

SPG communications program review

Ted Kim March 3rd, 2016































What we'll be reviewing today

Review SPG's email and social communications & mobile app to understand the opportunities to:

- Ensure a smooth and positive transition of SPG members
- Define strategies & tactics we want to emulate to improve our program
- Begin preparation for the migration

SPG scorecard against Marriott Loyalty objectives

Campaign types	Revenue Generating	Experiences	Flexible currency	Acquisition	Community
Lifecycle		0	•	•	•
Elite Status	•		•	•	•
Base communications	•	•	•	•	0
Booking Cycle	•		•	•	
Earning & Redemptions	0	•	0		•
Facebook	•	•	•	•	0



SPG program summary

Overall, in addition to covering fundamental program messaging SPG email communications also focus on positioning the program as an experience enabler as much as it communicates rewards of loyalty

SPG members may expect from their communications:

- To be marketed to
- To be invited to explore what the program offers rather than be recommended
- To be recognized when they are a VIP
- Their hotel loyalty program is more than just the stay, it's an experience

SPG program key highlights

Dedicates & targets content to high value members (Ambassador program, Lifetime recognition, Luxury newsletter, Event planner)

Leverages branding to distinguish communications; communications promote each other

Some campaigns are dedicated to highlighting experiences enabled by the program

- Redemptions positioned as experience enablers (Events)
- Dedicated energy & content to dining experience
- Partnerships (Uber)
- Dedicated resorts focus

Recent dedication to travel inspiration (Weekend channel)

Leverage promotions as incentives in Lifecycle campaigns

SPG overall positioning, tone, feel

Tone

- Simple & clear: large typography and numbers
- Exclusive & promising
- Generic: Sometimes lacks personality

Where they Succeed

- Large, clear message above the fold
- Good use of white space & colors
- Sentence case headlines feel like the start of a conversation
- Image selection creates cohesive color scheme
- Overlays & shapes connect elements into unified message

Style

- Cool, luxe, elite
- Sleek: few decorations or embellishments
- Property shots: fewer lifestyle or people pics
- Styled: cohesive and deliberate

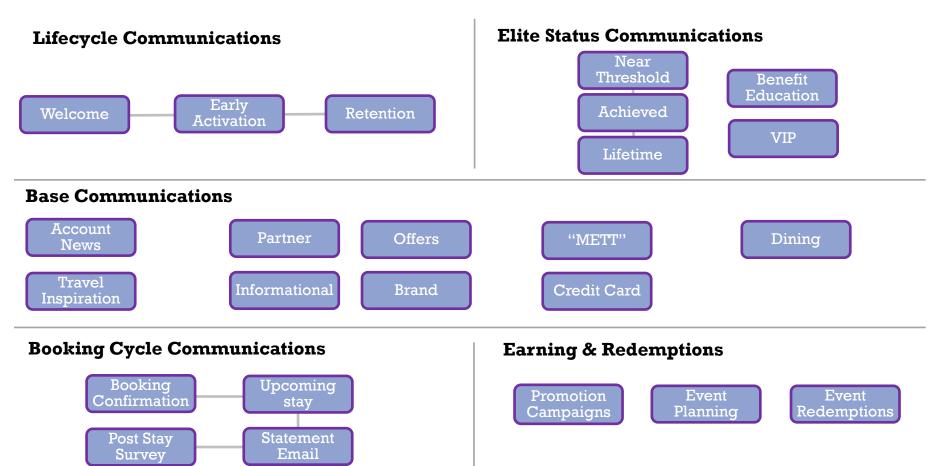
Not as Successful

- Copy is sometimes poorly written
- Readability: copy is hidden in images
- Personalization: miss opportunities to personalize
- Focus on brand, not member: a lot of "us" and "we" more than "you"

Design: While MR emails adhere more to best practices, SPG's unified design, large above-the-fold headlines and main offers has benefits

Copy/Tone: A bridge to transition SPG members moving into PO campaigns is recommended, as the tone and language is different

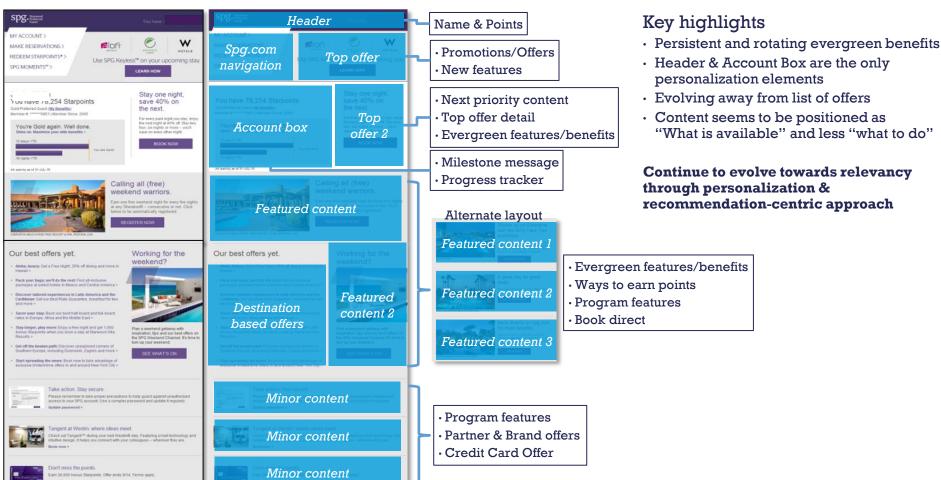
SPG communication architecture





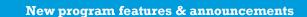
Base Communications

Anatomy of account newsletter



Base communications supports brand, partner, and program announcements & updates

Brand news & offers **SPG Family-Design Hotels** Stav unique. **DESIGN HOTELS** EXPLORE NOW Loft Offer SPG TWO FOR YOU AT ALOFT HOTELS IN LATIN AMERICA AS YOU LIKE IT





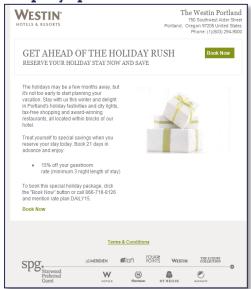
Partnerships

Uber Partnership

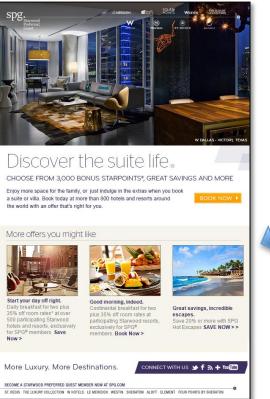


"METT" equivalent communications that promote property & consolidated offers

Mechanism & Template for Property-Specific Communications



SPG Offers Drive Field Participation



SPG appears to set offers that properties can elect to participate in:

- Pay your Birth Year
- Next night 40% Off
- Daily Breakfast for two

Which increases value to member (clear value, large footprint, persistent promotional activity)

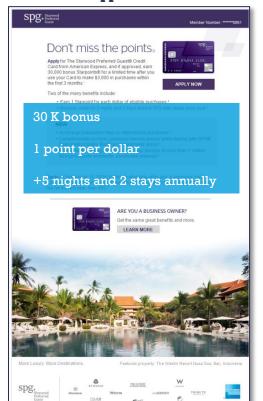
Multiple offers of this type are consolidated in a single communication



Allows promotions & offers to be aligned with marketing calendar and initiatives

Offering a personal vs business credit card option seems to be the only differentiation between programs

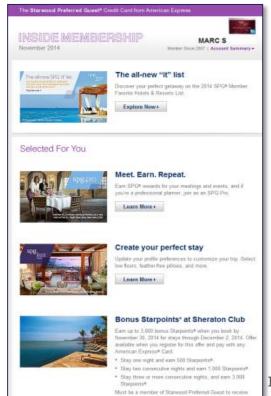
Application



Refer a friend



Cardholder Newsletter



Ongoing offer vehicles are branded

Hot escapes: Weekly expiring offers starting at 20% off

Resorts: Offers, stay type, activities

Branding Destinations may help its unique content stand out further eBreaks + hot escapes as future communication?



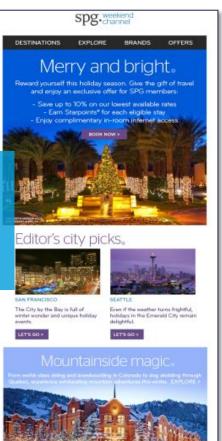


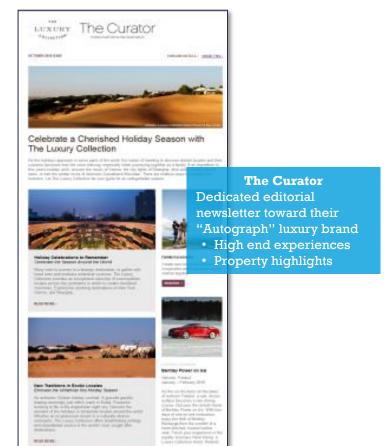
Dedicated content to travel inspiration & experiences

Content blurs lines between editorial travel content & program marketing



- City picks, destination highlights, travel inspiration & tips
- · Offers, benefit highlights





Dining as an essential part of a traveler's experience

SPG membership has benefits beyond just a place to sleep

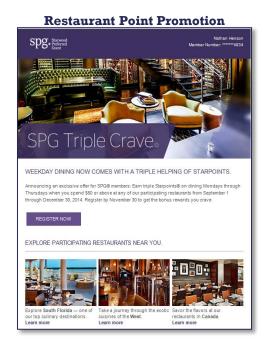
- Free breakfast as offer highlights
- Promoting Halo restaurants
- Bonus earning opportunities at on property restaurants

Breakfast and Offer



Halo Restaurant





SPG 2015 Year in Review vs MR 2014









Lifecycle Communications

Welcome content highlights program priorities

Priority content by prominence, order and recurrence

- · Mobile download · Book direct · Specific redemptions · Social · Upper Elite benefits
- · SPG focused on specific elements of the main aspects of their program vs MR's focus on immediately actionable items

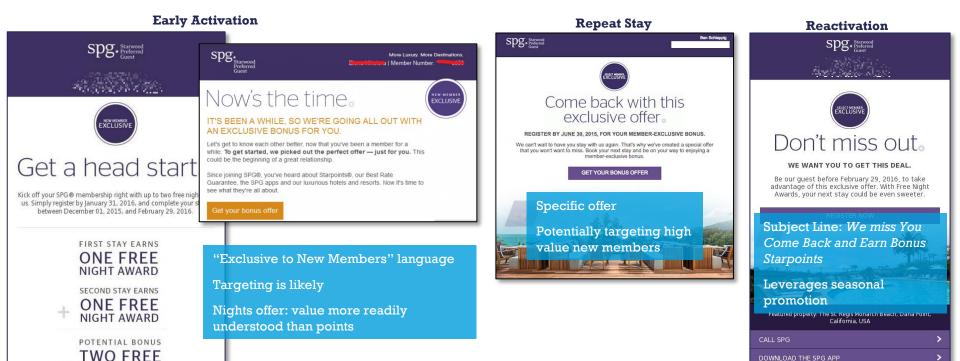
Email fundamentals: "get started" language, "Learn more" CTAs, consistent subject line, 3-day delivery cadence



Incentives & promotions are leveraged for member lifecycle touchpoints

• SPG appeared to leverage specific promotions for some campaigns while leveraging seasonal promotions (ie MegaBonus) for others

Leverage seasonal promotions as incentives if evergreen incentives can't be leveraged



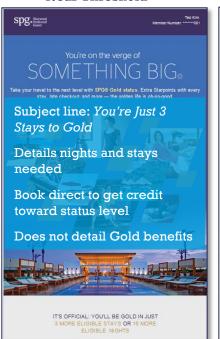


Elite Status Communications

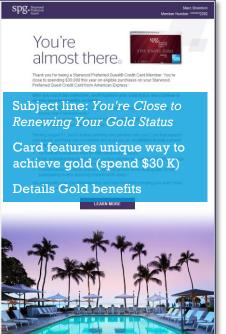
Similar base Elite status communications as MR...

- Benefit highlight & summary; similar content & layout; persistent book direct & mobile app CTA
 Differences between MR program are a result of SPG's multiple ways to achieve status (nights/stays or spend threshold with card) & unique benefits (Choose rewards, Gold certificates)
- · Leverage partner relationships to offer rewards as recognition and gratitude

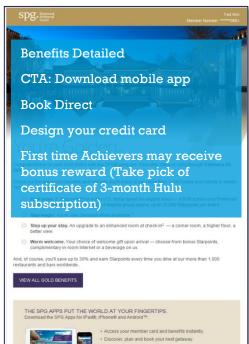
Near Threshold



Card Near Threshold



Status Achieved



Status Achieved Benefit Highlight



... with additional focus to top tier members

SPG recognizes loyalty of it's most active members that should be leveraged for PO and the program as a whole

Lifetime Achievers

	Silver	Gold	Platinum	
SPG	N/A	250 nts+ 5 yrs elite	500 nights+10 yrs Plat	
MR	250 nts+ 1.2 M pts	500 nts+ 1.6 M pts	750 nts+ 2 M pts	

Ambassador Service

- · 100 stays within a year
- · Personal global concierge

Lifetime Achievers



Ambassador



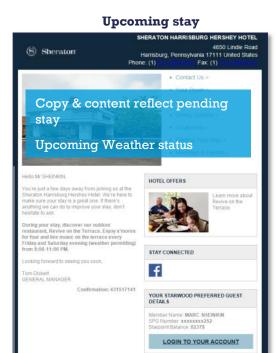


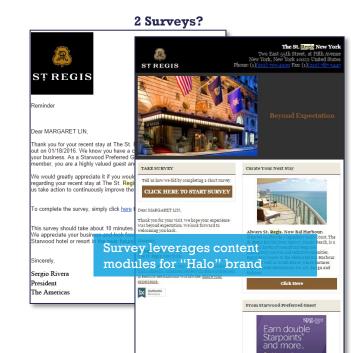
Booking Cycle Communications

Similar, standard content with slight differences

- · Upfront menu of options: Navigation links above fold vs body content
- Personalized touch: Personalized letter copy over reservations details
- Redemptions recognized: Copy indicates when booking is through redemption
- Content modules: No 3rd party advertising; promotes other communications (Weekend Channel)
- Leverages all touchpoints: Survey has upsell content







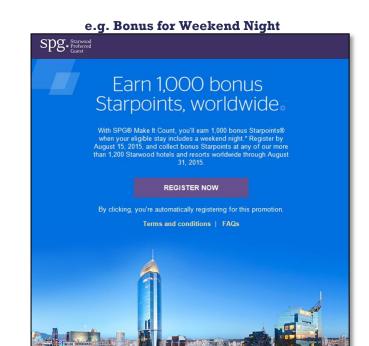


Earning & Redemptions

Global promotions feature double points with minimum stay with additional bonuses for extra stays

- Flat 2x, 3x and bonus point offers
- Double points with 2 nights; more points with more nights
- Double points on 2 or more nights, bonus points at specific destinations
- Bonus points for stay including a weekend night





Standard touchpoints with one exception

MR deploys significantly more promotional touch points:

Previews
 Check-ins / Reminders
 Progress notifications
 Summary

An SPG promotion featured a mailing to registrants with multiple booking incentives



Highlight savings program features/benefits with promotions

•20% Weekend stay @Courtyard •Free 5th night • MegaBonus in Hotel Specials/Offers



Registration Confirmation



Reminders / Last chance





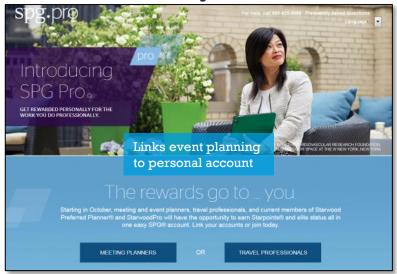


Continued focus on high value segments

Dedicated communications to their event/corporate booking program - SPG.Pro

- · Facilitates personal rewards for event planning
- · Dedicated content & offers to help plan & personally earn

Website Registration



Specialized Email Offers



Event redemptions as experience enablers

experiences & events

- Branded communication
- Some events are auction-style
- Cross promoted in other mailings and social

SPG does not appear to have dedicated communications based on activity or awareness of redemptions except during the booking confirmation emails





Facebook

SPG leverages Facebook less as a dialogue, more as a DTC communication channel

With the exception of customer service issues, posting are about the program, properties & destinations, and events which the audience can react to

- · Compared to Marriott Rewards there are less questions posed & member content shared
- SPG leverages 3rd party sources to highlight events & properties & promotes their own channels (SPG weekend)
- · Twitter follows the same guidelines



U.S. News ranked the top 257 hotels in the USA. Canada. Mexico and the

Caribbean associated with Stanyood Hotels & Resorts. See which hotels come out

In the News





SPG Events



Program educations



Travel Inspiration





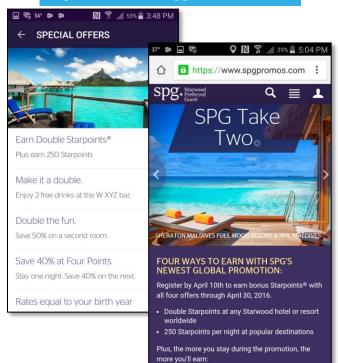
Mobile

SPG Mobile app offers a more complete experience

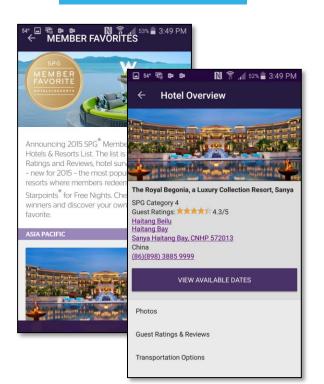
Compared to the Marriott App, SPG's provides more comprehensive brand, hotel & program content

- · Consistent with look & feel of website
- Links to Redeem, Earn & Benefits sections as well as social channels

Current promotions & offers include registration via the app



Halo Property overviews



Brand overview and link to mobile friendly Brand pages N 🛜 . ≤52% 🖥 3:50 PM ■ 54° 🖾 📭 👣 ← OUR BRANDS N 🖟 42% 4:35 PM SPG S Sheraton Sheraton Innovative Experiences Where Actions Sp For a Better You DO MORE, SEE MORE, LEARN MORE

Key takeaways

Brand campaigns like Destinations to create distinction between campaigns

SPG members accept a level of marketing from their program

- Concierge/Destinations provides an opportunity to promote Marriott content
- SPG hot escapes creates opportunity for an eBreaks communication
- Promote other communications as content (unless Global opt in?)

Highlight experiences Marriott Rewards enables

- Brand events
- On property restaurants
- Integrated marketing efforts & messages with partners Hertz, Cruises, Chase events

VIPs deserve additional recognition

- Lifetime achiever acknowledgment
- Significant milestones: Member Anniversaries, 1 M points earned

Leverage MegaBonus as incentives in lifecycle campaigns & supplement MegaBonus with booking incentive content

Discussion items & next steps

Discussion items

- How can we connect Marriott Loyalty pillars & objectives with the SPG audience?
- What MR communications need to be updated? What are the must-do's vs nice to do's?
 - Footer, Welcome, Onboarding, eBreaks, Achievement & Redemptions
- What tactics do we want to incorporate into our campaigns?
- Are there new communication or content opportunities?
- What is the timeline for communicating with SPG members?

Preparation for the upcoming migration starts now

- Incorporate migration planning into quarterly planning agenda to develop a communications plan
 - Defined requirement: Begin concept & development for an announcement email for rapid-deploy in the future
- Obtain SPG email program reporting



Appendix

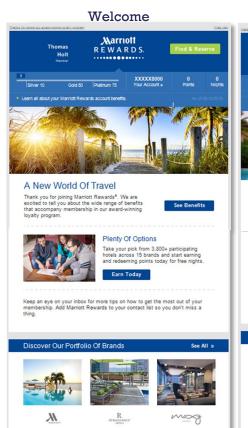
SPG Copy

- Very direct
- No puns or humor
- Good use of numbers in offers and lists
- Use of large typography: multiple text sizes to create message heirarchy
- Lacks personality: Corporate language
- Some personalization
- A lot of the copy is housed in images

SPG Design

- Geometric shapes
 - Modules are non-rectangular
 - overlays (lens flare) ties elements together and balances white space
- Hero image at bottom
 - elevates offer to the most prominent position above the fold
 - gets a property shot in there and allows for more image space/flexible orientation and size
 - closes out email
 - sometimes bleeds into background color of email
- Not a lot of icons or ornamentation
 - SPG icon is used as a period in top offer/headline
- High-end property shots
 - No people/lifestyle shots
 - Very few interiors
 - Lots of pools at dusk
 - City skylines at dusk
- Image colors are cohesive with email colors
 - Purple hues on purple emails (pools, dusk, city shots)
 - Green/blue hues on resort/golf emails (with a green/turquoise theme)
 - Emails with beach scene often have turquoise background
- Social share bar is prominent
 - · Stands out at bottom of the email

2015 Points Welcome Series



Let the good times roll at

exclusive live events held

In hotel lobby lounges.

bars and restaurants.

A European presence with

including a contemporary

a distinctly modern take

Make your stay a breeze

with Mobile Check-In and

from arrival to departure

Checkout.

