	2.4	26.3	113	171	51.4
Hotels - RevPAR, SGD	105	133	150	12.8	42.9	80	139	73.4
Serviced Residences (SRs)	3Q22	1H23	3Q23	QoQ	YoY	9MFY22	9MFY23	% YoY
Occupancy	90.4%	88.3%	88.7%	0.4%	-1.7%	89.0%	88.4%	-0.6%
ADR, SGD	235	253	269	6.3	14.5	215	259	20.5
SR - RevPAR, SGD	213	224	239	6.7	12.2	191	229	19.9
Gearing	33.5%	32.0%	32.2%					
Cost of debt	2.0%	3.2%	3.2%					
Proportion of fixed rate	60.9%	47.2%	40.6%					

Source: Maybank IBG Research, Company Data

2. Forecast changes

Fig 2: Changes in our FY23-24 forecasts

	FY23E	FY24E	FY23E	FY24E	FY23	FY24
SGDm	New	New	Old	Old	% chg	% chg
Revenue	110.3	107.5	100.3	107.5	10%	0%
NPI	101.6	98.6	91.6	98.6	11%	0%
Mgt and trust fees	(10.3)	(10.3)	(10.0)	(10.3)	3%	0%
Borrowing costs	(25.8)	(31.1)	(24.3)	(25.9)	6%	20%
Distributable income	79.4	80.1	74.9	80.3	6%	0%
DPU, cents	3.97	3.98	3.74	3.99	6%	0%

Source: Maybank IBG Research, Company Data

3. Valuation

We value FEHT using a 3-stage dividend discount model with a risk-free rate of 3.3% and COE of 7.2%. This is higher than our prior inputs of 2.8% and 6.6%, respectively. We raise our FY23 DPU estimate by 6% after factoring in the stronger-than-expected revenue and NPI trend. For FY24, we raise our cost of debt assumption, leading to SGD6m, or 20% increase in funding cost from our prior estimate. However, this is offset by factoring in higher distribution of divestment gains. All in, we maintain BUY but lower our target price to SGD0.75 from SGD0.80.

4. Risks

Risks include: 1) Chinese demand is slower than expected; 2) decline in residential rents spills over to serviced residences; 3) higher-than-expected interest rates; 4) new supply from rivals; and 5) dilutive transactions.

FYE 31 Dec	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Key Metrics					
Price/DPU(x)	22.4	21.8	14.4	14.3	14.2
P/BV (x)	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
P/NTA (x)	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
DPU yield (%)	4.5	4.6	7.0	7.0	7.0
FCF yield (%)	6.0	5.3	7.9	8.1	8.2
INCOME STATEMENT (SCD)					
INCOME STATEMENT (SGD m)	02.2	02.4	440.2	407.5	444.0
Revenue	83.2	83.6	110.3	107.5	111.2
Net property income	75.2	77.3	101.6	98.6	102.1
Management and trustee fees	(9.8)	(9.7)	(10.3)	(10.3)	(10.5)
Net financing costs	(19.9)	(18.4)	(25.8)	(31.1)	(33.3)
Associates & JV	(4.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Exceptionals	78.2	102.2	102.2	25.0	25.2
Other pretax income/expenses	0.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Pretax profit	119.5	151.9	168.3	82.8	84.2
Income tax	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Minorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Discontinued operations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total return avail to unitholders	119.5	151.8	168.3	82.8	84.2
Core net profit	41.2	49.6	71.4	68.1	68.4
Distributable inc to unitholders	52.0	56.4	79.4	80.1	81.4
BALANCE SHEET (SGD m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	11.7	49.8	54.7	53.7	54.0
Accounts receivable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inverstment properties	2,336.5	2,446.8	2,495.7	2,520.6	2,545.8
Intangible assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Investment in Associates & JVs	2.5	0.0	53.3	53.3	53.3
Other assets	314.2	58.6	58.6	58.6	58.6
Total assets	2,664.8	2,555.1	2,662.2	2,686.1	2,711.6
ST interest bearing debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Accounts payable	53.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
LT interest bearing debt	947.6	737.8	739.8	739.8	739.8
Other liabilities	15.7	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Total Liabilities	1,016.4	755.3	757.3	757.3	757.3
Shareholders Equity	1,648.4	1,799.8	1,904.9	1,928.8	1,954.3
Minority Interest	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
Total shareholder equity	1,648.4	1,799.8	1,904.9	1,928.8	1,954.3
Total liabilities and equity	2,664.8	2,555.1	2,662.2	2,686.1	2,711.6
CASH FLOW (SGD m)					
Cash flow from operations	69.3	71.9	95.6	97.5	100.1
Capex	0.0	(7.2)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)
Acquisitions & investments	46.0	262.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Disposal of FA & investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividend income from associates	(3.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other investing cash flow	0.0	0.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
CF from investing activities	43.0	255.5	(3.4)	(3.4)	(3.4)
Dividends paid	(48.8)	(60.8)	(63.5)	(64.1)	(65.2)
Interest expense	(21.2)	(18.5)	(25.8)	(31.1)	(33.3)
Change in debt	(41.5)	(210.0)	2.0	0.0	0.0
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other financial activities	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	0.0	0.0
CF from financing activities	(111.5)	(289.3)	(87.3)	(95.2)	(98.4)
Effect of exchange rate changes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
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FYE 31 Dec	FY21A	FY22A	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	(0.0)	0.4	31.9	(2.5)	3.4
Net property income growth	4.1	2.9	31.4	(3.0)	3.6
Core net profit growth	21.0	20.4	43.9	(4.6)	0.5
Distributable income growth	9.9	8.5	40.8	0.9	1.7
Profitability ratios (%)					
Net property income margin	90.3	92.5	92.1	91.7	91.8
Core net profit margin	49.5	59.4	64.7	63.3	61.5
Payout ratio	126.0	113.6	111.2	117.6	119.0
DuPont analysis					
Total return margin (%)	143.5	181.6	152.6	77.0	75.7
Gross revenue/Assets (x)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Assets/Equity (x)	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
ROAE (%)	na	na	na	na	na
ROAA (%)	1.6	1.9	2.7	2.5	2.5
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	2.6	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	56.8	38.2	36.0	35.6	35.1
Net interest cover (x)	3.3	3.6	3.5	2.8	2.7
Debt/EBITDA (x)	14.6	11.1	8.2	8.5	8.3
Capex/revenue (%)	0.0	8.7	4.5	4.6	4.5
Net debt/ (net cash)	935.9	688.0	685.2	686.1	685.9
Debt/Assets (x)	0.36	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.27

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research

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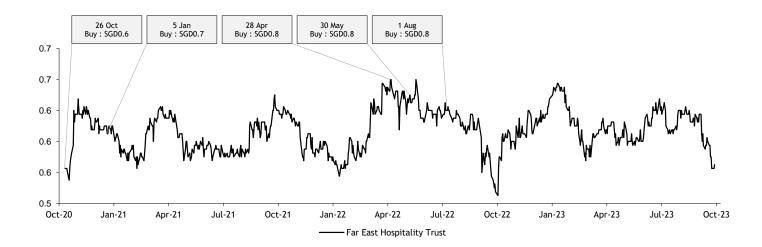
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