

Demystifying Pricing

HSMAI ROCET – June 3rd 2016

- Consumer Trends
- What is Pricing?
- History of hotel pricing
- Overview of pricing
 - Dynamic vs Static
 - Qualified vs Unqualified
 - Fenced vs unfenced

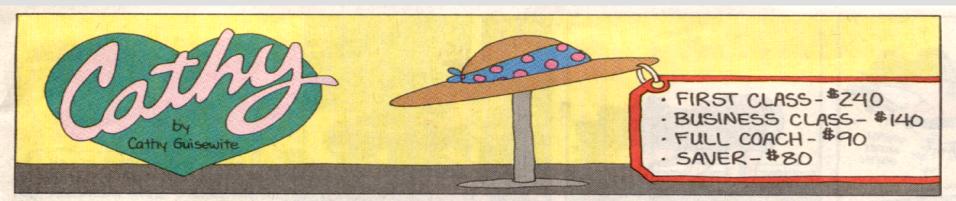
- Value seekers
- Questionable Loyalty
- Highly involved and connected
- Multiple distribution channels
- Online & Offline engagement

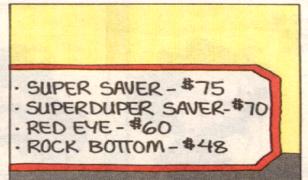


- Lookers vs Bookers
- Information Gap
- Wide range of offers
- Expectation of uniformity
- Expectation of consistency
- Time / convenience consciousness



R_VMAX









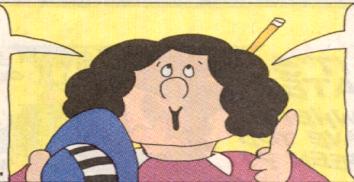




HATS PURCHASED 21 DAYS IN
ADVANCE OF HAT SEASON ARE,
OF COURSE, CHEAPER THAN
LAST-MINUTE HAT BUYS...AND
ALL PRICES ARE LOWER IF YOU
PLAN TO KEEP THE HAT OVER
A SATURDAY NIGHT.



BESIDES
THE PRICES
WE GIVE YOU,
THERE ARE
I,500 INTERNET SITES
SELLING THE
SAME HAT,
ALL AT
DIFFERENT
PRICES,
INCLUDING
HAT AUCTIONS

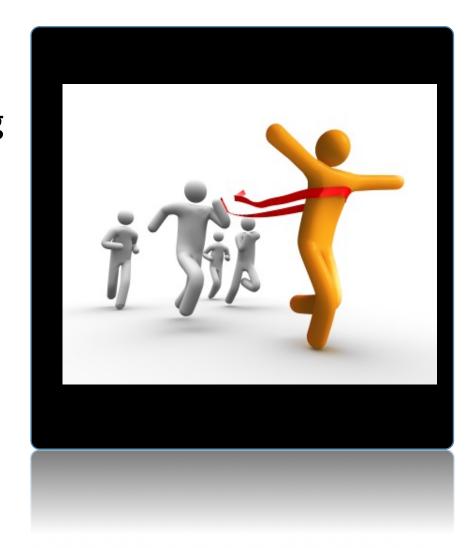


ONCE YOU'VE
PAID, ANY
EXCHANGE
OF THE HAT
WILL BE A
MINIMUM
\$50 FEE,
EVEN IF ALL
WE HAVE TO
DO IS SAY,
"HERE'S
ANOTHER
HAT."

I DON'T
CARE
WHAT IT
COSTS!
JUST
SELL ME
THE HAT!

OOPS. SORRY.
THE LAST OF
OUR HATS GOT
RESERVED
WHILE WE WERE
CHATTING...

- 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.

HISTORY OF HOTEL PRICING

Hotel Pricing



- ☐ Static/Fixed Pricing
- □ 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
- ☐ Top down selling of rates bargain with the guest

Hotel Pricing



- □ 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.
- ☐ Single Image Inventory all channels have the same price for the same booking condition
- ☐ Price Integrity Best Rate Guarantee.

AN OVERVIEW OF PRICING

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

Dynamic vs Static Pricing

Dynamic Pricing

Demand driven or demand based pricing

Changes in demand result in changes in price

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

Static Pricing

Prices remain constant despite changes in demand

Prices stay fixed throughout

An Overview of Pricing

Qualified vs Unqualified Rates

Qualified Rates

Rates are offered to a set of individuals based on the qualifications they meet.

The guest's profile must satisfy certain conditions to qualify for the rate. Eg Contracted rates such as corporate rates.

Unqualified Rates

Rates offered to the general public.

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

Fenced vs Unfenced Rates

Fenced Rates

Rates are offered to the general public as long as certain booking conditions are met.

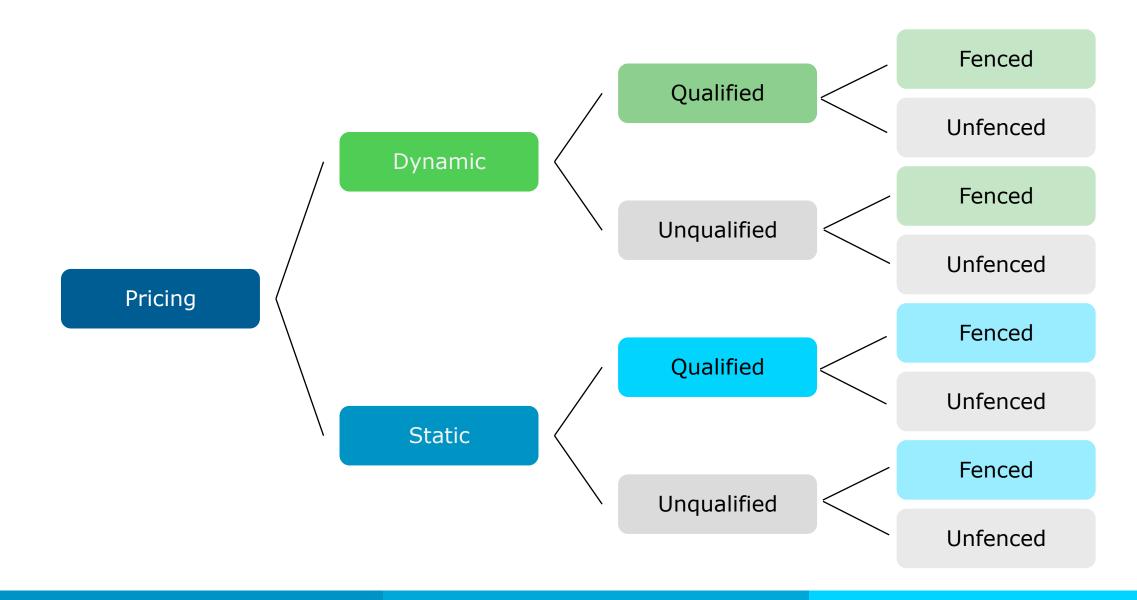
Examples of booking conditions

- Minimum stay
- Sat night stay
- Non-refundable
- Advance booking
- Fully prepaid

Unfenced Rates

Rates offered to the general public without any booking conditions.

For example, BAR Rates.



Best Available Rate (BAR)

- Dynamic
- Unqualified
- Unfenced

Advance Purchase Rate (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

• 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 Change in Qty	Price Increase Effect on Revenue
0	Perfectly Inelastic	ΔP , ΔQ stays same	Revenue Rises
0 < Ed <1	Relatively Inelastic	ΔP > ΔQ	Revenue Rises
Ed = 1	Unitary Elastic	$\Delta P = \Delta Q$	No change
1 < Ed < ∞	Relatively Elastic	ΔP < ΔQ	Revenue Falls
Ed = ∞	Perfectly Elastic	ΔP , $\Delta Q = 0$	Revenue falls to 0

Price Elasticity of Demand

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

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

• 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.

Price Sensitivity

METRIC 4 – PRICE SENSITIVITY

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

SEASONAL PRICING

THE NINE BAR LEVELS

Super High Season

Congress/ Citywide

Highly Price Inelastic Guest

High Season

High Demand

Relatively Price Inelastic Guest

Mid Season

Medium Demand

Mixture of Guests

Low Season

Low Demand

Highly Price Elastic Guest

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 **g** – **all of the above**

HOW TO DETERMINE BAR

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



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.

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

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

Each factor is then scored for each of our competitors

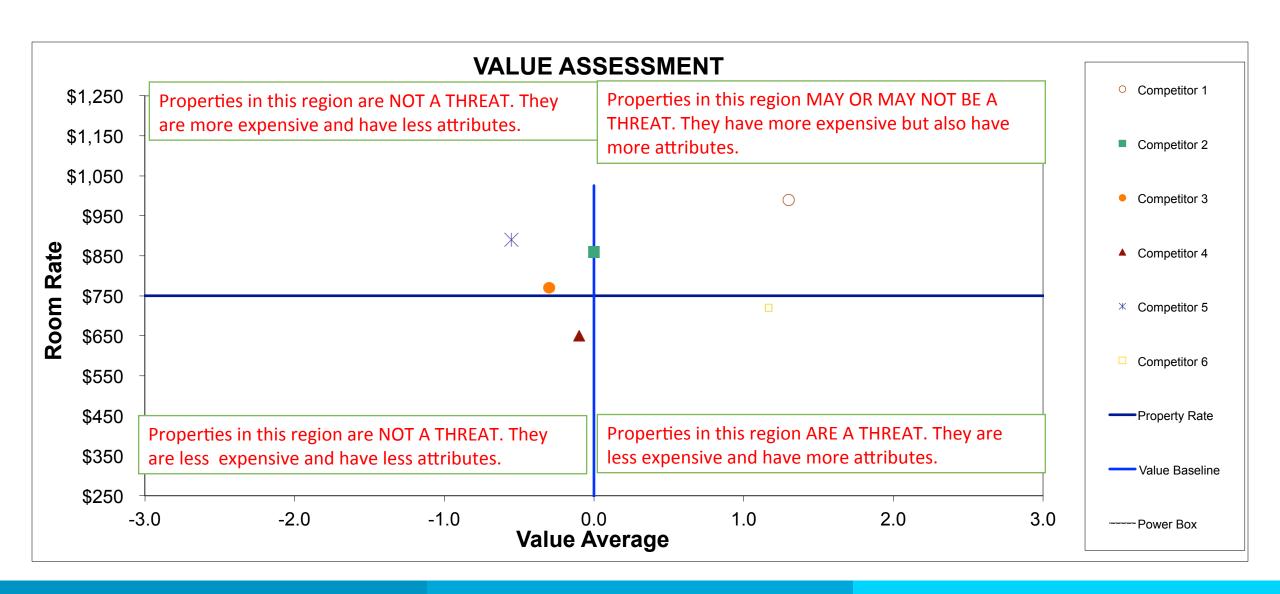
- A score of +1 to +3 is given to a competitor that is better than our hotel for that factor. With +1 being slightly better and +3 being a lot better.
- A score of 0 is given to a competitor that is the same as our hotel for that factor.
- A score of -1 to -3 is given to a competitor that is worse than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

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.

R_VMAX

Peninsula Anywhere	Meeting Room Total Sq. Footage	Number of Guest Rooms		FACTOR	WEIGHT	INDICES					TOTAL
			Rate as of	30%	10%	25%	10%	10%	10%	5%	100%
			30/5/2013	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 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



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

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

ARI	RGI	Score	Description			
^	^	ОК	Fairly Priced: Your property may be fairly priced.			
↑	V	OVER	Potentially Over Priced: Your			
^	^	OVER	property is growing ARR faster than the market.			
Ψ	^	UNDER	Potentially Under Priced: Your			
V	V	UNDER	property is growing ARR slower than the market.			
\	\	DANGER	Danger: Your property is dropping in ARR, Occupancy, and overall RevPAR compared to the market.			
	↑ ↑ ↓ ↓	 ↑ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	↑ ↑ OK ↑ ↓ OVER ↑ ↑ OVER ↓ ↑ UNDER ↓ ↓ UNDER			

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

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

Evaluate Past Performance

Assess Competitive
Rate/Value
Positioning

Establish rates for the common room type and validate its Price Positioning

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?

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?

- 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 **d- Review fenced and qualified rates**.

