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First with the news

Wednesday 23rd Sep 2015

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## VA heading into the black

**VIRGIN** Australia ceo John Borghetti says the airline is on track to return to profitability for the 2016 financial year, with the company's annual report released today detailing his confidence in its "fundamental business metrics".

Borghetti said VA domestic will continue to deliver margin improvement, while the international operations are expected to be profitable by 2017.

Tigerair Australia is forecast to be profitable by the 2016 financial year, while Velocity Frequent Flyer and the carrier's cargo and charter operations are also expected to boost earnings.

The report also details the salary packages earned by Borghetti and his senior executive team, with JB himself taking

home total compensation of \$2.84 million, plus "unvested long term incentives" worth \$796,000.

Chief commercial officer Judith Crompton's package was worth \$1.053 million, while chief customer officer Mark Hassell took home \$1.134m and Merren McArthur, group executive of VA Regional Airlines earned \$1.193m.

Velocity ceo Neil Thompson was also in the million dollar club, with a package worth \$1.174m along with chief operating officer Gary Hammes on \$1.482 million.

According to the report, the top 20 shareholders in Virgin Australia, with Air New Zealand holding 25.9%, just ahead of Etihad Airways on 24.18% and Singapore Airlines on 22.79%.

Other significant shareholders include Virgin Blue founder Brett Godfrey with 0.27% and John Borghetti himself with 0.18%.

Related party transactions include \$213 million in revenue for ticket sales collected by NZ, EY and SQ as well as \$25.7 million worth of "participation fee revenue" for Velocity from the key shareholders.

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today has ten pages of news, two photo pages from **Atout France** plus full pages from: ([click](#))

- AA Appointments jobs
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## Topdeck readies for growth

**YOUTH** tour operator Topdeck has signalled ambitious growth plans as it continues to build customer loyalty and prepares for expansion into new realms.

Speaking exclusively to **Travel Daily** yesterday, Topdeck's UK-based md James Nathan revealed an internal shake-up will see existing local general manager Sarah Clark promoted to the newly created position of global brand director, based in London.

The position will see Clark in charge of Topdeck's global brand marketing strategy, sales teams & the face of all communications.

Clark will relocate to the UK in Jan, paving the way for a new Topdeck country gm in Australia, with the firm about to embark on a recruitment drive to fill the role.

The restructure also sees the creation of up to 10 new global leadership positions in the UK, the md told **TD** from Topdeck's Australian HQ in Brisbane during a whirlwind visit.

A new internal brand manager to head up Topdeck's touring operation in Australia and New Zealand will also open up.

Nathan said the proactive move comes as Topdeck anticipates exponential growth from the 18-39yo travel segment, forecasting 130,000 passengers annually by 2020 - up from 50,000+ in 2015 and 3,000 from its early days.

Quizzed by **Travel Daily** how the ambitious 60%+ growth

over the next five years will be achieved, the Topdeck boss cited "phenomenal" growth in the past few years continuing unabated.

Growing market share will be fed from Topdeck's "very large" past passenger database, which Nathan says has a longer lifespan than the company's main rival which sits in the 18-35yo bracket.

A new standalone Asia program debuting in Nov - Clark revealed exclusively to **TD** - "will open up lots of new opportunities," while its core European program will continually be expanded.

While Australia & New Zealand remains Topdeck's primary source, sales from secondary markets (Asia, South America & to a lesser extent North America & Europe) hold further potential, he said.

Forward bookings for Europe 2016 summer are up 30% year-on-year, while North America sales for year-to-date are up 60%.

Likewise, New Zealand tour bookings have increased 25%.

Nathan said key to Topdeck's growth was its positioning as the "experiential" alternative to the traditional perception of youth touring across Europe.

He said Topdeck's success was built on creating "a balance of what people want" from a tour operator - expertise, knowledge, free time, quality inclusions & food and a no tipping policy.

"Our offering has resonated with the youth," Nathan added.

## VAH board change

**VIRGIN** Australia Holdings Ltd has announced the appointment of Virgin Group chief financial officer John Patrick Moorhead as non-executive director, replacing Joshua Bayliss who has stepped down from the position.

**Topdeck**

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## Aussie's holiday plans dwindle

**FEWER** Australians are planning on taking a holiday in the next 12 months, according to the Roy Morgan Research Holiday Tracking Survey for the Jun 2015 quarter.

The research found 70% of Aussies aged 14+ are intending to take some kind of trip in the next 12 months, down from 73% in the three months to Jan 2015 and slightly lower than the same time

last year (71%).

Despite the lagging AUD, overseas travel intention has remained relatively steady at 10%, with a drop instead in domestic travel intention.

The Jan 2015 quarter saw 58% of the population intending for their next holiday to be domestic, but this has since dipped to 55%.

Angela Smith, group account director, Roy Morgan Research says while the news isn't great for the Australian tourism industry, figures are healthier than this time two years ago, when the intention to take a holiday in the next 12 months sat at 68%.

"By ensuring they have an in-depth understanding of which people are most likely to take their next holiday in which state, regional tourism operators and destination marketers are more than capable of rising to the challenge of this temporary slow-down," Smith says.

## NZ winter visits rise

**STATISTICS** New Zealand has reported a 7.8% year-on-year increase in visitor arrivals for the month of Aug and an 11.1% jump in holiday arrivals.

The number of Australians venturing across the ditch during the winter months rose 4.5%, to 1.39m and up 3.9% in Aug alone.

Tourism New Zealand chief Kevin Bowler cited the firm's 'More magic in every day' promo which highlighted the range of winter experiences on offer in NZ - both on and off the slopes.

China holiday arrivals soared 33.9% during Aug, while there was double-digit growth out of India (24.9%), Korea (21.4%), the USA (13.8%), Singapore (11.2%) and Malaysia (10.1%).

The month also saw the highest ever number of New Zealand residents depart the country, with 218,500 overseas trips in Aug - an increase of 5% on last year - with Australian arrivals up 4,000.

## MyResorts by Accor

**ACCORHOTELS** yesterday announced the launch of a new 'MyResorts' program offered to loyalty scheme members.

Benefits include a My Glass beverage package and a My Kids children's program available at a nominal fee, while depending on guest status in the loyalty scheme other inclusions such as premium high speed wifi, early check-in, late check-out and upgrades.



## Window Seat

**AUCKLAND** International Airport staff had no idea a suspected "chemical spill" was a bit fishy when they called fire crews to the scene after four baggage handlers came into contact with a mystery liquid.

The liquid "contaminated" the four staff after it was found in the hold of a Boeing 737.

Five fire trucks & ambulances attended to investigate.

"A small quantity of clear, unidentified liquid had spilled in the cargo hold. Ambulances were required," fire service spokeswoman Megan Ruru said.

"It was [later] identified as fish, leaking from a chilly bin."

The plane was understood to be a Fiji Airways flight and luckily, the four staff showed no signs of being unwell.

## MAUI

## AGENTS OF ALOHA VIDEOS HAWAI'I DESTINATION TRAINING MADE EASY!

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## AKARYN prepares for new Chiang Mai opening

**THE** founder of Thai-based hotel management company AKARYN Hotel Grp, Anchalika Kijkanakorn is in Australia on a mission to raise awareness of her brand and build trade relationships with wholesalers and agents.

Operating a small collection of boutique properties under the Aleetna, akya & AKARYN brands, the newest hotel is preparing to launch in Chiang Mai.

The 30-room five-star all-suite akya Manor Chiang Mai open its doors on 01 Oct and is located in Nimmenhaemin, a destination where even locals go to holiday.

Kijkanakorn, who is also group managing director, refers to the new property's location as "think Notting Hill before *Notting Hill* the movie".

The property is set among chic boutiques, galleries, bars and coffee shops.

akya Manor Chiang Mai features 23 610m<sup>2</sup> Deluxe Suites

and seven 1050m<sup>2</sup> Manor Suites - designed to enable guests to spread out.

Each has an indoor/outdoor hot tub, opulent bathroom and private courtyard - more details **HERE**.

As a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH), the hotel is able to be booked by agents using the GDS code of 'LX'.

Last night, Kijkanakorn hosted an intimate gathering of travel agents at a reception in Sydney.

She is **pictured** at the event with Inspired Luxury ceo and founder Lynne Ireland (right).



## Tourism Ireland win

**TOURISM** Ireland has been named the overall winner of the World Routes 2015 Marketing Awards held yesterday.

The Irish RTO was also named as the winner in the Destination category, and was commended on its commercial partnerships with airlines, campaigns with airlines & input into govt policy.

## Great Migration show

**DISCUSSIONS** on the future of wildlife tourism in Australia will be canvassed as part of a three-day conference taking place in Geelong from 29 Sep - 02 Oct.

The Australian Wildlife Tourism Conference will see businesses in the sector converge to hear from government reps and academics.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

## Scenic SE Asia guide

**SCENIC** has launched its first South East Asia River Cruising brochure with new Enrich experiences, Freechoice activities, three new extensions in Vietnam and a new tour.

The brochure features Scenic's full collection of Mekong and Irrawaddy river cruises

New in 2017 is the 22-day Indochina Explorer and Luxury Mekong, which travels from the north of Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia, along the Mekong & concluding in Ho Chi Minh City.

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## Dubai comes to Vic/SA

**WORKSHOPS** to brief agents in regional Victoria, SA and Darwin on Destination Dubai have been scheduled for early next month, Dubai Tourism has advised.

Similar shows have already taken place in WA & Tas, taking place in time for earlybird season.

Agents will learn about the destination's range of attractions, as well as the products and services onboard Emirates.

Events will take place in Shepparton (05 Oct), Albury (06 Oct), Ballarat (07 Oct), Geelong (08 Oct), Adelaide, SA (13 Oct) and Mornington, Vic (20 Oct).

Visits to Mt Gambier & Darwin are yet to be scheduled - to RSVP to attend, email Jodie Collins on [jcollins@dubaitourism.ae](mailto:jcollins@dubaitourism.ae).

## US Oceania visits up

**OCEANIA** was a leading region for American outbound travel in Jul 2015, with 52,000 recorded as visiting, up 6% year-on-year.

Europe saw the most American outbound travellers, welcoming 1.5 million for Jul, a 7% increase.

## UA seeks Xi'an route

**UNITED** Airlines is planning to add the home of the Terracotta Warriors in China to its network.

The Star Alliance carrier has sought approval to launch thrice weekly flights from San Francisco to Xi'an commencing 08 May.

The seasonal service would be operated utilising Boeing 787-8 *Dreamliner* aircraft, for an initial period of five years.

"United's introduction of nonstop service between San Francisco and Xi'an is the type of secondary market development that the US and Chinese Govts envisioned long ago when making amendments to the bilateral in an effort to promote growth to points like Xi'an," UA told the US Department of Transportation.

## Asia booming for NZ

**LARGER** Boeing 787 *Dreamliner* aircraft as well as a new route to Singapore contributed to a 44.5% spike in passenger demand for Air New Zealand services to Asia, the carrier's Aug results indicated.

Long-haul was particularly strong overall, with demand for the US/Canada and London up 17.9% when compared to Aug last year.

Growth was noted in Tasman/Pacific, short-haul and domestic markets, leading to a group-wide 7.6% climb in patronage overall.



**A NEW** light exhibition of some 50,000 radiant frosted spheres in the heart of Australia is set to act as a beacon to encourage more visitors to Uluru.

Announced last night in Sydney, Bruce Munro's *Field of Light* installation (near the *Sounds of Silence* venue), will launch on 01 Apr and run for 12 months, adding a further dimension to the Red Centre experience.

Occupying a site around four football fields in size, the display features coloured globes which 'bloom' as darkness falls over the outback, said to create a "spiritual connection" with the land.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia exec gm sales, marketing & distribution Ray Stone

(pictured) revealed the colossal project last night, telling **TD** the display is hoped to be a catalyst to encourage domestic and int'l audiences who have considered a holiday to Uluru to act and book.

Munro's *Field of Light* displays have been on display around the world since 2004, at locations in the UK, USA and Mexico.

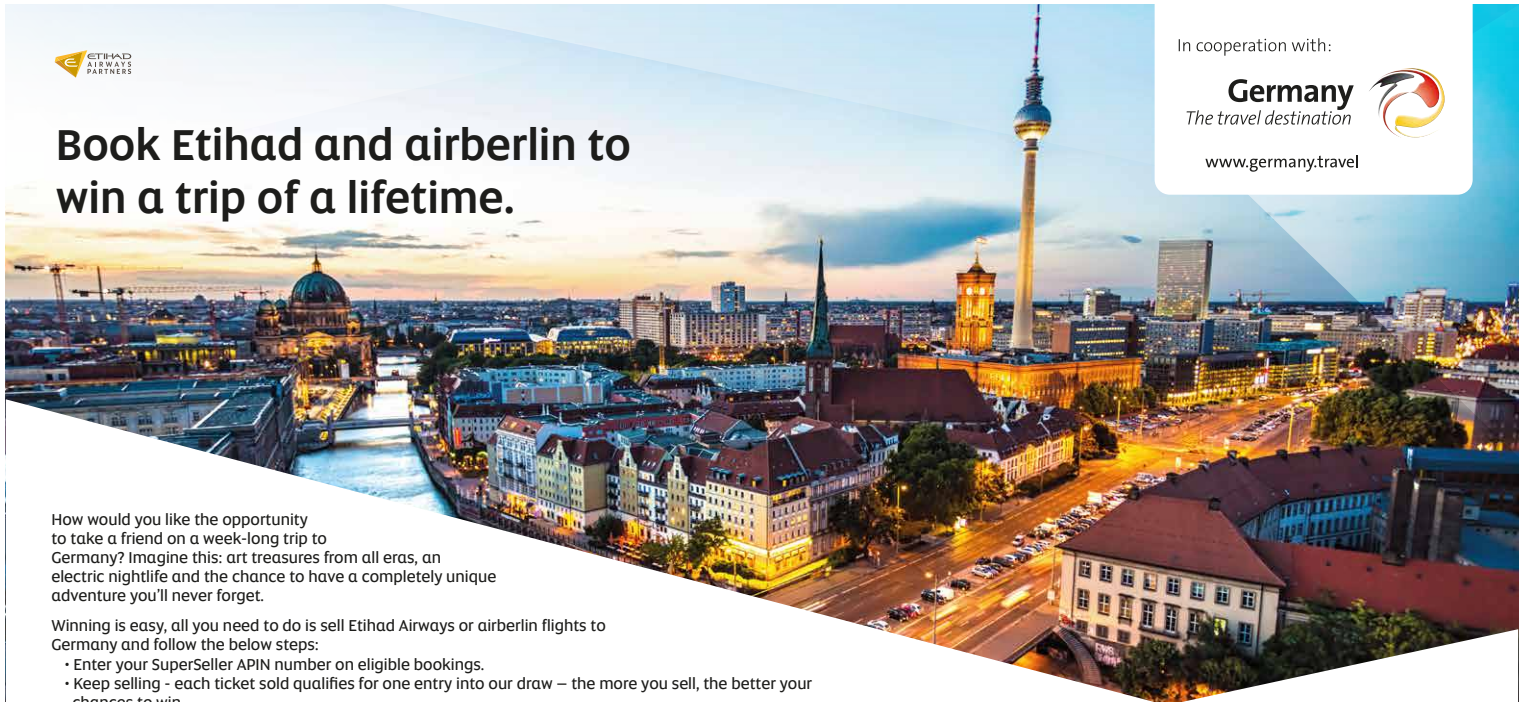
The Uluru installation will be the first time Munro has featured a display outside of a city location.

Four years in the planning, the project has come to fruition with the aid of Qantas, with the Australian flag carrier the chosen light transporter to Ayers Rock.

Ayers Rock Resort guests will be able to buy a range of tickets, priced from \$35pp - more **HERE**.



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A draw will be held at the end of the promotion and 1 lucky winner will win 2 Economy Class tickets and a week itinerary through Germany.

Offer is valid for bookings until 30 October for travel between 15 September 2015 and 31 May 2016 to qualify.

Visit [agents.etihad.com](http://agents.etihad.com) for the full itinerary and terms and conditions.

Happy selling!





# Agents explore new island resort



**SEVEN** top selling Qld agents were the first to experience the new Club Med Dong'ao Island, China on a famil this month.

The agents enjoyed a few nights exploring the new island resort and indulging in Club Med's unique all inclusive package.

## Year-end rail specials

**BOOKING** agencies of Rail Europe are offering 20% discounts on a number of passes and many point-to-point tickets as part of new year-end promotions.

Discounts of 20% are available on the France Rail Pass, Eurail Global & Select Passes, plus more.

Booking deadlines apply - call your GSA for more information.

Agents experienced a two night Hong Kong City stopover, staying at the New Millennium Hotel.

Cathay Pacific treated them to Economy and Business class flights for their trip to Hong Kong.

**Pictured** are: Bernie Freyling, helloworld Toowoomba; Benice Parkinson, Globenet Travel; Carl Keinschmidt, Trip Away Cruise & Travel Tweed Heads; Glenda Geeves, The Adventure Traveller Brisbane; Natalie Cherry, Noosa Cruise & Travel and Howard Field, Cathay Pacific Qld State Manager.

Front row: Jodie Weeks, Club Med bdm for Qld/NT/Nth NSW/NZ; Amelia Goodridge, Gaines - helloworld Noosa and Jennifer Coleborne from helloworld Burleigh Heads.

## Planes flying fuller

**AVERAGE** load factors in the domestic Australia aviation scene climbed 0.4% to 76.4% in the 2014/15 financial year ending 30 Jun 2015, according to new stats.

The slight increase in patronage per flight resulted from a drop of 1.5% in available capacity compared to the previous year.

A total of 689,162 flights took place (including charters) among participating major carriers over the financial year, carrying a total of 59.87 million passengers.

Melbourne to Sydney remains untouched as Australia's busiest city pair, with 8.45 million pax traversing the capital cities, a jump of 2.2% on the prior year.

Sydney was the nation's busiest airport, seeing 25.62 million domestic passenger movements, with MEL close behind on 23.64m.

## McFarland courses

**INTREPID** travel scribe and sun chaser Rob McFarland is back in Australia & encouraging budding travel writers to hone their skills at his next scheduled workshops.

McFarland will be conducting one-day courses over Oct & Nov in Sydney (31 Oct) Melbourne (07 Nov) and Brisbane (14 Nov) from 10am to 5pm on each occasion.

Cost to attend is \$399pp with 12 places at each - **CLICK HERE**.

## AY A350XWB delivery

**AIRBUS** will welcome Finnair as the newest operator of the new A350 XWB aircraft from 07 Oct when delivery of the first unit is made to the Helsinki carrier.

The aircraft will enter service on 21 Nov on the Shanghai route.

A further 19 of the type are on the order books for Finnair, to be delivered through until 2023.

## Touring outback Qld

**HALF** and full-day itineraries by 4WD touring the Queensland outback have been launched as part of a new operation by The North Gregory Hotel in Winton.

The operation, Vision Splendid Outback Touring Company, shows off the region's local highlights.

## Aloft NYC addition

**A THIRD** Aloft branded hotel has been opened by Starwood Hotels & Resorts in New York City.

The Aloft Manhattan Downtown - Financial District offers 125 loft-style rooms on Ann Street, close to the NYSE, joining Aloft hotels in nearby Harlem and Brooklyn.

# New Zealand

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Christchurch- Melbourne	CI58	19:50	21:40	1.3..6	

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To win, be the first agent to send the correct answer to the following question to [sonoma@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:sonoma@traveldaily.com.au)



In which Sonoma County state park can you explore giant redwood trees?

Need a hint? [CLICK HERE.](#)

## JetBlue adds NY hotel

**THE** vacant TWA terminal at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York will be developed as a hotel by JetBlue Airways, *Crain's New York Business* reported.

Aspects of the design released in Jul detailed the hotel to have 505 rooms, 3,700m<sup>2</sup> of meeting space, up to eight eateries and an observation deck, while the old terminal will serve as a lobby, with the rest in a new building.

## Ryanair feeder talks

**FRESH** from talks with new IAG member airline Aer Lingus over becoming a short-haul European feeder carrier (**TD** 12 Aug), Ryanair has begun similar discussions with up to five other major international flag carriers.

Speaking to *Bloomberg News* in Europe, Ryanair ceo Michael O'Leary said talks were underway with both Lufthansa & Air France-KLM over funneling passengers from smaller regional centres to their long-haul int'l networks.

O'Leary said the strategy would be a long-term one, forecasting LCCs would increasingly be used by flag carriers to distribute pax to secondary cities and towns.

In addition to IAG, O'Leary said the carrier was speaking to Virgin Atlantic Airways, Norwegian Air Shuttle and TAP Portugal.

## WA info centre driver

**VISITOR** Centres in Western Australia generated about \$116.65mill in overnight visitor spend in 2014, according to research released by govt today.

The research examined the effectiveness and impact of visitor centres & found despite the trend towards researching and booking holidays online, the centres still play an important role.

Visitors surveyed attributed roughly 15% of their total spend in a location to the visitor centre.

Tourism Minister Kim Hames said "95% of people using visitor centres believe they are an important part of their overall experience, while 87% said they knew more about things to do."

## Collette Chauffeur vid

**COLLETTE** is introducing private chauffeur-driven airport transfers.

The tour operator has released a video detailing the service, to view, [CLICK HERE.](#)

## Etihad Partners compare notes



**THE** ceos of six airlines in the Etihad Airways Partner group have descended on Rome for a leadership summit.

Leaders of Alitalia, the airberlin Group, Jet Airways, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles and Etihad Regional, and the chief officers of Etihad Airways and Alitalia will work

together to identify ways to cut the carriers' costs, increase their revenues and expand sustainable choice for their customers.

**Pictured** from left: Bruno Matheu, chief operating officer Equity Partners, Etihad Airways; Roy Kinnear, ceo Air Seychelles; Stefan Pichler, ceo airberlin; James Hogan, president and ceo Etihad Airways; Luca Cordero di Montezemolo, chairman Alitalia; Maurizio Merlo, ceo Etihad Regional; Cramer Ball, ceo Jet Airways and Dane Kondic, ceo Air Serbia.

## Indonesia Bali rivals

**TEN** new regions in Indonesia have been earmarked for development as potential rivals to Bali to help the country reach its goal of welcoming 20 million tourists annually by 2019.

According to *CNN Indonesia*, the 10 areas were selected from 222 Tourism Development Zones for "priority attention".

Destinations on the list are Lake Tobo, North Sumatra; Mount Bromo, East Java; Mandalika, West Nusa Tenggara; The Thousand Islands, Jakarta; Wakatobi, Southeast Sulawesi and more.

## Avis Budget ceo plan

**LARRY** De Shon has been voted by the Avis Budget Group Board of Directors as the company's new president and ceo.

Effective 01 Oct, De Shon will replace Ronald Nelson, who has held the position since 2006 and will remain as executive chairman to ensure a smooth transition.



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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Air Mauritius Limited, voted the best airline in the Indian Ocean for the last 10 years is in search of a Manager who will be based in Perth to oversee its operations in Australia and New Zealand.

A detailed job description is available on the Air Mauritius website: <http://www.airmauritius.com/vacancies.htm>

Application form can be downloaded at: <http://www.airmauritius.com/aboutus/mkexternalvacancy.pdf>

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# An East Side Story

**ABOUT** France hosted 500 travel agents taking up the opportunity to present the Alsace, Burgundy and Champagne regions, with representatives who flew over from FRANCE especially for this event.

With AIR FRANCE, FRENCH TRAVEL CONNECTION, RAIL PLUS and ACCORHOTELS.COM, this event was a great opportunity to discover new French products & services, including a whole new FTC package exclusively created for Australians travel agents. The package easily links the three regions by train and includes bike rides to discover this part of France through vineyards and famous cities like Reims, Beaune or Strasbourg, where the first ever Sofitel in the world opened.



**ABOVE:** The Atout France staff and the lovely Anais in a traditional Alsatian outfit.



**RIGHT:** Patrick Benhamou.



**ABOVE:** Nicki Schleibs and James Dunne at the Rail Plus stand.



**ABOVE:** The new Business class seats and uniforms of Air France.



**ABOVE:** Kate Clifton at the AccorHotels stand.

**LEFT:** Léa Granado, at the busy French Travel Connection stand.



**RIGHT:** The lucky winner of the trip to France.



A 30-minute presentation on **“How to improve your knowledge on Alsace, Burgundy and Champagne regions”** was conducted, both in Sydney and Melbourne and a trip to the three regions was won in both cities.

Air France also revealed their new Business class seats, beautifully displayed in the lobby of the Sofitel.

The event concluded with a beautiful French soirée including gourmet specialties, wines from the three regions and a sabrage demonstration from GH MUMM.

Last year over one million Australians visited France, so this event was a fabulous opportunity to mark this milestone and thank travel agents for their part in making it happen.

**BELOW:** Gift bags were handed out to attendees at the end.



**ABOVE:** The seminar.

**RIGHT:** Philippe Choukroun (Alsace), Brad McDonnell and Léa Granado (French Travel Connection) and Jean-Christophe Harrang (Alsace).



**RIGHT:** The Champagne G.H.Mumm et Cie was well represented at the seminar and provided the much appreciated 'sabrage' animation.



## Wolgan Opus event

**OPUS** One Winery and Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley have teamed up to create the Opus One Wine Experience.

On 9-11 Oct, guests can spend two nights in a Heritage suite, enjoy a five-course Opus One dinner with paired wines, an Opus One masterclass and more from \$2,390pp.

## Hotel Jen to Borneo

**SHANGRI-LA** International has announced the first Hotel Jen in Borneo will open in 2018.

The 440-room Hotel Jen Kota Kinabalu will be located on the top of PacificCity's mall and offer dining, a rooftop bar and meeting & convention facilities.

## Tigerair, Cebu in bed

**SINGAPORE** low-cost carrier Tigerair has been given approval by the Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS) to collaborate on flight routes with Cebu Pacific.

While flight schedules will continue to be set separately, the approval will allow the budget carriers to align connecting times for pax requiring the services of both carriers in a single journey.

Fares will also stay independent, with the carriers having changed plans to revenue share on joint routes following CCS objections.

The latest deal is the second for Tigerair, which already works closely operationally with long-haul LCC Scoot (TD 12 Aug 2014).

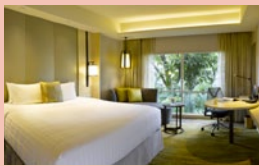
## Fairmont into Nigeria

**LUXURY** hotelier Fairmont Hotels & Resorts will open a new resort in the Nigerian capital of Abuja in 2018, unveiling plans for a 270-room property near the International Conference Centre.

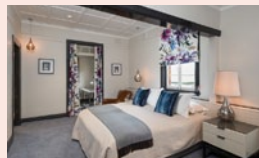


## Accommodation Updates

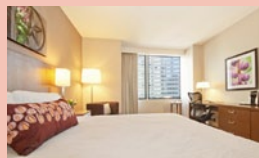
**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



All 130 Premier Rooms at the **PARKROYAL on Beach Road** in downtown Singapore have been newly refurbished, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows, new power points and 40-inch LED flat screen TVs. A new 104m² Executive Suite is now available, comprising separate living and dining areas, as well as a private bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe. The Orchid Club Lounge has also been refreshed.



Brisbane's **Spicers Balfour Hotel** has added eight suites and a function room to its offering. The new suites have a private lounge room, separate bedroom and a large ensuite with standalone showers and oversized bathtubs. The function room, housed in the adjacent Georgian style 'Simla' building can accommodate up to 60 people for cocktail events and 45 seated.



The **Hilton Garden Inn Dallas Downtown** has opened in the LTV high-rise tower. The 171-room hotel offers complimentary Wi-Fi throughout, 24-hour business center, fitness center, outdoor pool with sundeck and 465m² of flexible event space for up to 150 guests. Each room has a spacious workstation, coffeemaker and microwave and offers remote printing to the business centre.

## Sheraton Santos

**STARWOOD** Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has signed the Sheraton Santos Hotel, due to open in 2017.

The new-build will be part of a mixed used development and will offer 213 rooms, Sheraton Club Lounge, a lobby bar, restaurant, the Shine Spa for Sheraton, a pool and fitness facilities.

It will mark Starwood's tenth hotel in Brazil and will be located adjacent to Shopping Praiaimar and within walking distance of the beach.

## Seabourn upgrades

**SEABOURN** is offering complimentary veranda upgrades on select Mediterranean and Northern Europe cruises in 2016.

The upgrades apply on more than 80 Europe departures, including 7-day Baltic cruise, 13-day cruise from Barcelona to Istanbul and an 11-day cruise from Monte Carlo to Barcelona.

The offer is available until 04 Oct, see [www.seabourn.com](http://www.seabourn.com).

## Nightfest lights up

**THIS** year's Floriade Nightfest will begin tonight in Canberra and run until 27 Sep.

A floating floral sculpture projecting light into the sky, thousands of illuminated 'poppy' lanterns and the event's largest sound and light show are some of this year's highlights.

There will also be performers, night markets and entertainment. Tickets are available at Ticketek.



## WIN WITH INSIDER JOURNEYS

This month Travel Daily and Insider Journeys are giving away a trip including return economy class airfares, 3 nights in Saigon, Cu Chi Tunnels tour & city tour, Mekong delta tour, 2 nights in Siem Reap, tour of temples of Angkor by Tuk tuk and return airport transfers.

Insider Journeys (formally Travel Indochina) has been operating Small Group Journeys and tailor-made holidays to Asia for 22 years. Insider Journeys' idea is simple- to explore and share the essence of Asia's culture, natural beauty, cuisine and, most importantly, its people.

Answer each daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question to win. Send your answers to [insiderjourneys@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:insiderjourneys@traveldaily.com.au)

Q17. Which Insider Journeys Japan tour is timed to coincide with the Sapporo Snow Festival?

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