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Tuesday 6th Oct 2015

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EK mulls secondary cities

EMIRATES president & ceo Tim Clark has flagged the potential of the Dubai-based carrier flying to secondary cities in Australia as part of the next stage of its alliance with partner Qantas.

EK currently operates 77 weekly flights to five capital cities in Australia - Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

Clark listed Darwin, Cairns, Broome and even Alice Springs to *Gulf News* as possible destinations which may be serviced over the next five years through the tie-up with the Australian flag carrier.

The Emirates boss met with Qantas ceo Alan Joyce last week to "map the way forward over the next three [to] five years.

"Sydney, Melbourne and Perth are going to be primary areas," he said, with growth on the local

market with QF "unabated".

Part of the original agreement, Clark added, includes Qantas considering the resumption of European cities when it receives new Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliners*, expected to enter service by the end of QF's 2019 financial year.

European gateways mentioned which may be accessed by Qantas via Dubai include Frankfurt, Paris and Rome.

CWT M&E changes

CARLSON Wagonlit is understood to have made its Australian meetings & events team redundant on Fri as part of a restructure of local operations.

The company confirmed it was no longer focusing on "transient meetings, events or group air services" - more in today's issue of *Business Events News*.

Quest agent focus

QUEST Apartment Hotels is reminding agents to search questapartments.com.au or "QG" on the GDS to make bookings for clients - see the **cover page**.

What a whopper!

TD today has nine pages of news, a cover page for **Quest Apartment Hotels**, a photo page for **APT** plus full pages:

- AA Appointments jobs
- Consolidated/SQ promo
- Atlantis The Palm

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First with the news

Tuesday 6th Oct 2015

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New Avis Budget boss

AVIS Budget Group's former md of Europe Mark J Servodidio has commenced in his new capacity as president of International.

The new role sees Servodidio assume responsibility for Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

2016 travel show in Syd, Mel

NEXT year's Travel Industry Exhibition will expand to two cities, with the event to take place in both Sydney and Melbourne (**TD** breaking news).

The move to add Melbourne follows the success of this year's show (**TD** 17 Jul) with organisers saying exhibitors and interstate visitors had already expressed strong interest in participating in the additional location.

Running over two days in each city, the 2016 show will include a full educational program, which will be developed with the support of AFTA.

Show director David McCarthy said the event would provide an ideal opportunity for the industry to connect while being updated on the latest products and services including destinations, airlines, technology, cruise & tours.

The 2016 Travel Industry Exhibition will take place at Melbourne's Peninsula, Docklands on 11-12 Jul, with the Sydney event being once again held at Luna Park a week later on 18-19 Jul - for more info, see www.travelindustryexpo.com.au.

Vibe Hotel for Hobart

TFE Hotels has secured the operating rights for a new Vibe Hotel in the Tasmanian capital.

Vibe Hotel, Hobart is part of a 15-level mixed-use development which will feature 10 floors of some 120 rooms and suites, conference rooms and facilities.

Retail, hospitality & commercial space & offices will also occupy the ground floor and other floors.

The approved project will be built opposite the Royal Hobart Hospital on Argyle Street, with construction slated to commence in 2016 and completion in 2017.

The next-gen 4.5-star Vibe Hotel Hobart will be the first Vibe branded property in Tasmania.

VA, ACO partnership

THE Australian Chamber of Orchestra has announced a new three-year partnership with Virgin Australia which will see the airline continue as Principal Partner.

Over coming years, VA will assist the ACO take its music to new regions in Australia and globally.



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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 6th Oct 2015

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Hong Kong surpasses China growth

SHORT-TERM visitor arrivals figures released today by the ABS saw Hong Kong wrest away the mantle from China as Australia's fastest growing inbound source market, posting a 14.8% jump in

arrivals, compared to its mainland neighbour at 12.7%.

Australia welcomed 194,000 Hong Kong residents over the month, while 830,000 Chinese took their holidays down under.

NZ remained at the top of the tree in terms of overall numbers, with 1.11 million Kiwi arrivals, up 8.3% year on year.

Nipping on China's heels in terms of growth was India, which performed well once again in Aug to record 191,000 short-term visitors, a 12.3% spike.

Rounding out the top ten were Singapore, USA, UK, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan, with the latter recording the biggest decrease for the month at -0.1%, showing good consistency among Australia's top ten markets.

Tourism Australia md John O'Sullivan said the arrivals figures made "solid reading" with plenty of positives including the growth from China and India "where the work our industry has put in during recent years to target the two countries' burgeoning middle classes is undoubtedly now paying dividends".

From an outbound perspective, China also proved to be a popular destination, with 358,000 Aussies venturing to its shores, up 9.2%.

New Zealand again led the way with 1.05 million departures, up 5.9% year-on-year.

Outbound travel to Malaysia and Indonesia took a hit, down 12.9% and 3.5% respectively.

Footy comp winners

THE 2016 Aussie footy season drew to a close last weekend, with the Hawks and Cowboys taking out the AFL and NRL Grand Finals in Melbourne & Sydney for their respective codes.

The season ending also saw the winners of *Travel Daily's* exclusive travel industry footy tipping comps named.

At the head of the AFL comp was Gerry Hudson from Qantas who scored 311 points.

Gerry was followed by David Fazakerley from Flight Centre who also scored 311 points but was relegated to second place on a countback of weeks leading.

In the NRL, congratulations goes to Laura Freyling from helloworld Milton with a score of 264, two points clear of her nearest rival Chantelle Walsh from Emirates.

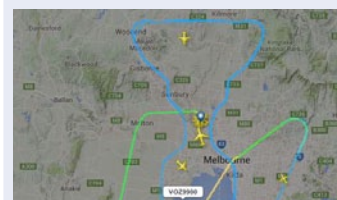
Both Gerry and Laura have won return Economy class flights for two to Dubai, courtesy of tipping competition sponsor Emirates.



Window Seat

VIRGIN Australia has thanked Airservices Australia for its help with an AFL Grand Final stunt, which saw one of its A330 aircraft perform somewhat more than the customary flyover prior to the start of the game.

Flying a total distance of 246 kilometres at 15,000 feet, the aircraft mapped out the outline of the AFL trophy (**below**).



However the flight didn't go down well on social media, with WA fans expressing outrage at big fare hikes which hit some heading to MEL for the game.

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Tuesday 6th Oct 2015

HLO responds on NZ

THE launch of the Helloworld brand in New Zealand in 2016 will proceed as scheduled, despite the resignation of 36 United Travel franchisees (**TD** Fri).

In an ASX update released after Travel Daily's publication on Fri, Helloworld confirmed the United Travel stores were leaving, but said the mass departure was "not material to the financial results at a group level".

The departing agencies will remain within Helloworld as full and participating members until the end of Nov 2016 under their existing franchise agreements.

"Some franchisees have made the decision that helloworld is not for them and, while that is disappointing, we are confident that we have a broad network footprint and a strong platform from which to launch helloworld in New Zealand," Stella Travel Services ceo Greg Leighton said.

Helloworld ceo Elizabeth Gaines said the unification of the retail network under *helloworld* would allow the NZ operations to build on strong existing foundations.

Rydges Syd going up

RYDGES Central Hotel in Surry Hills, Sydney will inject \$1.25m into an extension of the property, adding two levels and 38 new rooms, **Travel Daily** can exclusively reveal.

Currently, the hotel - positioned near Sydney's Central Railway Station - offers 271 rooms, which will increase to 309 once work has been completed next year.

FreeSpirit enters ACT

RESORT & Holiday Park Management company FreeSpirit will manage a new tourist accom facility which has broken ground at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

Canberra Park Resort is slated to be completed during Q4 of 2016 and will offer dormitory-style accom for up to 400 beds, cabins and caravan sites.

Kath Gorge spotlight

KATHERINE Gorge in the Northern Territory will feature in a global tourism campaign being shot around the country.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the new Tourism Australia marketing campaign would highlight Australia's world class aquatic and coastal experiences, with Katherine Gorge chosen because of its wide variety of experiences.

You've got to hand it to Hutton!



Malindo CASA nod

AUSTRALIA'S Civil Aviation Safety Authority has approved Malaysian carrier Malindo Air to begin services between Kuala Lumpur and Perth (**TD** 14 Sep), earmarked to launch on 11 Nov.

The low-cost carrier's website shows OD has pushed its start date to 19 Nov, at which time it will offer a daily services to PER.

Malindo Air will then crank up flight frequencies to its maiden Australian hub to 11 weekly effective 03 Dec, with the extra flights operating from Kuala Lumpur on Mon, Thu, Fri and Sun.

Flights are now bookable online at www.malindoair.com.

ABOVE: Always a popular staple on the industry social calendar, the annual Globus Golf Day saw the firm put together a strong lineup of personalities for the day.

Held once again at the scenic Pymble Golf Club in Sydney, more than 100 players of all skill levels made up 29 teams taking on the course in an Ambrose format.

Pictured above from left rocking their best golf gear is Peter Williams and Phil Hoffmann from Phil Hoffmann Travel; Deborah Hutton, Avalon Waterways brand Ambassador and Globus family of brands md Stewart Williams.

CLICK HERE for more photos on **Travel Daily's** Facebook page.

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Aircalin summer sale

AIRCALIN is offering airfares to New Caledonia from \$529 for travel 07 Oct-23 Jun 2016 (with some blackout periods), bookable until 31 Oct through GDSs.

Agents say hello to Cuba



HELLOWORLD and **LATAM** Airlines Group recently treated agents to a Peru and Cuba fam.

The lucky agents put their culinary skills to the test with a cooking class in Lima, where they also learned how to create the famous Pisco Sour cocktail.

Then they were off to rumba the night away in Havana and immerse themselves in the history of Cuba.

They visited Revolution Square, the Che Guevara Mausoleum, the town of Santa Clara and explored

the historical town of Trinidad.

And it wouldn't be a trip to Cuba without a cruise in the classic convertible cars.

Pictured in the back row: Ingrid Hay, Newfarm Travel; Michelle Yates, The Travel Studio; Michelle Toner, Toner's Travel & Cruise; Senia Gupte, Helloworld Hornsby Westfield and Michelle Houston, LATAM.

Front row: Ruth Keith, RACT Travel; Kerry Jabir, Swan Travel and Rhonda Sunderland, Helloworld Toronto.

Emirates Aniston TVC

JENNIFER Aniston is the star of Emirates' new global digital and TV campaign, to be rolled out in the US and the UAE, followed by Australia, the UK, Germany, France and Italy in Nov.

The ad opens with Aniston looking for the onboard shower and lounge on a non-EK flight.

It turns out to be a nightmare as she wakes up in her own Private Suite in the Emirates First Class cabin before getting acquainted with the airline's A380 Shower Spa and Onboard Lounge.

To watch the video, **CLICK HERE**.

RWC hotel rev surge

THE opening weekend of the Rugby World Cup saw a significant growth in revenue per available room in host markets, STR Global data reveals.

During 18-20 Sep, each of the four markets to host a match averaged year-over-year RevPAR increases of: +148.5% in Cardiff; +37.4% in Gloucester; +28.2% in Brighton and +27.0% in London.

Sheraton Dubrovnik

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has opened Sheraton Dubrovnik Riviera Hotel, marking the entry of the Sheraton brand into Croatia's Dalmatian Coast.

The hotel is owned by Hoteli Dubrovacka Rivijera d.d and offers 240 guest rooms, a spa, outdoor pools, 1,400sqm of events space and several restaurants and bars.



This week Travel Daily and Pillow Roll are giving readers the chance to win a Pillow Roll each day.

Pillow Roll is your own convenient personal pillow carrier, whether travelling or just off camping for a weekend. Take the comfort of your own pillow with you no matter where you go. Protect it from germs and grime and roll your pillow up with ease for handling and portability. Visit pillowroll.com.au

To win be the first to send the correct answer to pillow@traveldaily.com.au

Would you take your pillow with you if it was convenient for you?

French Riviera floods

HOLIDAY plans for thousands of holidaymakers heading to the French Riviera region have been thrown into chaos following floods which left 18 people dead and four more missing.

The storms hit in the towns of Antibes, Cannes and Nice, with around 500 people finding themselves stranded at Nice airport over the weekend.

Rail traffic remained stopped along the Mediterranean coast between Nice and Toulon on Sun and several roads were closed.

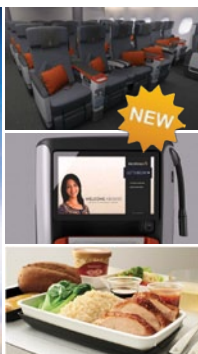
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THIS past weekend (long on Friday for some and long on Monday for others) offered an action packed array of football across three different codes. For the travel industry, sport in any form brings bookings. With reports that some from the West Coast of Australia found their way to Melbourne via Bali for the grand final between the West Coast Eagles and Hawthorn, it might be asked "was it worth it?"

The Hawkes won their third straight AFL premiership, something that the history books will register and a record that will be very difficult to beat. Then came the grudge match on the world stage at the Rugby World Cup with the England verses Australia match. The Wallabies were victorious and have set their path to the next round and with some tactical planning, perhaps the final. No doubt some bookings have already started for the spectacle that is Rugby World Cup and in one of the most rugby crazy cities in the world, London. Shame the home team will not be a showing. I mean real shame.

Last of all if we had not had our fill of football, the NRL final on Sunday. A game with its roots firmly in NSW, but with two Queensland teams head to head. Any wonder Victorians get their noses out of joint when an AFL final has no Victorian teams. In NSW the 80,000 strong rugby league fans faced the heatwave that Sydney felt all weekend for the Sunday night match between the Cowboys and the Broncos. Once again the bookings clearly flowed as the two teams had thousands of fans flock to Sydney to watch the dust up. Cowboys were the victor in one of the most spectacular finals on record, with a win by just one point in overtime. What a fantastic celebration of the tourism town of Townsville and far north Queensland. Bronco fans may have been left wanting as thousands headed back home to sunny Queensland with nothing more than a hangover, possibly fuelled by XXXX on offer at the stadium, which was such a big deal that it made the news.

For all those travel industry sports crazed, you can keep watching the Rugby World Cup and for all the absolute fanatics, I highly recommend the RWC smartphone APP. You know who you are. Happy Footy.

UA ceo admits issues

UNITED Airlines' new chief Oscar Munoz has admitted in a video posted online that the United Airlines and Continental Airlines merger has been "rocky for customers and employees".

"While it's been improving recently, we still haven't lived up to our promise or our potential," Munoz said, pledging "that's going to change".

The top dog urged customers and employees to share their "best ideas and toughest questions" at unitedairtime.com, promising to report back on how the ideas are being turned into actions.

Since the merger, United has struggled with both customer service and operational issues.

In 2012, the conversion of United's website with Continental's prompted huge delays for passengers checking in for UA flights (**TD** 06 Mar 12).

Questions regarding website improvement, delays and old planes have already been posted.

To see the video, **CLICK HERE**.

DriveAway NZ deals

DRIVEAWAY Holidays is offering a range of car hire and motorhome deals for self-drive holidays in New Zealand.

Book and pay by 31 Oct for up to 10% off car rental with Avis or Budget for collection until 31 Mar 2016 or receive up to 15% off with Thrifty for collections until 31 Oct.

Save up to 40% on a Maui motorhome booked by 12 Nov when collecting in Christchurch between Mar and mid-Sep 2016 and returning to Auckland, Christchurch or Queenstown.

See www.driveaway.com.au.

TIME auction results

THIS year's Travel Industry Mentor Experience Silent Auction raised more than \$10,000, organisers of the event have confirmed.

The TIME Board said the result was driven by generous industry suppliers who contributed items to the auction "and their belief and support of the continuation of the TIME program".

AIME buyer regos

HOSTED buyer applications for the 24th Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo (AIME) at Melb Convention & Exhibition Centre on 23-24 Feb 2016 have opened.

Vanuatu bids Pryor farewell



ABOVE: Air Vanuatu and trade partners bid farewell to long-standing general manager Australia Malcolm Pryor last week after eight years in the role.

NF chief executive officer Joseph Laloyer said: "Malcolm has been an exceptional manager of our Australian operations, leading a team of hard working sales, airport and marketing staff."

"Malcolm has seen the airline grow significantly in his time and no doubt to his continuous efforts.

"He has had a stellar career in the aviation industry and we wish him well," Laloyer remarked.

Pryor is **pictured** (second from left) with Greg Maloney, Destination Asia Pacific Marketing and Anne Morris, Bart Druiitt and

Sarah Anderson from Australian representative for the Vanuatu Tourism Office, GTI Tourism.

New A&K NZ head

ABERCROMBIE & Kent today announced the appointment of Wendy D'Arcy as its new Auckland-based country manager for New Zealand.

Malaysia reassures

TOURISM Malaysia has given the "strongest assurance" that Kuala Lumpur is safe, after terror alerts issued last week.

Affected areas are being closely monitored by the police, with Australian and US authorities now withdrawing their warnings.



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The ideal candidate will have excellent oral and written communication skills, high proficiency in Microsoft Office particularly excel along with project management experience and the ability to work under pressure, be sales driven and interact with the Sales and Marketing Departments. Salary on application.

Send written CV with covering letter to hr@msccruises.com.au by 07 October 2015.

Tuesday 6th Oct 2015

Eurostar cancellations

EUROSTAR will be operating on a reduced timetable to and from Lille Europe and will have no services to or from Brussels Midi on 09 Oct due to a National Strike in Belgium.

The 'chunnel' operator is offering passengers affected to change their booking, or cancel for a full refund - more [HERE](#).

Mercure UK additions

ACCORHOTELS will manage a further 11 hotels in the UK under its Mercure brand following an agreement with Amaris Hospitality Limited.

Hotels will be rebranded by the end of the year in Aberdeen, Bristol, Exeter, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Daventry, Haydock, St Albans, Brands Hatch and Walton.

Amaris has revealed it plans to invest over £100 million in the rebranding of 21 hotels.

Tamanu Beach reps

COOK Islands' Tamanu Beach Resort has appointed Tropics Tourism & Marketing Services as their Australian marketing representative.

Industry training and awareness programs will take place over the coming months.

Hilton Tokyo Odaiba

HILTON Worldwide has opened Hilton Tokyo Odaiba, its 12th hotel in Japan.

The hotel offers 453 rooms, including 17 suites with private balconies overlooking Tokyo Bay, along with five restaurants, a bar, a 1,200m² ballroom and events space, two wedding chapels, a gym, spa and indoor pool.

UA China approvals

THE US Dept of Transportation has given United Airlines the go ahead to commence two new routes between the USA and mainland China ex San Francisco.

The newly approved routes include nonstop services to Chengdu and Xi'an.

Travelzoo appoints

TRAVELZOO has announced Holger Bartel will take on the role of global ceo and Vivian Hong as president Asia Pacific, effective 01 Jan 2016.

Mike Stitt has also been appointed as president, North America effective 01 Oct, 2015, while current ceo Chris Loughlin will leave on 31 Dec, 2015.

FRA T3 underway

CONSTRUCTION has started on Frankfurt Airport's new Terminal 3, with more than 400 Fraport AG employees performing the first cut of the spade yesterday.

The initial construction phase will include the main terminal building and two piers and will serve up to 14 million pax a year.

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Brochures

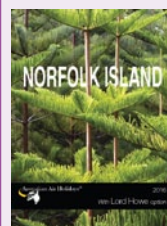


WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Cosmos - Europe 2016

The new Cosmos 2016 brochure offers over 60 holidays throughout Europe ranging from eight to 29 days. New for 2016 is the eight-day Highlights of Andalusia, focussing on southern Spain including Seville, Cordoba, Granada Rhone and Malaga and the 13-day Secret Treasures of France and Spain, which travels from Paris to Madrid via lesser known destinations. Also new is the 10-day Sicily Discovery and eight-day Discover Saxony, which begins in Berlin and explores castles, baroque buildings and rococo palaces.



Australian Air Holidays - Norfolk Island 2016

Australian Air Holidays 2016 Norfolk Island program features direct flights from Melbourne to Norfolk island and a variety of eight-day programs. Highlights include the Ultimate Norfolk, which includes accom at Governors Lodge, all meals, tours and attractions as well as home or hotel pickup and return in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Fly drive packages are also available, as are stand-alone return air fares from Melbourne to Norfolk and a three-day Lord Howe Island option.



Bench International - Africa 2016

Bench International is introducing exciting new properties in Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa as well as Madagascar - a brand new country to feature in their brochure. Bench are offering a number of exclusive small group tours to East and Southern Africa including the new 14-day Ultimate Africa Air Safari. The tour explores Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, with a maximum group size of eight. Highlights include visits to wildlife reserves and a two-night cruising safari.



Bunnik Tours - Cruise & Tour 2016

Bunnik's 2016 Cruise & Tour program features a line-up of 13 cruise & tour itineraries, exploring South & Central America and Europe. Eight new itineraries are new to the season, including a tour of Norway and the Baltics, cruises along the Mediterranean coastline and small group tours of Italy, Morocco or Croatia. In South & Central America, the 36-day South American

Wonders has returned, visiting the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Iguazu Falls, combined with a 14-night cruise around the southern tip.



A&K - Polar Expedition Cruises 2016/17

Abercrombie & Kent's 2016-17 polar expedition cruises operate on the exclusively chartered *Le Boreal*, which travels to the Arctic while brand new sister ship *Le Lyril* explores Antarctica. New to the program is the 12-day Iceland & Greenland: In the Wake of the Vikings, visiting Reykjavik, Westman Islands, Skjoldungen Fjord, South Greenland, Nuuk and West Greenland. Also in the brochure is the 12-day Classic Antarctica and 17-day Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falkland Islands.



Adventure World - India 2016/17

Adventure World's new India catalogue offers a selection of itineraries that explore India's diverse regions such as the 17-day Handpicked South India and Handpicked North India trips and the 15-day Rajasthan Adventure. It offers short trips such as the six-day Golden Triangle adventure that explores Delhi, Agra and Jaipur and includes visits to the Taj Mahal and ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri.

#APTtheBest Top Achievers Journey on the Douro

Tuesday 6th Oct 2015

APT recently treated a group of its most successful travel agents to an all-inclusive 12-day Douro Delights luxury river cruise and tour from Portugal to Spain. The APT International Top Achievers trip for 2015 saw the group enjoy three glorious nights in Lisbon before setting sail along the Douro River from Porto to Madrid aboard the company's luxury vessel, *MS AmaVida*. The group spent 12 days experiencing for themselves APT's all inclusive itinerary which offers the contrast of two vibrant cities in two very different countries, against the backdrop of

Portugal's Douro river, one of the most picturesque regions of western Europe. APT's Commercial Manager Retail, Susan Haberle hosted the trip along with APT WA Sales Manager, Jo Ellies and NSW BDM, Rowena Morris.

Each agent was treated to their own private balcony suite onboard the vessel which is custom designed for the Douro.

Susan Haberle said, "River cruising on the Douro is becoming increasingly popular as more and more travellers fall in love with the travel style and seek out new and exciting destinations. At APT we've been leading the way on the Douro so it was an absolute pleasure to be able to share this experience with our top performing agents."



LEFT: The group outside Quinta Da Aveleda, back row from left: Karen Turner, Escape Travel The Glen; Rohan Ford, Cruiseabout Kew; Kate Arnold, Sylvania Travel & Cruise; Jacqui Ingram, Flying Colours Travel; Helen Paulus, Geelong Travel; Jocelyn Foster, Our Vacation Centre; Gabrielle Abbott, Andrew Jones Travel; and Nilla Spark, Travel with Purpose.

Front row: Julie Clarkson, helloworld Croydon Hills; Maxine Hodis, Flight Centre Eastland; Jenny Kater, Coopers Travel; Deb Bond, Our Vacation Centre.

Kneeling: Rowena Morris, Susan Haberle and Jo Ellies, APT; and Andrew Guillaume, helloworld Wheelers Hill.



ABOVE: Dining al fresco aboard *AmaVida*.

RIGHT: Helen Paulus and Rita Carlini from Geelong Travel were jumping for joy at the Mateus Palace gardens.

BELOW: *AmaVida*, home to the agents for their celebratory trip.



ABOVE: The APT hosts raise a glass at the Quinta Da Aversada vineyard.



ABOVE: Jenny Kater of Coopers Travel and Jocelyn Foster, Our Vacation Centre.



ABOVE: Great times had by all cruising the Douro.

For further information on APT's Douro River Cruising in 2016 call APT on 1300 196 420 or speak to your local BDM.



RIGHT: The unforgettable Pena National Palace was one of the stunning experiences during the trip.



Melia builds Malaysia

SPANISH property group Melia Hotels International will add two new resorts in the state of Johor with the Melia Iskandar Malaysia & INNSIDE Iskandar opening soon.

Hail QFFF points in a taxi

MEMBERS of Qantas Frequent Flyer can now earn points by hailing a taxi using the GoCatch taxi booking service under a new tie-up between the two brands.

One Qantas Frequent Flyer point will be awarded for all taxi

fares over \$10 generated through the smartphone app.

All new accounts created on the app will also go into a draw to win a share of 500,000 QFFF points if earning points by using the app between 09 Oct and 09 Nov.

"Members can effectively double-dip on points when catching a taxi if they use goCatch to book and pay for taxi fares over \$10 on a Qantas Points-earning credit card," Qantas Loyalty ceo Lesley Grant added.

EK doubles Boston

EMIRATES has doubled capacity on its daily service from Dubai to Boston in response to strong passenger demand on the route.

Both services will be operated by Boeing 777-300ER aircraft in a three-class configuration.

New head of epiQure

QANTAS Loyalty has hired food & wine social media guru Lisa Hudson to fill a newly created role of Head of Qantas epiQure.

Hudson brings an extensive media pedigree as former ceo and publisher of Fairfax Magazines.

She was also commissioned by Qantas to write a new strategy on growing QF's food & wine content.

Huge Chinese merger

CHINA'S largest hotel group, Jin Jiang International, has become a whole lot bigger after signing to acquire 81% of the Plateno Hotels Group, a fellow Chinese firm.

The move caps off a period of intense growth for Jin Jiang, having earlier this year completed the takeover of the French brand Louvre Hotels Group.

Combined, the organisation now manages a massive 30 brands covering 6,000 hotels and 640,000 rooms in 55 countries.

Prior to the merger, both companies declared they were on a path of significant expansion into cities around the world.

In a joint statement, the merged entities said its ultimate goal is to work to open a Chinese-run hotel in "every beautiful destination in the world".



Money

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US0.708

THE Australian dollar is currently enjoying a period of relative health & prosperity considering recent struggles, propped up recently from poor jobs data out of the US late last week.

The data saw the AUD climb to a two-week high, with any effect expected to remain relatively positive due to the US keeping interest rates on hold at least until the end of the year.

Less than positive figures from the UK and Japan saw the local currency also report gains.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.708
UK	£0.467
NZ	\$1.090
Euro	€0.633
Japan	¥85.33
Thailand	฿25.735
China	¥4.500
South Africa	R9.644
Canada	\$0.926
Crude oil	US\$46.26

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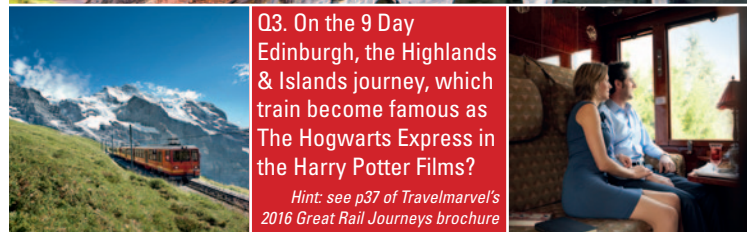
WIN WITH TRAVELMARVEL

Escorted Great Rail Journeys through Europe have arrived at Travelmarvel in 2016 and to celebrate, *Travel Daily* is offering readers the chance to discover the romance of rail. Every day we'll showcase the many highlights and destinations available on Travelmarvel's Great Rail Journeys.

The person with the most correct answers, and who wows us with the most creative answer to the final question, will win a 9 day Edinburgh, the Highlands and Islands tour for two, departing June or September 2016. Send your answers to rail@traveldaily.com.au



Terms & conditions



Q3. On the 9 Day Edinburgh, the Highlands & Islands journey, which train become famous as The Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter Films?

Hint: see p37 of Travelmarvel's 2016 Great Rail Journeys brochure

Aircalin portal rehash

AIRCALIN has launched a new website designed to provide users with a broader view of the options available for stays in New Caledonia and to increase the site's visibility to search engines. See au.aircalin.com/en.

Transaero bankrupt

AEROFLOT has suggested Rossiya, DonAvia and Orenburg Airlines merge into a single entity called United Airline Russia to fill a service gap following Transaero's expected dissolution.

Transaero shareholders have not been able to consolidate the 75% stake expected to be transferred to Aeroflot last week, Russian *Interfax* news agency reports.

Aeroflot has agreed to pay all Transaero's current expenses related to flight operations, but not the airline's 250 billion ruble (AU\$5.4 billion) debt.

Family visits to South Africa plummet 10%

The family segment of international arrivals in South Africa has dropped from +1.8% year-on-year to -9.8% since the introduction of the new visa requirements on 01 Jun, according to ForwardKeys stats.

Under the new SA law, parents must provide an original or certified copy of a child's birth certificate detailing both parents when checking-in for the flight (**TD** 22 Sep).

Seven of the top ten source countries for family tourism in South Africa placed a negative reaction on the new visa rules, with Australia, Belgium and Canada the exceptions.

Total int'l arrivals in South Africa is falling into a deeper decrease, from -6.8% to -10.6%, due to the decline of the previously growing family segment.



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Use your experience in corporate conference & events to join this market leader as an Event Director. In this role you will execute amazing events on a day to day basis. Be accountable for the programs whilst ensuring briefs & budgets are met. Strong salary package, great career progression & benefits on offer. Min 4 years agency event management experience, offshore destinations, knowledge of how to manage group travel & travel systems required.

CHAMPAGNE TASTES!

**PRODUCT MANAGER
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Experienced Product Managers get excited – here is your chance to diversify in product and join a successful high end luxury brand. You'll have experience in product research, luxury supplier relations, contracting, writing marketing collateral and creative luxury product packaging. You must be a team player, have great attention to detail and enjoy a fun, fast-paced environment. This is a unique product role not to be missed! Call the Executive team today!

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**ACCOUNT MANAGER - TMC
SYDNEY – FROM \$90K+ DOE**

Are you the master in keeping relationships? We are looking for a strong Account Manager with 4 years + experience to join a market leader. You will be a polished and professional individual who knows how to deliver outstanding account management services for large market clients, building rapport and analyzing data to effectively manage their business. Strong communication and negotiation skills are essential. Take your career to the next step!

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Make the most of the Early Bird season between 10 September and 8 October and sell your way to Singapore as Consolidated Travel and Singapore Airlines give you the chance to win the ultimate luxury experience



WIN

One of five ultimate luxury experiences, flying in Singapore Airlines' Business Class to Singapore and staying in the spectacular Capella Resort on Sentosa Island.

HOW

Be one of the top 3 highest selling agents & 2 most improved agents selling Singapore Airlines Early Bird fares during the promotional period.

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Quiktravel

CONDITIONS: Valid for tickets issued by Consolidated Travel or via Quikticket between 10 September to 08 October 2015 for travel 01 March – 30 September 2016 ticketed on SQ (618) plate with an Early Bird fare basis (EB). Child, Infant, Group sales, Wholesale and Cancelled or Refunded tickets are not eligible. The top 3 agents with the highest international SQ Early Bird sales and the 2 agents with the highest percentage increase in SQ sales year on year will win one of five major prizes. To qualify for the "top 3 selling agents" prize a minimum of \$30,000.00 in net SQ sales is required. The major prizes are valid on SQ services only and tickets are subject to taxes and surcharges. Prizes cannot be reissued and are non-transferable, and cannot accrue frequent flyer miles or be exchanged for cash, transportation from other cities except from SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL/PER/DRW and all travel expenses, insurance, ancillary costs etc are at the passengers expense. All winners must be an international travel consultant and full time employee of the agency in Australia. Consolidated Travel and Singapore Airlines reserve the right to withdraw or change the conditions of the promotion at any time. Receipt of a prize may have Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) implications. To the extent that there is any FBT liability, this will be paid for by the employer of the recipient. The grossed-up value of a prize and any other Fringe Benefits the recipient receives during the course of the FBT year may be reported on the recipient's annual PAYG Payment Summary as required by taxation law. Consolidated Travel Group ABN 60 004 692 791. Date of issue 08 September 2015.

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