NIKI LEONDAKIS  
Chief Executive Officer  
Equinox Fitness Clubs

Niki Leondakis, CEO Equinox Fitness Clubs, oversees all facets of Equinox Clubs and heads its executive leadership team. With more than 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry, building lifestyle brands and creating award winning work-place cultures to drive innovation and guest loyalty, Leondakis leads Equinox’s visionary high-performing team as it executes its ambitious vision for global growth and further evolves its luxury lifestyle brand.

Prior to joining Equinox, Leondakis was CEO, Hotels & Resorts for Two Roads Hospitality, the newly formed company as a result of the merger between Commune Hotels & Resorts and Destination Hotels. One of the leading women executives in hospitality, Leondakis joined Commune Hotels & Resorts in November 2012 as its CEO to lead the expansion for the Commune brands propelling its global growth. Leondakis expanded the company’s Thompson Hotels and Joie de Vivre Hotel brands, as well as introduced the Singapore-based Alila Hotels & Resorts. Previous to Commune, Leondakis led Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants as their President and Chief Operating Officer, where she started in 1993 and was a key member of the executive team that led the growth of the company from 15 hotels to 50. Under her leadership, Kimpton was named one of Fortune Magazine’s 100 Best Companies to Work For.

Leondakis also held various leadership roles with the Ritz Carlton Hotel Company from 1985 – 1993. She began her hospitality career for Marriott Hotels in 1982 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her goal of creating a workplace culture that instills pride and ownership among employees has led to numerous awards and accolades for Commune, including being recognized as one of the “Best Places to Work” by Crain’s New York and rankings on both the San Francisco Business Times’ “Best Place to Work” and Chicago Tribunes’ “Chicago’s Top Workplaces” lists. Individually, Leondakis has received numerous industry awards, including being cited in 2015 by the San Francisco Business Times as one of the Bay Area’s Most Admired CEO’s. A recipient of the Leadership Excellence award by HR.com and LEAD2016, Leondakis has been named one of the "100 Most Influential Women" by the San Francisco Business Times annually since 2002. She was recognized as one of "30 Women Power Players" by Nation’s Restaurant News and named one of the "Most Powerful Women in Travel" by Travel Agent Magazine. She was the recipient of the International Food Service Manufacturer’s Association Silver Plate Award for Operator of the Year, the Fred Tibbits Hospitality Award for Lifetime Excellence, and Penn State’s Hotel and Restaurant Society Hospitality Executive of the Year. Further, Leondakis’ alma mater, the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Department of Hospitality and Tourism, awarded her its Stephen E. Elmont Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011, and in 2012 she was honored with Hospitality Design’s Platinum Circle Award. Further, in 2014 she was awarded the Horst Schulze Award for Excellence in Hospitality.

Tempering business with community stewardship, Leondakis served as Chair of the Dress for Success Worldwide Board of Directors from 2009 – 2011; an international nonprofit that promotes the economic independence of disadvantage women. Leondakis continues to serve as a board member for Dress for Success where she chairs the Strategic Planning Committee.

A native of West Springfield, Massachusetts, Leondakis with her husband divide their time between New York and San Francisco.