## R=VM^X

LEARNING FINTECH INSIGHTS

## Demystifying Pricing

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## Outline

- Consumer Trends
- What is Pricing?
- History of hotel pricing
- Overview of pricing
- Dynamic vs Static
- Qualified vs Unqualified
- Fenced vs unfenced
- Value seekers
- Questionable Loyalty
- Highly involved and connected
- Multiple distribution channels
- Online \& Offline engagement

- Lookers vs Bookers
- Information Gap
- Wide range of offers
- Expectation of uniformity
- Expectation of consistency
- Time / convenience consciousness



## Pricing

## $R=V M \wedge X$



## Consumer Trends

- Best Available Rate - General Public Pricing
- Price elasticity of demand
- Seasonal pricing
- Determining Price Points
- Pricing Process



## What is Pricing?

- Price is determined by what
- a buyer is willing to pay
- a seller is willing to accept
- the competition is allowing to be charged.
- Pricing or value based pricing is defined by offering your product at a fair and reasonable price that makes sense to the purchasing customer and the price of the product/ service is set according to value perceived by the customer.


## What is Pricing?

- Value is subjective.
- Value is a benefit but a benefit is not necessarily of value to all customers.
- Benefits have different values for customers and they do not assign value to the same benefits.


## $R=V M \wedge x$

## HISTORY OF HOTEL PRICING

## Hotel Pricing

## $R=V M \wedge x$

## THEN

$\square$ Static/Fixed Pricing
$\square$ Opaque Pricing - the rate conditions are not properly stated and the guest is not always sure if they are getting the Best Available Rate.

- Irrational pricing - prices across segments are not related. For example a room and breakfast promotion may be less than a room only rate.

Different Channels had different prices for the same booking condition
$\square$ Top down selling of rates - bargain with the guest

## Hotel Pricing

## $R=V M \wedge x$

Dynamic Pricing

Transparent Pricing - the Best Available Rate is offered across all channels for the same conditions.

Rational Pricing - prices across segments are related rationally based on duration, conditions, production and customer profile.
$\square$ Single Image Inventory - all channels have the same price for the same booking condition
$\square$ Price Integrity - Best Rate Guarantee.

## AN OVERVIEW OF PRICING

## An Overview of Pricing

- Dynamic vs Static Pricing
- Qualified vs Unqualified Rates
- Fenced vs Unfenced Rates


## An Overview of Pricing

## $R=V M \wedge X$

## Dynamic vs Static Pricing



Changes in demand result in changes in price


Prices stay fixed throughout

Prices differ based on demand -for example for different length of stays for a particular arrival date.

## An Overview of Pricing

## Qualified vs Unqualified Rates



The guest's profile need not meet any conditions to qualify for this rate. Eg BAR rates.

## An Overview of Pricing

## Fenced vs Unfenced Rates



## An Overview of Pricing



## Example of Pricing

## Best Available Rate

(BAR)

- Dynamic
- Unqualified
- Unfenced

Advance Purchase
Rate ( $\mathrm{x} \%$ off BAR)

- Dynamic
- Unqualified
- Fenced

Fixed Corporate Rate

- Static
- Qualified
- Unfenced

Corporate Rate at 15\% off BAR

- Dynamic
- Qualified
- Unfenced


## BAR or GENERAL PUBLIC PRICING

## PRICE ELASTICITY OF DEMAND

- Price Elasticity of Demand measures the relationship between changes in quantity demanded of a good to changes in its price.

Mathematically,
Elasticity of Demand = \% Change in Quantity Demanded

\% Change in Price

## Understanding Price Elasticity of Demand

## Price Elasticity of Demand

| Elasticity of Demand | Meaning | Change in Price vs <br> Change in Qty | Price Increase Effect on <br> Revenue |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | Perfectly Inelastic | $\Delta \mathrm{P}, \Delta \mathrm{Q}$ stays same | Revenue Rises |
| $0<\mathrm{Ed}<1$ | Relatively Inelastic | $\Delta \mathrm{P}>\Delta \mathrm{Q}$ | Revenue Rises |
| $\mathrm{Ed}=1$ | Unitary Elastic | $\Delta \mathrm{P}=\Delta \mathrm{Q}$ | No change |
| $1<\mathrm{Ed}<\infty$ | Relatively Elastic | $\Delta \mathrm{P}<\Delta \mathrm{Q}$ | Revenue Falls |
| $\mathrm{Ed}=\infty$ | Perfectly Elastic | $\Delta \mathrm{P}, \Delta \mathrm{Q}=0$ | Revenue falls to 0 |

- Factors that influence the price elasticity of demand are
- Substitutes
- Percentage of Income
- Necessity
- Time
- Breadth of Definition


## Understanding Price Elasticity of Demand

## $R=V M \wedge X$

## Price Elasticity of Demand

The more substitutes, the higher the elasticity, as people can easily switch from one good to another if a minor price change is made.

## Substitutes

The higher the percentage that the product's price is of the consumers income, the higher the elasticity, as people will be careful with purchasing the product because of its cost.

## Percentage of

Income

The more necessary a product is, the lower the elasticity, as people will buy it no matter the price, such as insulin for diabetic patients.

## Necessity

## Understanding Price Elasticity of Demand

## Price Elasticity of Demand

The longer a price change holds, the higher the elasticity. For example, if the price of blueberries doubles, you may buy them this time, but you might not again unless the price drops back down.

## Time

The broader the definition, the lower the elasticity. For example, Company X's fried dumplings will have a relatively high elasticity, where as food in general will have an extremely low elasticity.

## Breadth of Definition

## Calculate P Elasticity of Demand

- In reality, it is extremely difficult to accurately calculate the price elasticity of demand for a hotel. The closest hotels come to calculating price elasticity is to calculate the price resistance.


## Calculate P Elasticity of Demand

- Even though we do not have enough data to calculate the impact of the factors affecting price elasticity, it is extremely important to use them as guidelines for understanding our guest and study their buying behaviour.
- Price sensitivity is defined as the percentage of unconstrained demand that finds us expensive.
- Price sensitivity is used to understand the guests response to our pricing.


## METRIC 4 - PRICE SENSITIVITY

| Price Sensitivity | Hotel Situation | Comment |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| High | Empty | We are Over Priced. Lowering the <br> price will generate demand. |
| High | Full | Right Price. |
| Low | Empty | Lowering price will not generate <br> demand. Need to work with <br> marketing and sales to create new <br> demand |
| Low | Full | We have possibly underpriced <br> ourselves. |

## SEASONAL PRICING

## Seasonal Pricing

## THE NINE BAR LEVELS



## Show of Hands Question - 1

## SUMMARY QUESTION 1 - METRIC 4

Denials are created when
a. We say no
b. The guest says no
c. No one says no

The correct answer is a- "we say no"

## Show of Hands Question - 2

## SUMMARY QUESTION 3

Factors that influence the elasticity of demand are
a. Substitutes
b. Necessity
c. Breadth of Definition
d. Percentage of Income
e. Time
f. None of the above
g. All of the above

The correct answer is $\mathbf{g}$ - all of the above

DETERMINING PRICE POINTS

## How to Determine Your Price Points

## HOW TO DETERMINE BAR

- Competitive Value Assessment
- Price Positioning Analysis
- Price Resistance Analysis
- Price Production Analysis
- Pricing Tactics


## $R=V M \wedge x$

COMPETITIVE VALUE ASSESSMENT

## Competitive Value Assessment

Competitive value assessment analyzes price comparisons based on guests perspective of value of product/service offerings.

This analysis should ideally done by market segment.

## Competitive Value Assessment

This analysis looks at these factors from the guest's perspective

- Location
- Market Positioning
- Quality of Meeting Rooms
- Technical Facilities
- Level of Service
- Brand Program
- Price Value
- F\&B Outlets, Creativity and Quality
- Sales Staff Responsiveness
- Leisure Facilities


## Competitive Value Assessment

Depending on the market segment each factor is given a weight percentage such that the total weight across all factors must be $100 \%$.

## Competitive Value Assessment

Each factor is then scored for each of our competitors

- A score of +1 to +3 is given to a competitor that is better than our hotel for that factor. With +1 being slightly better and +3 being a lot better.
- A score of 0 is given to a competitor that is the same as our hotel for that factor.
- A score of -1 to -3 is given to a competitor that is worse than our hotel for that factor. With -1 being slightly worse and -3 being a lot worse.


## Competitive Value Assessment

## $R=V M \wedge x$

Based on the weight and score of each factor a Overall Quality Assessment for each competitor is calculated. This is then compared to the typical price that competitor offers the market segment under review.

Competitors we need to worry about are ones that offer the same or better product/service at the same or lower price.

## Competitive Value Assessment

| Peninsula Anywhere | Meeting Room Total Sq. Footage | Number of Guest Rooms | Rate as of 30/5/2013 | FACTOR | WEIGHT | INDICES |  |  |  |  | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | 30\% | 10\% | 25\% | 10\% | 10\% | 10\% | 5\% | 100\% |
|  |  |  |  | Business Location | Hotel or venue Image | Level of Service | Spa \& Other Recreation Services | Wireless Internet Availability | Dining Options \& Creativity | Sales Staff Responsiveness | Overall Quality Assessment |
| US |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Peninsula | 29,000 | 800 | \$ 750 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| COMP |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Comp 1 | 12,000 | 400 | \$ 990 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.3 |
| Comp 2 | 32,000 | 700 | \$ 860 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Comp 3 | 22,000 | 633 | \$ 770 | 0 | -2 | 1 | 0 | -2 | -1 | -1 | -0.3 |
| Comp 4 | 20,000 | 650 | \$ 650 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -0.1 |
| Comp 5 | 18,000 | 490 | \$ 890 | 1 | 0 | -2 | -2 | 0 | -1 | -1 | -0.6 |
| Comp 6 | 15,000 | 560 | \$ 720 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.2 |

## Competitive Value Assessment



## Competitive Value Assessment

For new hotels

- Previous years competitive price for
- congress, high, medium, low demand
- Previous years rates for target markets
- Base your rates on value assessment score

PRICE POSITIONING ANALYSIS

## Price Positioning Analysis

- This is only a directional tool
- Compare year on year change in MPI, ARI, RGI with competitive set


## Price Positioning Analysis

| MPI | ARI | RGI | Score | Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\uparrow$ | $\uparrow$ | $\uparrow$ | OK | Fairly Priced: Your property may be fairly priced. |
| $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ | $\uparrow$ $\uparrow$ | $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ | OVER OVER | Potentially Over Priced: Your property is growing ARR faster than the market. |
| $\uparrow$ $\uparrow$ | $\downarrow$ | $\uparrow$ $\downarrow$ | UNDER UNDER | Potentially U Under Priced: Your property is growing ARR slower than the market. |
| $\downarrow$ | $\downarrow$ | $\downarrow$ | DANGER | Danger: Your property is dropping in ARR, Occupancy, and overall RevPAR compared to the market. |

## PRICE RESISTANCE ANALYSIS

## Price Resistance Analysis

- Percentage of unconstrained demand that finds us expensive.
- Analysis must be conducted by market segment.

PRICE POINT PRODUCTION ANALYSIS

## Price Point Production Analysis

## BAR PRODUCTION ANALYSIS

Historical data by Price Point

- Amount sold by Price Point
- Denials by Price Point
- Regrets by Price Point

Based on the above data calculate the Price Point Price Resistance

Compare the Price Point Production with the Price Point Price Resistance

## PRICING TACTICS

## Pricing Tactics

## Price Point Strategy

- Highest Price Points
- Highly price inelastic guest
- Highest price in market
- Lowest Price Point
- Highly price elastic guest
- Most competitive price in market


## Pricing Tactics

## Pricing Difference Strategy

- Higher Price levels further apart, lower closer
- Difference between Highest and Next - \$200
- Difference between Lowest and Next - \$10


## Pricing Tactics

## Room Type Strategy

- Variable Room type premium.
- Greater at higher price levels
- Highest Price Point - Upgraded Room is $\$ 200$ above standard room
- Lowest Price Point - Upgraded Room is $\$ 20$ above standard room

PRICING PROCESS

## Pricing Process



## Pricing Process - Step 1

## Evaluate Past Performance

| What was last year's occupancy? | During which periods was market share lost? | During which periods did demand exceed capacity? | What kind of customer was driving this demand? | What was the percentage of BAR in comparison to total occupancy? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

## Pricing Process - Step 2

## Assess Competitive Rate/Value Positioning

How does my product offering compare with my competition?

What is my competitive offering by segment?

Did I lose marketshare to one competitor hotel due to rate?

## Pricing Process - Step 3

Establish rates for the most commonly sold room type and Validate Price
Positioning

- Are your customers willing to pay these rates?
- Will your customer consider your rates as good value in comparison to the competition rates?
- Will these rates create long term guest loyalty?
- Will your property achieve it's financial goals with these rates?


## Pricing Process - Step 3

- Are your rates in line with your hotels positioning?
- Are your prices from other segments rationally related to your BAR rate?
- Are these rates still rational compared to historical ADR by market segment or will they compromise your rate setting in other transient and group segments and price points?


## Summary Question 1

## Show of Hands Question - 1

Methods of determining your price points include
a. Competitive Value Assessment
b. Price Positioning Analysis
c. Price Resistance Analysis
d. Price Point Production Analysis
e. Pricing Tactics

The correct answer is All of the Above

## Summary Question 2

## Show of Hands Question - 2

Which of the following are not a part of Pricing Process
a. Evaluate Past Performance
b. Assess Competitive Rate/Value Positioning
c. Establish BAR rates for the most commonly sold room type and Validate Price

Positioning
d. Review fenced and qualified rates.

The correct answer is $\mathbf{d}$ - Review fenced and qualified rates.

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## Thank you

