

## INFLUENTIAL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESSES



## THE EVEREST SEARCH GROUP, LLC

**E**VEREST Search Group, LLC provides high-level executive recruiting services to the financial services and electronic payments industries. The company's 25 years of direct industry experience and extensive candidate network give its clients a distinct advantage in conducting the most effective and efficient searches and attracting top talent.

The Everest Search Group team's first-hand financial services experience and candidate network is a distinct competitive advantage in sourcing and recruiting the best industry talent for corporate and private equity clients. The firm's demonstrated track record extends to large corporations as well as young firms, and it specializes in sourcing entrepreneurial talent to build and grow successful new companies, product lines and divisions. Successful assignments have included placements in sales and marketing, business development, product and project management, finance, operations and C-level executives at credit card, processing, prepaid, private equity, consulting, money transfer and electronic payments companies.



## FORMLA LANDSCAPING, INC.

**F**ORMLA Landscaping's husband and wife founders and owners, Kirk and Cassy Aoyagi founded FormLA in 1997 as C&K Landscape Design, Inc. After 12 years creating noteworthy landscapes throughout Los Angeles County, the duo adopted the name FormLA Landscaping to better reflect its growing team, commitment to sustainability, and the depth of their expertise.

FormLA has built and lead a full-service design and build and maintenance team of skilled landscape architects, designers, artisans, craftsmen, technicians, and horticulturists and have endeavored to educate the public about how to create optimally sustainable landscapes via presentations, hands-on workshops, tours, as well as a monthly newsletter and social media channels. The company has also proudly contributed to LA's understanding of the benefits of authentic landscaping with byline articles and press outreach generating more than 120 recent articles. Perhaps most importantly, the company has transformed more than 400 residential and 7 community gardens, replacing nearly 200,000 square feet of thirsty sod with native and sustainable landscapes.



## GEMELLI RESTAURANT GROUP

**C**HEF Steve Samson, born to a Bolognese mother and American father, was exposed to the pleasures of Italian food at a young age. Whether it was the experience he gained helping his mother in the kitchen at home or annual family trips to Italy that eventually propelled him toward a career in Italian cooking, one thing is certain, once Samson left his medical school path to become a chef, he never looked back. Today, Samson is the Chef/Owner of Sotto, Rossoblu and Superfine Pizza.

Samson's vivid childhood memories of Bologna's outdoor festas recall a spirit of conviviality and celebration around food that was lovingly made and produced by the community. The city of Bologna and its region of Emilia-Romagna serve as Samson's inspiration. It is the region where his mother, her parents, and countless generations before were born. It is also the place where he spent his childhood summers, fomenting a passion for Italian food and cooking.



## GELT, INC.

**K**EITH Wasserman (age 33) and Damian Langere (age 37) are Co-Founders and Partners of Gelt, Inc., a real estate investment and asset management company. Since the company's inception in 2008, Gelt has acquired nearly 8,000 apartment homes and mobile home sites valued in excess of \$1 billion.

Cousins Damian and Keith launched Gelt in 2008 when they were in their 20s. It was at the height of the recession and Damian had been let go from an environmental consulting firm in Santa Barbara. He moved to Los Angeles and they decided to form a real estate investment firm to buy distressed multifamily properties. They continually show uncommon entrepreneurial leadership, business acumen and creativity as they not only successfully lead Gelt, they have launched new tech and real estate firms. Last year, the company launched Happy Home Communities, within its growing group of entrepreneurial companies. HHC focuses exclusively on the acquisition and management of mobile home and RV resorts throughout the Western United States.

## NOTABLE FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS

## TASLIMI CONSTRUCTION (MID-SIZE COMPANY)

**F**OUNDED in 1985, the family-owned Taslimi Construction Company was inspired by a passion to build and excellence in all things. Over the years Taslimi has assembled a staff of dedicated and experienced individuals. Its project management team has an impeccable reputation in the industry. Taslimi's strong work ethic results in hard work and

dedication. The diversity of its staff and experiences are cherished and continually developed as the Taslimi family evolves.

Taslimi's project experience includes major renovations, interior construction, and core and shell construction. Projects include corporate offices; law firms; finance and banking; studios; entertainment; hospitality and retail; technology; healthcare; education and childcare; non-profits and institutional; cultural; and residential. Taslimi has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions and has received the highest compliment from clients and architectural design partners in their continued business and referrals.

Projects include the remodeling of the Creative Artists Agency headquarters in Century City, the ESPN broadcasting facility in downtown Los Angeles, the KCBS and KCAL broadcasting studios in Studio City, Univision in Los Angeles, and the renovation of the historic Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Taslimi Construction has received the highest compliments from its clients, their representatives, and architectural and design firms. These include the 1994 Calibre Awards for Contractor of the Year, 17 other Calibre Awards, numerous Los Angeles Business Council Architectural Awards for Commercial Interiors, and the AIA Merit Award.

Taslimi supports professional organizations such as the American Institute of Architecture, the International Interior Design Association, the Los Angeles Business Council, the Southern California Development Forum, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design and the USC Architectural Guild. Additionally, Taslimi is committed to the promotion of the arts, culture and community - which it believes to be essential for the enhancement of the human spirit - as demonstrated by its involvement with the Hammer Museum, the LACMA, the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, and the Santa Monica Arts Foundation.



## GOOD NIGHT NATURALS

**W**ITH over 25 years of experience providing outstanding customer service, Good Night Naturals, led by a husband and wife team of Paul and Elly Hirschberger, is dedicated to being a resource for a safe and healthy sleep. The company offers sustainable bedding - free of added chemicals 100% natural & organic ingredient mattresses, natural wool comforters, pillows, 100% natural and organic latex mattresses, latex toppers, cotton sheets, bedding from nature's purest fibers and luxury linens, and even baby mattresses.

In a world filled with synthetics, pesticides and chemicals, Good Night Naturals is a springboard into natural bedding with a bright and healthy future for the entire family! The commitment to creating a safe and healthy bedroom began in 1990 when Paul and Elly opened the first "eco-store" in San Francisco. Today, they remain committed to being a resource for a safe and healthy bedroom.



## HOTEL EMPORIUM, INC.

**F**ROM humble beginnings in an Orange County garage, this family found a need in an industry they had experience in and developed premium products for hotels. By providing the service they showed as hotel managers, they served other hotel managers as customers better than competitors and grew. Success continued as family members gained degrees and outside business savvy and then took on new roles as expansion continued. Bringing in more talent with additional staff members and upgrading offices and warehousing over the years, new partnerships and distributors developed worldwide.

As a result of hard work and treating their employees right, Hotel Emporium has been able to make a positive impact on the local community and even globally. Hotel Emporium is a certified minority business as well as a community activist participating in 30+ charitable events and donations annually. An enormous amount of products are donated annually around the world, in addition to the other charitable acts and monetary donations to those in need.