



Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 1st July 2015

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Aussie Norwegian office

THE Australian cruise scene is set for another shake-up with Norwegian Cruise Line to set up a local office from Oct this year (**TD** breaking news) to represent Norwegian, Regent Seven Seas and Oceania Cruises.

The move was exclusively flagged some months ago in **Cruise Weekly** (**CW** 27 Feb) after ceo Frank Del Rio indicated that the acquisition of Prestige Cruise Holdings meant the group could have enough critical mass to

justify its own local office.

Effective 01 Oct, the new operation will be headed up by Steve Odell, who is leaving Silversea Cruises after 17 years.

Currently Oceania is represented by Cruise Office, while Wiltrans represents Regent Seven Seas, and in a statement issued overnight Norwegian said "relationships with current travel industry partners and local representatives will remain in place, with the office providing further on-site support".

More details in tomorrow's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Win a Scenic cruise

SCENIC is offering a lucky **Travel Daily** reader a trip to Europe this month, with our Jul competition offering flights and a 15 day *Jewels of Europe* river cruise for 2.

You have to be in it to win it, so check out the details on **page 8**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Industry Exhibition
- Virgin Australia

USA | DISCOVERY PROGRAM

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The USA Discovery Program is an exciting new agent training tool to give you all the information you need to sell the USA!

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Perisher purchase

VAIL Resorts is now officially the owner of Australia's Perisher Ski Resort (**TD** 31 Mar), after the deal was finalised overnight.

Vail ceo Rob Katz said the firm's first international addition would create "a true year-round skiing opportunity" for Australians, with 2015/16 Epic Pass holders to receive unlimited, unrestricted skiing at Perisher in 2016 as well as Vail resorts in Colorado, Utah and Tahoe.

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HAWAIIAN
AIRLINES

Virgin Australia/Delta add weight to transPacific case

VIRGIN Australia has added fuel to its argument to sustain its transPacific venture with Delta Air Lines, citing multiple new “competitive developments” which should be considered by the ACCC before handing down its final decision, **TD** can reveal.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission chose to grant interim authorisation to the continuation of the partnership last month (**TD** 10 Jun) with effect from today, while it reviewed the application for re-authorisation.

No additional submissions have been received to-date to argue the case against a 5-year renewal, but on Fri, Virgin Australia and Delta Air Lines provided further ammunition to argue their case.

Three key issues were raised by VA/DL, including newly announced capacity between Australia and the US by its primary competitors and a strengthening of Virgin Australia’s partnership with

Tourism Australia, which last week saw the parties announce plans to spend \$50m to promote Australia, with US-originating travellers a crucial audience.

Virgin and Delta cited the closer

between Australia and mainland USA, the applicants said QF/AA are set to boost their market share on the route to “well over 50% of frequencies and almost 60% of capacity” (as pictured).

was implemented,” they argued.

Virgin/Delta also highlighted Air New Zealand’s intention to launch nonstop services from Auckland to Houston starting Dec, which will compete with Qantas’ daily Sydney-Dallas/Fort Worth route.

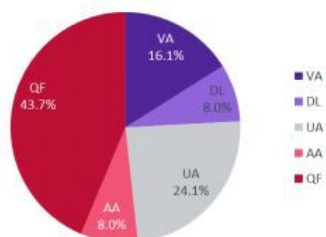
“For passengers wishing to travel to Houston, Texas or another city in that region a service from Sydney via Auckland is likely to be more attractive than a service from Sydney via Los Angeles,” the applicants conceded.

“For Australian passengers outside of Sydney, connections via Auckland are likely to be very attractive,” they added.

VA/DL reiterated “the significant pro-competitive effects” of their pact “more than outweigh the removal of competition between Virgin & Delta... [and] only results in material public benefits that have been identified by the ACCC.”

Final determination on the renewal is expected this month.

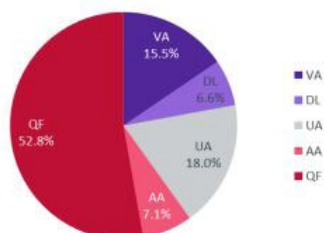
Announced AU-Mainland US Frequency Share



cooperation between Qantas and American Airlines on transPacific routes, with new flights planned by AA on the LAX-SYD city pairing, and QF intending to relaunch the Sydney-San Francisco route - both slated to begin in Dec.

With American Airlines set to become a fifth operating carrier

Announced AU-Mainland US Capacity Share



QF/AA are also wanting to include revenue sharing as part of their new alliance.

“The expanded alliance and additional capacity of Qantas and American Airlines is indicative of the highly competitive and dynamic nature of the trans-Pacific market since the Alliance



Quest Kelvin Grove – opening 6th July

Quest Kelvin Grove is set to become the premier accommodation provider in Brisbane North. Featuring 85 studio, one, two and three bedroom serviced apartments, the property is conveniently located in the heart of QUT’s Kelvin Grove campus, and only minutes from Brisbane CBD. Whether travelling to Brisbane for business or pleasure, Quest Kelvin Grove is the ideal accommodation choice.

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Travel Daily

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Wednesday 1st July 2015

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Oaks Pinnacle change

THE 12-month old Oaks Pinnacle hotel in Melbourne has rebranded as Oaks South Yarra with immediate effect.

The change of name was made to better recognise the location of the property's inner-city position in South Yarra on Yarra Street.

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Tourism e-kit ramping up

THE company run by former ceo of the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse Liz Ward, Digital Coaching International (DCI) has become the new operator of the Tourism e-kit, effective today.

Current ATDW chief executive officer Mark Williams announced the move this morning, saying the e-kit resource "has done a great job thus far, but it is clear that more work needs to be done".

In its current form, the online training program comprises 70 tutorials, "developed to support, train and raise the professional standards of the tourism industry and to improve understanding & confidence with online digital technologies," the firm said.

To date, content has been downloaded from the ATDW-run site more than 350,000 times by tourism operators and industry members nationwide.

However, Williams expressed concern that the tourism industry is 50% less IT savvy than average Australian businesses, saying there is an urgent need "for

a new approach to building business capability and growth in the industry."

He said to enable ATDW to focus on its core business of content and distribution, Tourism e-kit will be further developed under an exclusive two year licence with DCI's online learning community, dubbed TourismTribe.com.

Tourism Tribe assists business operators digitise their marketing and business processes, from evaluation and strategy adoption through to solution implementation.

DCI md Liz Ward said the firm has spent the past four months creating the new platform.

Ward said she expects Tourism Tribe to make a "huge difference" to tourism operators, destination marketers and digital coaches, by providing an online community, backed by quality content and personalised member support.

More at tourismtribe.com.au.



Window Seat

HOW about this for a freak accident?

An American Airlines passenger was hospitalised last weekend after she was struck by lightning while disembarking from a flight in South Carolina.

She had been flying from Hartford, Connecticut and was en route to Charlotte when the Bombardier CRJ-900 was diverted to Columbia due to bad weather conditions.

After exiting the plane via stairs she was hit by the high voltage discharge while walking on the tarmac to the terminal.

"It is truly the most random thing I have ever heard," said an airport spokesperson.

AA confirmed the incident, saying two pax had been injured while deplaning and it was assisting the families involved.

McEvoy chairs SLK

FORMER Tourism Australia md turned Fairfax Media content marketing md, Andrew McEvoy has been appointed the new Chair of SeaLink Travel Group, effective today immediately.

McEvoy replaces Giuliano Ursini.

Lucy Hughes Turnbull, the wife of politician Malcolm Turnbull, was appointed deputy chair.



**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER
NORTH SYDNEY**

Lindblad Expeditions, the pioneers of expedition travel, are seeking a Strategic Partnership Manager to join our team. The role will be responsible for managing existing strategic partnerships and developing new partnerships by engaging non-traditional sales channels within Australia and New Zealand. These channels include all revenue generating opportunities other than the traditional trade and direct consumer channels currently in place in the Australasian market.

The successful candidate will need to be passionate and energetic with superior communication and relationship building skills.

To apply, please email aujobs@expeditions.com

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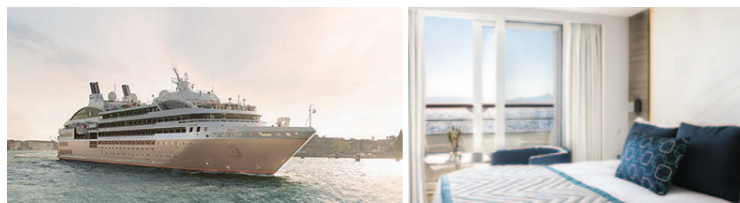
The Canadian Tourism Commission is seeking a General Sales Agent ("GSA") to promote Canada in Australia. The GSA will be responsible for growing active consideration of the Canada brand in Australia through on-going travel trade education, travel trade key account management, media and public relations, social media and consumer promotional activity. If you are interested in bidding on this opportunity, more information can be found at:

<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-15-00688011>

The closing date and time for this competition is **July 29, 2015, 14:00 PT**

Canada

Wednesday 1st July 2015



Virtuoso Dream study

AUSTRALIA has ranked highest in the latest Travel Dreams Survey of over 5,800 travellers, conducted by luxury travel group Virtuoso.

According to the respondents, Australia was the 2015 'Dream Destination', followed by Italy, New Zealand, France, Greece, Ireland, the Caribbean, Fiji, England and Antarctica.

Australia also ranked 5th in the Virtuoso 'Trips of a Lifetime' quest "for a trip unlike any other".

Trumping Australia in the Top 10 experiences was European River/ Canal Cruises, World Cruises, Multi-generational travel and exploring the Greek Isles.

Other favourites included Italy's Amalfi Coast, Ireland's Castles and Countryside, a month-long villa stay in Provence, a Galapagos Islands Expedition and a Tahitian overwater bungalow.

Nearly 60% of those polled in the study will take 1-3 trips this year, 29% will take 4-6 and 12% will take 7 or more.

The top reason to travel was for a cultural/historical element.

Indo tips visitor boom

THE recent announcement by the Indonesian Government for the liberalisation of visa policies to the citizens of 45 countries (**TD** 17 Jun) is predicted to jack up tourist numbers to the country by 2 million people annually.

According to Tourism Minister Arief Yahya, foreign arrivals will "easily" rise 20% annually to 12m.

New NZ rugby flights

AIR New Zealand is adding even more capacity to Wellington for the 2015 Super Rugby final this weekend, with new flights introduced from Auckland and Christchurch boosting seat numbers by a further 250.

A 68-seat ATR turboprop has been scheduled for AKL-WLG on Sat afternoon, returning Sun, complemented by an extra 50-seat Q300 service on the CHC-WLG on Sat and another ATR flight back to CHC on Sun.

Dixon pub expansion

FORMER Tourism Australia chairman & ex Qantas boss Geoff Dixon has boosted his portfolio of pubs to three, with *The Australian* reporting he has acquired the historic Nag's Head in Glebe, Sydney for more than \$5 million.

MEL Airport laud CI

CHINA Airlines plan to launch new direct services from Taipei to Melbourne (**TD** 24 Jun) have been welcomed as "fantastic news" by MEL airport officials.

"Taiwan is an important market and its growing strongly," said MEL spokesperson Carly Dixon.

CI's general manager David Wu said the expansion of services beyond its existing Sydney hub "represents our commitment to expanding our Australia and New Zealand market".

Thrice weekly A330-300 services will debut from 25 Oct.

QBT transitions government

QBT has today officially taken over as the sole provider of travel management services for the Whole of Australian Government.

As exclusively reported in the upcoming Jul issue of *travelBulletin* (in your letter box next week), QBT group gm Russell Carstensen says the four year

contract marks a new era for the business which "had not made a profit for 36 years" prior to him taking over in 2012.

The transition to QBT has seen 142 entities migrated to a single online booking tool (Amadeus e-Travel Management) over the last four months, involving over 120,000 traveller profiles.

Carstensen said he was proud to say that during the transition period customer service had also been maintained at high levels for other corporate customers.

"I could not be more proud of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by every member of staff at QBT," he said, also thanking the outgoing TMCs for their professionalism.

He said the WoAG contract was "ground zero" for the reformed Helloworld offshoot, with QBT's transparent approach a key factor in winning the deal.

AKARYN Aussie reps

INSPIRED Luxury has been named Australian representative for hospitality management company AKARYN Hotel Group.

The Thai-based firm specialises in the management of small luxury resorts and owns Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga & Aleenta Hua-Hin Pranburi and operates akya Chura Samui.

A number of other properties are in the group's pipeline, incl the akya Manor Hotel Chiang Mai and AKARYN Koh Krabay in Cambodia.



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Quest Toowoomba

THE 15th Queensland-based property to join the Quest Serviced Apartments network has opened in Toowoomba today.

Quest Toowoomba features 74 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments & features a restored church as its reception.

Quest ceo Zed Sanjana said the Darling Downs region is a thriving region following the opening of Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport and a planned Second Range Crossing that will greatly improve freight movement efficiency.

Two other properties are set to join the Quest Queensland network in the near future.

MU daily to Auckland

CHINA Eastern Airlines has confirmed it will commence year-round services between Shanghai and Auckland from late Sep, building on season services it has operated over recent years.

The four weekly Airbus A330-200 service was first announced in Mar (**TD** 25 Mar).

Yesterday, China Eastern said frequencies would be upgauged to daily on a trial basis from Jan.

HLO Fares at the Fair

HELLOWORLD agents around the country will this month gain deeper knowledge, training and tips from airline partners during the group's 2015 Fares at the Fair product training events which kicked off today in Perth.

In-house consolidator Air Tickets will assist with the training course.

Head of Branded Network Julie Primmer said the Fair provides an opportunity for agents to hear firsthand from airline partners & hear about the latest deals and product developments.

An average of 10 airline partners are participating at the other events, slated to be held in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne later this month.

Scenic CAN microsite

SCENIC has today announced the roll out of a new dedicated microsite to showcase its 2016 Canada, Alaska & USA program at www.scenicwonders.com.au.

The portal features imagery from the Rocky Mountains and Inside Passage, while listing the full suite of inclusions offered on the luxury operator's itineraries, such as exclusive events & activities and iconic hotels.

Browsers can "Learn Canadian slang" while in Lake Louise and watch videos of Glacier Bay, native wildlife and the fabled Fairmont Hotels & Resorts chain.

TA deepens Chinese ties



TOURISM Australia yesterday formally inked three major deals aimed at promoting Australia in China, including a major pact with e-commerce group Alibaba.

TA md John O'Sullivan said the agreement will see Australia become the first overseas long-haul destination to have a dedicated page on the 'Alitrip' website operated by Alibaba.

The portal will be co-branded using the "There's Nothing Like Australia" theme, and feature Australian travel packages offered by TA's preferred travel

distribution partners in China.

O'Sullivan said the Alibaba partnership also gives TA access to consumer data "which will help us better target our destination message and sell quality Australian holiday packages within a market which is already worth \$5.7 billion a year to us".

Tourism Australia also extended an existing memorandum of understanding with China Eastern Airlines by three years, seeing joint spending of up to \$11.5m to market Australian packages.

Officials are also finalising a new business events-focused deal with Singapore Airlines (**TD** 16 Jun) which will see SQ and TA together contribute \$2.7m to campaigns targeting MICE agents and corporate buyers.

italktravel tosser

EMIRATES has selected Robert Kirk from italktravel Hornsby as the winner of last week's AFL Coin Toss competition.

Kirk will attend the AFL match between Collingwood and Hawthorn this Fri, and toss the coin before kick-off.

His entry for the competition, naming his favourite Emirates destination, was "Copenhagen - to find a beautiful Scandinavian woman to make my wife, with a stopover in Dubai for our honeymoon...my body clock is ticking".

QR beefs up routes

ONEWORLD Gulf carrier Qatar Airways has announced network frequency increases to multiple destinations.

Routes boosted include Dubai, Jeddah, Peshawar, Kuala Lumpur, Sofia-Belgrade, Zanzibar, Djibouti, Asmara, Luxor, Najaf & Salalah.

Adjustments will take affect between today and Oct.

Reed Holidays Group

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Reed Holidays Group, a specialist in group touring for 50+ travellers, is seeking a dynamic, passionate and experienced Retail Sales Manager to join our team. This exciting role has responsibility for the internal sales team, managing and driving sales and reports directly to our National Sales and Marketing Manager. You will lead, develop and mentor a team of sales consultants to their optimum performance levels.

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**Gold Coast
Sydney**

Thu 9 July
Wed 15 July
Future Appointments in :
Adelaide, Melbourne & Perth

New Counsellors bdM

TRAVEL Counsellors has appointed Simon Gatt as its third Australian business development executive, working alongside Adele Barbaro and Chriss Perry.

Site inspection with a difference



THE sprawling Crown Perth complex recently hosted a group of 12 agents from wholesaler AOT Group to a unique site inspection which had the group on the run. Following a major refurbishment

Points for reviewing

ONLINE travel community TripAdvisor has launched a review recognition system aimed at validating and highlighting the expertise of its reviewing users.

Submissions to the site will be rewarded with points, which move a user higher up a ranking chart as points accumulate.

Users who have already posted content to TripAdvisor are already members of TripCollective & will have points retroactively applied.

Helpful votes earn one point, with ratings, forum posts, videos, photos, reviews and articles earning up to 100 points each.

A user reaches Level 1 once they accrue 300 points, moving as high as Level 6 once 10,000 points are reached, with badges awarded for each level attained.

which is now complete, the group were hosted in order to check out the vast improvements now available for guests to enjoy.

Activities were conducted in the Crown Promenade Perth complex, the Astral Ballroom and a variety of locations across the Crown Metropolis Perth precinct.

Adopting an 'Amazing Race' style format, attendees moved between venues including the Loft, Infinity Suites and the pool area to obtain clues and take part in challenges in order to proceed.

These included playing billiards according to the rules, correctly setting a table for a gala dinner and winning a round of blackjack.

Once a winner had been determined, the group was then treated to a performance of WICKED, which just finished its season at Crown Theatre Perth.

Refurbishments at Crown Promenade included a redesign of all guest rooms with a new colour scheme, new furnishings and modern finishes.

Amazing Racers are pictured above following the challenge.

EK responds to US subsidy claims

EMIRATES has released a detailed "point-by-point, fact-based response" to allegations of subsidy and unfair competition levelled by Delta, United and American Airlines (**TD** 11 Mar).

EK president Tim Clark, who described the claims as "flim-flam tosh" during a speech at Arabian Travel Market, said the methods employed by the three US legacy carriers to discredit Emirates "have been surprising and frankly, repugnant".

He said the Emirates response is comprehensive and based on hard facts, unlike a white paper presented by the "Big 3" US airlines which is "riddled with inaccuracies, conjecture and legal misinterpretations."

"We clearly show why the Big 3 have no grounds to ask the US government to unilaterally freeze Emirates' operations to the USA or pursue other action under the

Open Skies agreement."

He said Emirates is "absolutely not subsidised," with its operations benefiting consumers and the US economy.

The EK response systematically addresses allegations relating to fuel hedging subsidies, cheap airport infrastructure and artificially low labour costs.

"We have been profitable for 27 years straight, and unlike our accusers, we have never depended on government bail-outs or protection from competition," Clark said.

The full Emirates response which has been submitted to the US Departments of State, Transportation and Commerce, can be viewed online at emirates.com/USSubsidyRebuttal.

Gift cards for travel

AMERICAN online gift card enterprise www.mytab.travel has expanded to Australia, offering a product where friends and family can contribute funds to a loved one's planned travel endeavours.

Funds accumulated to an online account can then be spent on a range of flight and hotel products sourced by the company.

As awareness of the product grows and consumer cash stocks build up, Mytab says it is planning on using its marketing power to negotiate exclusive deals with airlines, hotels and other firms.

New Macau NZ rep

REGENCY Tourism Marketing, the New Zealand-based representation company founded by former Austrian Airlines country manager Richard Froggatt and Gaye Wood, has been appointed as the NZ gsa for the Macau Government Tourist Office.

The announcement was made by Helen Wong, who heads up the Macau Government Tourist Office in the Oceania region.

Business Development Manager, VICTORIA

DriveAway Holidays, Australia's leading self-drive specialist, is looking for a highly motivated & experienced Business Development Manager to service our Victorian travel agencies.

We require a BDM that is:

- An individual who has a clear understanding of the AU Travel Industry
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- A dedicated individual with excellent personal presentation
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PER seeking hotel partner

PERTH Airport Pty Ltd is seeking expressions of interest for the development of two possible hotels within the Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 precinct.

Revealed today, PER has begun the process to identify "a suitable hotel operator for the first hotel development on the airport estate".

The sites are located between Airport Drive and Horrie Miller Drive, about 2kms from T1 & T2, providing "excellent exposure and ease of access to all passenger terminals and the CBD".

CEO Brad Geatches said PER presents "a unique customer base for hotel development", due to its regular fly-in, fly-out market. "We are keen to attract

responses from strong performing hotel operators with demonstrated experience in operating a successful hotel business," Geatches said.

Operators with prior airport experience are "highly regarded".

"We are ultimately seeking to develop one or more high quality hotels as part of our overall vision for the future of Perth Airport, and additional opportunities may exist at a later date to meet the needs of our customers," he said.

According to Perth Airport's 'Hotel Opportunity' document obtained by **TD**, "at this stage, the location & timing is dependent upon multiple factors which are currently being confirmed."

Submissions close on 31 Jul.

Tara tips perfect round & wins

SOUTH Sydney Rabbitohs fanatic Tara Bellette from Scenic Tours will likely be found at more NRL games cheering on her team decked out in her brand new jersey.

Bellette was selected as the winner of Round 12 in the **Travel Daily** NRL footy tipping competition, which carried a prize of a jersey to the best tipper from that round.

The week was sponsored by InPlace Recruitment.

Tara's beloved Rabbitohs didn't let her down on her winning weekend, defeating the Gold Coast Titans 22-16.

She is pictured at right dressed in her team colours.



FTE 2016 date confo

TOURISM Fiji has confirmed the date or next year's Fijian Tourism Expo will be held from 03-06 May.

Further logistical details will be released in coming months.



Accommodation Updates

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, **Travel Daily's** Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Metro Hotel on Pitt in Sydney has completed the refit of the property's 119 rooms, offering Executive, Deluxe, Superior & Compact rooms to suit all markets. Rooms feature new Sealy queen-sized bed mattresses (double beds in Compact rooms), with guests provided free in-room wi-fi, free to air TV plus a selection of Foxtel channels.



Twelve newly constructed rooms and suites have been unveiled at **Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains** in NSW. The additions comprise four smaller Grand Luxury Suites, including a Two Bedroom Deluxe Suite, and all feature gas fireplaces, Nespresso machines and picturesque views, and seven Superior rooms, taking the resort's total accommodation tally to 223 rooms. A new day spa will launch next year.



Adults-only Thai resort **Layana Resort & Spa** on Koh Lanta Yai Island has today introduced six new rooms to its inventory. Located in Mu Koh Lanta National Park, the five-star hotel now features two new 60m² Grand Garden Pavilion Rooms which offer an expansive outdoor living room and terrace. Other work includes a new 'Wellness Zone', new gym facilities and a wellness pool.

AY booking uptick

FINNAIR has reported a jump in sales for each month of 2015 compared to 12 months ago, with "good numbers" already secured for the second half of the year.

Country manager Australia, New Zealand & New Caledonia Geoff Stone said AY's achieved "strong pick-up" from new destinations serviced, such as Greece & Malta.

Stone said Finnair's expanded codeshare deal with Qantas between Singapore and Perth was proving effective.

New Hurtigruten ship

HURTIGRUTEN has announced it will introduce a new 320-pax vessel to its fleet for the 2016/17 winter season, the first time in a decade the expedition line has invested in a new ship.

The 7,025-tonne vessel was built in 2009 at Portugal's Viana do Castelo shipyard and will be temporarily named **MS Norway Explorer** by Hurtigruten.

It will replace **MS Midnatsol** and operate along the Norwegian coast and Antarctica.



Customer Sales Officer

3 x Contract Roles. Sydney CBD Location

Cathay Pacific Airways is recruiting 3 x full-time contract Customer Sales Officer positions to join our energetic reservations team and answer customer queries, make reservations via the telephone and email, assist Travel Agents, and a number of other customer orientated tasks.

Successful applicants should have:

- Min 2 years experience in a reservations role within the travel industry (experience with Amadeus is preferable)
- A passion for sales & customer service
- Excellent spoken and written English (a second language is a bonus)

Join our fun and vibrant team and enjoy on the job training, monthly incentives, Sydney CBD location, and be a part of our great Cathay Pacific culture.

Please send your cover letter and resume to Angela Borst, People Department Australia at angela_borst@cathaypacific.com including your salary expectations.

Applications close Wednesday 15 July 2015. Only successful applications will be contacted.

Business Development Manager Sydney

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Contact tricia.mikolai@au.biworldwide.com with both a cover letter and a resume.

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ABOVE: Virgin Australia last Fri night hosted industry guests to the opening night of *Peter Pan* in Brisbane, as part of its role as the official Airline Partner of the Queensland Ballet.

Pictured at the after party are, from left: Dawn Scannell, Queensland Ballet; Michelle Johansson, Infinity Holidays; Vito Bernasconi who played the role of Captain Hook in the production; artistic director Li Cunxin and Sandra Cavallin from Infinity Holidays.

Curio addition

HILTON Worldwide has announced the addition of New England's Madison Beach Hotel to the group's Curio collection.

Located in Madison, Connecticut, the 32-room boutique property dates back to the early 1900s, and was completely rebuilt in 2012.

COMO specials

COMO Hotels & Resorts is offering complimentary nights and half price seaplane transfers to its Maalifushi by COMO resort in the southern Maldives, with the flight specials valid for bookings of a minimum of four nights before 31 Oct.

Valid through until 25 Dec 2015, Maalifushi by COMO has a stay 4/ pay 3 and stay 7/pay 5 special.

The new Point Yamu by COMO in Phuket also has a stay 4/pay 3 and stay 7/pay 5 offer valid until 31 Oct - comohotels.com.

Alaska ramps up LAX

ALASKA Airlines has announced the addition of daily return flights between Los Angeles and Monterey in California, as well as a new seasonal flight between LAX and Gunnison/Crested Butte in Colorado.

The Colorado services targeting skiers will operate from 16 Dec through to 26 Mar 2016.

Jumpjet opposes QF/AA pact expansion

JUMPJET Airlines Limited, which describes itself as an "independent investment-ready Australian/New Zealand airline company developing to enter the trans-Tasman market," has lodged a submission to the ACCC, urging the regulator to deny authorisation for the expanded alliance between Qantas and American Airlines.

Jumpjet says refusing the pact would help the federal govt recognise the need for sound regulation in the aviation industry, moving from the "20th Century obsolete Free Market concepts to a Fair Market philosophy".

The company said "unrestrained airline commercialism" has seen a relentless decline in international market share for Australian carriers, which if it continues will "destroy the viability of the aviation industry from a sovereign and national interest perspective".

CLICK HERE to view.

United NYC for \$1,279

UNITED Airlines is celebrating Independence Day (04 Jul) early, today releasing special airfares to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco, New York & other US destinations.

Valid for departures between 28 Jul-16 Sep, 13 Oct-30 Nov and 27 Jan-16 Mar, prices start at \$1,144 including taxes and surcharges.

Fares lead in at \$1,199 to LAS, \$1,269 to SFO and \$1,279 to NYC, valid for bookings made by 10 Jul.

MEANWHILE, United has also invested \$30 million in a stake in a company called Fulcrum BioEnergy - the single largest investment by a US carrier in alternative fuels.

Fulcrum is a "pioneer in the development and commercialisation of converting municipal solid waste into low-cost sustainable aviation biofuel".

Under the agreement, United has also negotiated a long-term supply deal with Fulcrum which gives it the opportunity to purchase at least 90 million gallons of the biofuel annually.

\$200k FWA agent fine

CHINESE specialist agency Grandcity Travel & Tours, which operates outlets in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Brisbane, has been fined more than \$200,000 for underpaying staff, in a court case brought by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The agency is run by Na Xu, with the case following a probe into claims of a 24-year-old woman who was paid as little as \$9 per hour to work as a casual travel consultant, according to a *Fairfax* report which cited the judge saying the company had "demonstrated a complete disregard for the minimum standards in the Fair Work Act".

Progress made at LH

GERMANY flight crew union UFO says sufficient progress has been made on the long-running pay dispute with Lufthansa to avoid strikes until mid-Jul at least.

CEO Carsten Spohr said he was confident of reaching a deal to settle the matter long-term.



WIN A LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

This month, Travel Daily and Scenic are giving readers the chance to win an amazing luxury European river cruise. The prize, valued at up to \$24,060 includes:

- 15 day Jewels of Europe River Cruise for 2 people
- 2 x return economy class airfares to Europe
- Return airport transfers
- Complimentary beverages all day, everyday, all meals, private butler service and all tipping and gratuities

To win, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question.

Send your answers to scenic@traveldaily.com.au

1. What does the all-inclusive *Tailormade* program offer Scenic guests?

Need a hint? CLICK HERE.

Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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Experienced Travel Consultants – If you are currently living in Rockhampton or looking at relocating then check out this once in a blue moon opportunity! This independent retail agency is currently on the hunt for a fresh face to join their team. Business has been booming and they require an experienced senior retail travel consultant to create domestic and international holiday packages for their repeat and referral clientele. Minimum 2 years experience is a must along with strong Galileo skills. Apply today.

WHERE THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER **CORPORATE TRAVEL CONSULTANTS** **BRISBANE CBD – SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K OTE**

Looking to get away from retail travel? Is it time you stood back from the frontline and jumped behind the scenes? Well here is your chance! This global travel company is currently recruiting for their corporate division. They are seeking strong, career driven and experienced travel consultants to join their highly successful teams and handle domestic and international travel arrangements for their business clients. Enjoy a strong salary package, uncapped commission and Monday to Friday hours. Call AA today to find out more!

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