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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 3rd August 2016

**NOW OPEN!**

**THE STANLEY**  
HOTEL & SUITES

## Rail Plus incentive

**AGENTS** booking Trenitalia sectors with Rail Plus up until 31 Aug have a chance to win two nights at Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast for two people.

Other prizes are also up for grabs, see **page 10** for details.

## Scoot plot Europe routes

**BUDGET** carrier Scoot is eyeing entry points into Europe, which will provide one-stop connections, via Singapore, to the Gold Coast ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Scoot's local general manager Dennis Basham has revealed the move into Europe could come as early as next year and follows TZ's

expansion to the subcontinent a few months ago (**TD** 04 Apr).

"We have three to four destinations in Europe we are looking at," Basham said.

"Scoot will be the only budget carrier offering one-stop flights from the Gold Coast to Europe," the airline executive told the *Gold Coast Bulletin* this week.

Seats are expected to sell for \$200-\$300 less than what is currently in market, at less than \$1,000 per ticket on way.

"The first one we announce will be a very interesting destination for Australians that is not traditionally serviced," he added.

Basham said Scoot would likely name two of the European hubs before the end of this year.

## Crown Sydney tested

**CROWN** Resorts is facing a legal challenge for the construction of Crown Sydney Resort Hotel at Barangaroo South.

The casino/resort operator told shareholders it has been served legal proceedings from the Millers Point Fund Inc, who is objecting to the state govt's approval of modifications to the concept plan.

NSW Minister for Planning, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Lendlease and Crown Sydney Property have been named as respondents.

Crown said it will "defend these proceedings vigorously".

## CostSaver into USA

**COSTSAVER'S** new Americas program is offering tours in 2017 priced from just \$167 a day.

Rollled out last month & operated by Trafalgar (**TD** 27 Jul), the 2017 program offers 14 journeys in Canada, the USA and Mexico.

MD Matt Cameron-Smith said the move into the Americas follows a "hugely positive response" to the CostSaver Europe and Britain program.

"We can now offer the industry additional tours tailored to the needs of those who would like the best in both value & quality."

The new program is showcased on the **cover page** of today's **TD**.

## FJ Newcastle direct?

**NEWCASTLE** Airport could be set to receive direct international services from Nadi, with Fiji Airways speculated to be mulling a twice weekly non-stop services to the Hunter region, as early as this year, **TD** understands.

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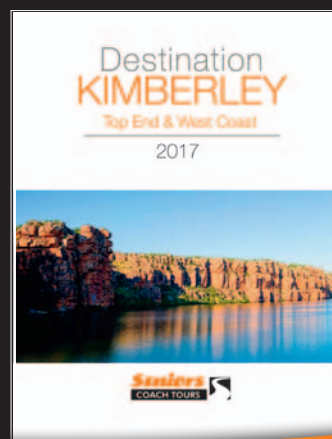
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## Massive issue today!

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news & photos, a front cover page for **CostSaver** plus full pages from: (**click**)

- Rail Plus
- AA Appointments jobs
- Club Med
- JITO

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 3rd August 2016

## Travel show for Business

Canberra, 18 August

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QANTAS

## TFE Melb prison hotel

**THE** historic Pentridge Prison, 8kms from Melbourne's CBD, has been revealed as the site for a future Adina Apartment Hotel.

TFE Hotels will operate the 120-key apartment being developed by Shayer Group when it opens, earmarked for 2020, pending planning and heritage permits and construction approvals.

The hotel will "sensitively reopen this historic asset in a way for the entire community to experience and appreciate," TFE commented.

"This site speaks to a rich history and we believe locals and visitors from overseas will be intrigued to learn more about Australia's penal past," TFE Hotels ceo Rachel Argaman said.

## Alitalia up VA c'share

**VIRGIN** Australia has expanded its codeshare alliance with Alitalia on eight new domestic routes from Sydney, effective immediately, GDS displays show.

The AZ flight designator is now assigned to VA metal on services from Sydney to Adelaide, Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast, Hobart, Sunshine Coast/Maroochydore, Melbourne and Perth.

## VA pulls Port Vila flights

**VIRGIN** Australia has again suspended services to Port Vila, Vanuatu due to runway concerns.

The move follows VA's halting of flights to Baurefield International Airport earlier this year for four months, only resuming flights after emergency repairs on the tarmac had been addressed.

On Mon, Airports Vanuatu Ltd (AVL) carried out remediation work on a "small section" of the runway which resulted in flights being grounded.

Late yesterday, Virgin Australia expressed concerns over runway conditions having conducted regular inspections.

"Yesterday our team of safety experts on the ground identified that the condition of the runway has deteriorated.

"Until we have greater confidence in the ongoing maintenance of the runway, Virgin Australia is halting operation in and out of Port Vila until further notice," VA said in a statement.

Virgin is operating a ferry flight from Brisbane to Port Vila today, "supported by additional safety measures", to repatriate

customers already in Vanuatu.

Passengers with bookings have been offered the option to alter their travel or cancel with a full refund.

National carrier Air Vanuatu resumed operation to/from VLI after repairs were conducted and is arranging for an independent assessor to inspect the entire runway this week.

DFAT is urging travellers bound for Port Vila to reconfirm flight schedules and other travel arrangements with airlines and tour operators.

"At this stage, other airlines continue to operate services as normal," Smartraveller advised.

## Ski free Switzerland

**CHEDI** Andermatt in the Swiss Alps is offering early bookers free ski passes for reservations made by 31 Oct.

The promo provides up to two free ski passes per room for the duration of a stay, valid for travel from 09 Jan-23 Apr 2017.

A minimum three nights is required to avail the offer.

## AccorHotels on show

**THE** AccorHotels Showcase 2016, previously known as World of Accor, will be held on 08 Sep at Sydney Sofitel Wentworth.

Executives representing some of the more than 4,100 hotels and resorts worldwide operated by AccorHotels will be present, including new additions Fairmont, Raffles, Swissotel & One Fine Stay.

Registered attendees have a chance to win a Peugeot 208, valued at over \$30,000, a trip to Hong Kong and a suite of other travel & accommodation prizes.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

## New Fly Corp route

**REGIONAL** carrier Fly Corporate has announced new weekday services between both Narrabri and Moree to Brisbane will launch on Mon 29 Aug.

The route reduces the 6 hour drive from the NSW cities to Brisbane to a 75min flight.

Flights are priced from \$149 one-way, all-inclusive.

See [www.flycorporate.com.au](http://www.flycorporate.com.au).

**MEANWHILE**, agents can now register to use Fly Corporate's booking system via an online portal - more details **HERE**.

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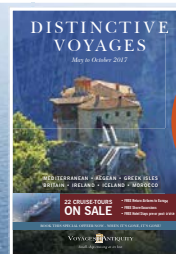
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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 3rd August 2016



## Winners are grinners in TB

**THE** Aug edition of *travelBulletin* is now on its way to subscribers, with a full wrap up of last month's National Travel Industry Awards.

There are interviews with winners, lots of exclusive photos from the night and much more in the issue, which also has a cover story on the recent *Travel Daily/travelBulletin* industry salary survey which revealed some intriguing findings about what it really means to win.

Destination features this month showcase Ireland, Britain, Africa and France, while there are also articles on some of the latest trends in self drive and family holidays.

Of course there's the usual wrap up of industry issues, with expert commentary from Steve Jones, Ian McMahon, ATEC, AFTA and CLIA Australasia.



As well as being mailed to subscribers, the issue is available to view at [travelbulletin.com.au](http://travelbulletin.com.au).

Subscriptions to *travelBulletin* cost just \$30 per year using the coupon code AGENT at [travelbulletin.com.au/shop](http://travelbulletin.com.au/shop).

## Virgin card update

**VIRGIN** Australia has confirmed it will change the way it charges for use of credit cards during the booking process, in accordance with the new government regulations which come into effect from 01 Sep.

In an update to members of the VA Velocity frequent flyer program overnight, the carrier confirmed that from next month it will no longer be charging its Booking and Service fee (\$7.70 for domestic and \$30 for international bookings).

Instead, from 01 Sep a new Card Payment Fee will be applied for payments made via credit or debit card - including installments made in relation to loyalty program seat bookings.

However at this stage Virgin has not revealed what the new card payment fee will be.

Qantas last month confirmed it would change its system to a percentage based fee (**TD** 08 Jul).



## Window Seat

**BELAVIA**, the national airline of Belarus, has launched a new promotion in partnership with a local game developer - but it may not exactly resonate with passengers in these days of heightened security.

The deal with [Wargaming.net](http://Wargaming.net) promotes the popular 'World of Tanks' game, via a full wrap on one of the Minsk-based airline's Boeing 737-300s.

The design (**below**) features a tank in the style of a tradition Belarusian pattern and took 1,800 man hours to complete.



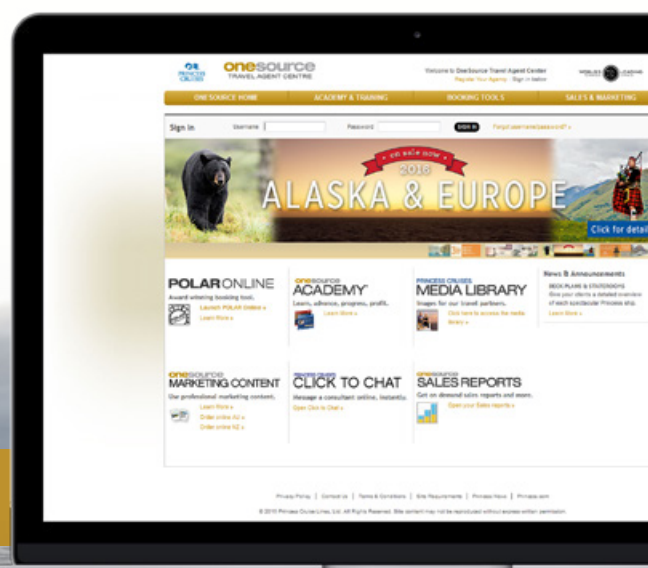
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## Gulf carrier premium passenger growth

**EMIRATES**, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways saw a massive growth in First and Business class pax volumes in 2015, with an increase of 67% and 47% respectively, according to data released by Amadeus.

Passenger volumes across all cabin classes for the top 10 Origins & Destinations between Europe and Asia Pacific grew by a steady 7% in 2015.

## SiteMinder Ireland

**SITEMINDER** has opened an office in Galway, Ireland, chalking up the hotel cloud platform's fifth office, alongside Bangkok, Dallas and Sydney.

Ex-Adroll and Google employee, Ruairi Conroy will head up the post, which will assist SiteMinder's existing EMEA global headquarters in London in servicing hotels within the region and around the world.

## SA tourism jobs

**MORE** than 4,000 jobs in tourism have been created in South Australia in the past two years, according to Tourism Research Australia data.

Direct tourism jobs have increased by 13.8% to 35,700, a growth rate significantly higher than the national average of 5%.

SA Tourism Minister Leon Bignell said "This is an outstanding result for South Australia and we are well on our way to achieving our goal of 10,000 additional jobs and to grow the visitor economy to \$8 billion by 2020".

## Jetstar '16 sales kits

**THE** 2016 Jetstar sales kits for travel agents have been launched, providing info on tickets, in-flight experiences, making connections between flights and fleet profiles.

The kit also provides maps of the current route network offered by all the Jetstar subsidiaries.

**CLICK HERE** for more detail.

Find out the results of the salary survey in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE** to read

travelBulletin

## QF, Tourism Aus pals again

**A FOUR-YEAR** feud between Qantas and Tourism Australia appears to be done and dusted.

Today, Qantas and TA revealed a new three year \$20 million deal to promote Australia to the world, focused primarily on increasing overseas visitors from the US, Asia, United Kingdom & Europe.

The fresh deal will be centred on digital marketing, with Qantas and TA to invest in joint promos, supported through PR, social media and trade activities.

It also includes an anonymised data sharing pact "to better reach customers" mulling travelling to the land down under.

Dubbed by the duo as a "new era of partnership", the deal follows long-standing rift between the carrier and the tourism office, stemming back to 2012 when QF Grp ceo Alan Joyce cited a conflict of interest between TA's then chairman and ex Qantas chief Geoff Dixon & his

ties with QF investors.

"Both Qantas and Tourism Australia want the same thing - a strong tourism industry that makes Australia the first choice for people all over the world," Joyce said today.

"With tourism both to-and-within Australia on the rise, it's the ideal time for us to join forces once again," Joyce added.

Tourism Australia managing director John O'Sullivan said he was "extremely pleased" to ink the multi-year agreement.

"When you consider the nature of our respective businesses, this deal which just makes sense - for Tourism Australia, for Qantas and, most of all, for Australian inbound tourism," O'Sullivan said.

He added TA was "very excited" for the opportunities ahead, particularly the data sharing.

In recent weeks, QF has also inked deals with the NSW and Queensland governments.




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\*Book until 11th August 2016. Fares quoted above are for departures from Perth for low season departures only, from 27th September to 24th November 2016 or 13th January to 31st March 2017. Other sale fares are available on other travel dates. Fares may vary due to currency fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges, weekend surcharge, and black out dates may apply. Change penalty and cancellation penalty may apply. For all other terms and conditions please review at the time of booking.



## Sabre records growth

**SABRE** has reported a revenue increase of 19.5% to US\$845.2 million compared to the same period last year in their second quarter 2016 results.

Net income attributable to common stockholders totalled US\$72 million, up a whopping 123.6%, a result of "strong operating income growth in both business segments and a loss on the extinguishment of debt in the year ago period".

Adjusted EBITDA was US\$271.5 million, a 19.3% increase from US\$227.6 million in the second quarter of 2015.

The company attributes the rise to increases of 22.2% in Travel Network and 13.5% in Airline and Hospitality Solutions.

**MEANWHILE**, Sabre has integrated with Expedia Affiliate Network, adding 63,000 new hotel properties to its travel marketplace.

The properties include hotels, resorts, B&Bs, serviced apartments, inns and boutique hotels covering all regions.

## TNZ off peak arrivals

**TOURISM** New Zealand is driving almost all its marketing efforts into grow international off-peak tourism arrivals by promoting the idea that the land of the long white cloud is worth visiting any time of year.

Tourism NZ ceo Kevin Bowler said their investment would be seen through paid media, public relations, and joint venture projects occurring at significantly different stages of the year than in previous years.

TNZ will promote special interest travel, off season conferences, shoulder season events, travel to regional areas while focusing on emerging markets like India which lend themselves to off-season travel.

## Zika Florida threat

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reissued its Smartraveller advice for the USA, reflecting an update from authorities about local mosquito borne transmission of Zika virus in Miami-Dade and Broward counties in Florida (**TD** 01 Aug).

DFAT says pregnant women should discuss any travel plans with their doctor and consider postponing travel to affected areas.



**QANTAS** and Tourism Australia's \$20 million agreement will "mark a new era of partnership between the two organisations".

The landmark deal "builds on the marketing we already do and our partnerships with state and territory governments to put Australia's best foot forward," said QF group ceo Alan Joyce.

**Pictured** are new friends Alan Joyce and John O'Sullivan of Tourism Australia (**pg 4** for more).

## Disney Style launch

**DISNEY** has launched the new YouTube series Destination: Disney Style which explores the ways its characters and stories are interpreted through fashion.

The five-part series hosted by YouTube influencers which kicked off this week looks at street style trends across the globe.

You can view the videos by **CLICKING HERE**.

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# LCCs boost capacity to Aus

**OVERSEAS** scheduled passenger traffic to/from Australia jumped 6.5% to 2.7 million movements in May, data released from the Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development shows.

Seat counts spiked 9.4%, driven by low-cost carriers, which increased their share of passenger traffic by nearly three percentage points, to 19.1%.

Qantas continued to maintain its stranglehold on the top spot in terms of passenger carriage at 16.2%, followed by Jetstar (10.2%), Emirates (8.9%), Singapore Airlines (8.0%) and Air New Zealand (6.6%).

Virgin Australia's share of the market slid 1.7 percentage points to 6.2% during the month.

Australian designated airlines elevated their share of traffic from 32.1% in May last year to 33.4% this year.

Despite the capacity increases, of the 58 international airlines measured, not one carrier had an outbound seat utilisation of above 90% - the closest being Cathay Pacific with 89.6% on its flights to Hong Kong.

Air Niugini had the emptiest outbound flights with passenger loads of just 44.9%.

## Camping campaign

**GETTING** back to nature and embracing adventure forms the backbone of a new emotive promo launched by the Caravan and Camping Industry Association (CCIA) NSW this week.

Airing from today and running until 20 Aug, the campaign will appear on TV and digital channels across the state - view it [HERE](#).

"This campaign recognises the value of the great outdoors and all of the positive feelings and fun it engenders, encouraging people to get out & explore the beautiful sites available in holiday parks throughout NSW," CCIA NSW ceo Lyndel Gray said yesterday.

Concurrently, the CCIA has unveiled a new consumer-facing website from which over 400 holiday parks in the state can be uncovered, ranging from basic tent sites to luxury cabins.

See [caravan-camping.com.au](http://caravan-camping.com.au).

## Vic Night Network

**THE** Victorian Government has extended its trial of all-night public transport on weekends until Jun next year.

"We're the only state in the country that offers all night public transport on weekends, and one of only two cities in the world to offer all night transport across trains, trams and buses," commented Vic Transport Minister Jacinta Allan.

"The six-month extension will give us a chance to properly assess the trial over a full year, and give certainty to event organisers and passengers in the lead up to the new year."

Wednesday 3rd Aug 2016



**RADISSON** Blu Plaza Sydney celebrated the completion of its \$13.5 million redesign of its meeting and guest rooms, with a slumber party-themed event.

Guests were first shown around the new facilities, before being led into the Marble Room for a "mystery treat".

As the doors opened, attendees were surprised to find an array of comfy double beds dressed in designer linens set up in front of

a large projector screen (**above**).

Guests then got cosy and settled down for a screening of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* while being served M&Ms, fairy floss and popcorn along with French champagne.

Radisson partnered with Mov'in Beds for the event, who is launching a new concept to take the beds around Australia to open air cinemas this summer.

Each attendee also enjoyed a range of spa treatments from therapists at the hotel's Tanatcha Spa and browsed through the summer sleepwear range from luxury designer Papinelle.

At the end of the night, the lucky guests each received a pair of the silky delights.

## Orlando Eye is it!

**THE** Orlando Eye, inaugurated in May last year, has rebranded as the Coca-Cola Orlando Eye.

Located at I-Drive and rising 400-ft tall, Coca-Cola Orlando Eye is the largest observation wheel on the US East Coast, featuring 30 air-conditioned capsules.

Tickets for the attraction are priced at US\$20 per person.

## Travelmarvel Africa

**TRAVELMARVEL** has released a new brochure covering all the must-see sights of Southern Africa, including an extension to the Okavango Delta.

Available as of yesterday, the brochure offers a choice of nine tours ranging from 12-30 days, with journeys spanning South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania.

The new brochure is available for download by **CLICKING HERE**.

## More Oman rooms

**THE** Sultanate of Oman is on track to deliver three new hotels, including the 5-star W Hotel and JW Marriott, boosting inventory by over 900 rooms in 2017/18.

Oman Tourism Development Company said the projects, which also include the 4-star Crowne Plaza, will support the sultanate's expansion of its leisure tourism and MICE sectors.

The hotels will open in 2017 and 2018, *Arabian Business* reports.

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## EY ups A380s to LHR

**FROM** 18 Nov, Etihad Airways is increasing its frequencies of Airbus A380 services on the Abu Dhabi – London Heathrow route from 19 up to 20 out of 21.

## TravelManagers win sales award



**SUNLOVER** Holidays named TravelManagers as their third best-selling Megastar travel agency for 2015/16 at their STARS Gala Award Evening.

The Gala Dinner was held last month as part of STARS the Event (TD 15 Jul), which rewarded The AOT Group's top 75 high performing travel agencies with four nights in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

This year marks the fourth consecutive year TravelManagers has been in the top three for sales for Sunlover Holidays.

**Pictured** are: Lisa Harrison, gm wholesale of The AOT Group presents TravelManagers' ptm Kim Mason the Sunlover Holidays third best-selling sales award at the STARS gala dinner.

## Litchfield investment

**SEVERAL** tourism businesses in Litchfield, Northern Territory, have received funding via the territory's multi-million dollar grant program to upgrade their facilities to enhance their popularity with visitors.

Rum Jungle Tavern will receive a new grandstand for rodeo-goers; a new helicopter landing pad and car park set to be built to offer scenic flights over Litchfield National Park; and Batchelor Museum's cafe facility will be upgraded, among others.

"There is strong competition for the tourism dollar and it's imperative that our tourism infrastructure meets visitor expectations," said Member for Daly, Gary Higgins.

## RCL half year results

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises has reported a successful H1, increasing adjusted earnings by 25% from last year, a result surpassing predictions.

The sale of 51% of the Pullmantour Group contribute to the boost in the company's yields and costs metrics for 2016, as the Group's yields and costs are lower than the fleet average.

For the six months ended 30 Jun, the company brought in total revenue of \$4,023,057, an increase of \$149,136, while operating expenses inched up \$13,139 to \$2,552,165.

RCL reported a net income of \$329,045 for H1, a whopping additional \$98,848 on H1 2015.

## Solomon visits rise

**INTERNATIONAL** visitor arrivals for the Solomon Islands in May have jumped 12.8%, or an additional 147 visitors on May last year, govt figures show.

Australians claimed 40.5% of all visitation for the month, climbing 12.4% on the PCP.

Asian numbers showed the strongest growth, with 305 arrivals indicating a 50.5% increase over May last year.

Overall visitor arrival numbers for the five months were up 12.7%, well on track for the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau's 2016 target of a 9% increase.

## Lucky Air long-haul

**LOW-COST** subsidiary of HNA Group, Lucky Air, has become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

8L received its IATA Operational Safety Audit certification in Feb.

The Chinese carrier has also revealed plans to launch long-haul flights from Kunming to Los Angeles and Moscow.

## Tourism \$\$\$ research

**RESEARCH** will be conducted by The Australian Regional Tourism Network at a national level into local govts' spend in tourism.

Chair of the Australian Regional Tourism Network David Sheldon said "The research that we are about to undertake with our partners will highlight the importance and contribution Local Governments make to the Visitor Economy, the Network believes Local Governments should have input into delivery".

The study will be funded by Austrade, State Tourism Organisations and Industry Associations.

## 1Malaysia sale is back

**THE** 1Malaysia year-end sale kicks off on 01 Nov and runs until 31 Dec.

During the two-month sale, malls to open-air markets will offer year-end promotions, school holiday specials and some Christmas and New Year sales.

Kuala Lumpur boasts over 120 malls throughout the city, along with a mix of shopping precincts selling luxury brands through to local handicrafts and batik.

## New Islamabad int'l

**THE** much-delayed Islamabad International Airport will be operational by Jun 2017, *The Tribune* is reporting.

Islamabad International Airport replaces the existing Benazir Bhutto International Airport.

The airport will have 90 check-in counters and a parking facility for 2,000 vehicles, a control tower, maintenance hangar, a 15-gate terminal with ten remote gates, a four-star hotel, a convention centre, duty-free shops, food court, two-runways, six taxiways, & 15 passenger boarding bridges.



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## 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).



**Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort** in Fiji is set to reopen on 01 Sep following an extensive renovation of its amenities due to damage incurred by tropical Cyclone Winston in Feb. The property's bures and suites have received a fresh lick of paint and its swimming pools updated. A new spa has been added and the pier has been expanded.



and ensuite bathrooms.

**The Seabreeze Hotel** in Port Stephens has completed its \$2 million renovation. The property now offers a new-look restaurant, public bar and bistro. It's accommodation offerings have also received a facelift, with each room now to include air conditioning



**Six Senses Vinh Van Bay** in Vietnam has been revitalised with fresh interiors and lighter toned furnishings. Its ground floor bathrooms have now been fitted with floor-to-ceiling glass panels and fitted with air conditioning for ultimate comfort. The property's 24 villas have also been refreshed, with bathrooms and vanity areas enclosed to give the choice of an open or air conditioned environment.

### Bernardus opening

**THE** Villas & Suites at Bernardus Lodge and Spa in California will begin welcoming its first guests from 02 Aug.

Set on 28 acres of vineyard and gardens in Carmel Valley, the new hotel offers 57-keys, a dedicated spa and restaurant.

### Park Hyatt exec chef

**ETIENNE** Karner has been named Park Hyatt Sydney's new executive chef.

Karner has formerly held roles at Hotel Vila Vita Rosenpark, a Michelin Star restaurant in Marburg, Grand-Hotel du Cap Ferrat, Hotel Scribe in France and across Four Seasons Hotels.

### Virgin Galactic test nod

**VIRGIN** Galactic, the space tourism venture owned by billionaire Sir Richard Branson, has been given the nod by US authorities to commence testing of its rocket plane.

The US Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation has granted an operator licence for *SpaceShipTwo* (VSS *Unity*) which will lay the foundation for regular trips to space.

Earlier yesterday, the Virgin Galactic team conducted a taxi test with *SpaceShipTwo* and Range Rover Autobiography, which the company says is an "important step towards the flight test program".

### Sanctuary special

**SANCTUARY** Retreats has savings of up to 40% on accommodation for their Zambian walking safaris in Africa.

Stay eight or more nights at Sanctuary Chichele Presidential Lodge from US\$234pp per night twin share, down from its regular price of US\$390 per night.

Likewise, an eight night stay at Sanctuary Puku Ridge Camp starts from US\$270pp per night twin share slashed from its usual rate of US\$450.

**MEANWHILE** Sanctuary Retreats' parent company Abercrombie & Kent is offering savings of up to \$5,670 per couple for travel until the end of the year on it's 11-day Myanmar in Style private journey.

The itinerary includes a four-night Ayeyarwady cruise on luxury vessel *Sanctuary Ananda*.

The offer covers travel on 01 and 13 Oct 2016.

### Royal joins Virtuoso

**THE** Hotel Royal, Evian in France has joined the Virtuoso Hotels & Resorts Program.

Hotel Royal reopened last Jul following a 24-month refurbishment of its property.

### Solo deal on Italy trip

**HOLIDAYS** to Europe has waived the \$600 single supplement fee on the Italian Delights' Lake Garda Northern Italy Cultural and Culinary Delights Tour.

The itinerary explores the regions of Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige, Emilia Romagna and Lombardy, commences 03 Oct and is priced at \$5,050ppts.

To take advantage of the deal, book and pay for the tour in full before 31 Aug.

**CLICK HERE** to find out more.

### SQ bumped from #1

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has been bumped off the top-spot to third place in Roy Morgan's Jun Customer Satisfaction Awards, overtaken by UAE-carrier Emirates and Air New Zealand.

"The tables have turned in 2016," said Michele Levine, chief executive of Roy Morgan Research of the results.

"Although Singapore Airlines has not yet taken out a Customer Satisfaction Award this year, it should not be discounted.

"Having been International Airline of the Year four times running, Singapore practically wrote the book on keeping international passengers happy," remarked Levine.

The Singapore flagship-carrier, received a customer satisfaction rating of 87% flat this month, only a fraction lower than second placed Air New Zealand who received just over 87%.

Very little separates the top five international airlines in Jun; with Emirates, Air New Zealand, Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways and Cathay Pacific receiving ratings of 89%, 87%, 87%, 86% and 85% respectively in the tally.

Qantas missed out on a spot in the top five by a meager sum, satisfying just under 85% of its passengers - despite the score being the highest level recorded for the airline in the last 18 months.

However, a veritable chunk of almost 20% separates Aussie carriers Qantas and Jetstar International, who received a rating of just 66%.



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## WIN A LUXURY HOLIDAY

## WITH CLUB MED



This month *Travel Daily* and *Club Med* are giving readers the chance to win a trip to Indonesia. The luxury prize includes:

- An all-inclusive 7 night stay in Club Med Bintan Island Resort Indonesia.

To win this great prize, answer every daily question correctly and have the most creative answer to the final question. Send your answers to [clubmedcomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:clubmedcomp@traveldaily.com.au)

3. What age range does the 'Juniors Club' cover at Club Med Bintan Island?

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## Free Fiji photo shoot

**VOMO** Island Resort Fiji is offering guests a complimentary photo shoot with renowned Fijian photographer, Mark Snyder as part of their re-opening specials.

Guests staying in any villa category for eight nights during selected dates from Oct to Mar are eligible for a two hour shoot at a location of their choosing and up to 60 images.

Trips must be booked by the end of Aug.

For more info on the deal see [www.vomofiji.com](http://www.vomofiji.com).

## Rail Europe Aug deals

**RAIL** Europe has released two new promotions for German Rail and BritRail Passes.

From now until 28 Sep, agents can book a seven-day consecutive German Rail Pass from \$271, valid for use by 31 Oct.

From 09 to 29 Aug agents booking BritRail, BritRail England and BritRail South West passes for their clients can pass on one free travel day for flexible and consecutive passes if the trip begins within six months of booking; **CLICK HERE** for more.

## Seatfrog/Amadeus

**SEATFROG** has formed a partnership with Amadeus Next which will see the tech company help Seatfrog (*TD* 01 Jun) in developing mobile only solutions to offer flight upgrades right up to departure.

The start-up will be assisted by Amadeus' global customer base of more than 130 airlines.

Seatfrog's vision is set to revolutionise mobile ancillaries, with a view to capturing a share of the US\$130 billion airline ancillary industry.

## StayWell Jodhpur

**STAYWELL** Hospitality Group has signed a third Leisure Inn property in India with the Leisure Inn Shrey, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Featuring 51 rooms, it will offer extensive facilities and an all-day dining restaurant and lounge.

The hotel is expected to open to guests in Oct.

## Mauritius yoga stay

A **NEW** 10-day wellbeing retreat in Mauritius is being offered by Australian travel company, Active Travel next Mar.

The retreat includes seven-nights' accommodation at a 5 star resort and a two-night stay at a luxury eco safari tent lodge.

The package includes daily yoga, meditation and wellness coaching as well as 19 healthy meals featuring fresh local produce.

Prices start from \$5,697 per person twin share.

For more, call (02) 6249 6122.

# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 3rd Aug 2016

## USA visitor surge

**AUSTRALIAN** visitor numbers entering the US surged by 5% in Feb compared to the year prior, newly released data from the US Department of Commerce shows.

During the first two months of 2016, arrivals from Australia shot up 8% year-on-year to 179,768.

Visitors from the Oceania region as a whole were up 4% in Feb and 7% for the year-to-date.

Across all international markets (excluding Mexico and Canada), arrivals are up 5.8% to 2.4 million in Feb and 6.8% to 5 million in Jan/Feb.

## IHG H1 results

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Group (IHG) has reported a "good performance" for its half year results to 30 Jun, with a 3.6% net room growth year-on-year and 17,000 room openings, up 8% year-on-year.

Chief executive of InterContinental Hotels Group Richard Solomons said the group enjoyed a "good first half delivering a 10% increase in underlying operating profit and an 11% increase in underlying EPS".

Operating profit before one-time items climbed 2% to US\$344 million while revenue fell 8.4% to US\$838 million.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park, NSW, 2113 Aust.

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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**Publisher/Managing Editor:** Bruce Piper **Editor:** Guy Dundas **Editorial email:** [info@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:info@traveldaily.com.au)

**Contributors:** Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai, Nathalie Craig, Jenny Piper, Sarah Piper

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan and Lisa Martin - [advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper - [accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

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- **2nd prize - Delonghi Nespresso Machine** (to the value of \$500)
- **3rd prize – A hamper of Italian food & wine** (to the value of \$250)

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#### **SYDNEY – SALARY PACKAGES STARTING FROM \$50K**

Are you a sales orientated consultant looking to earn the big bucks? Why not specialise in CRUISE, the fastest growing sector in the Travel Industry. Work for a leader in the travel industry with prestigious products and fantastic team environment. Book amazing cruise itineraries with all the pre and post additions. GDS preferred. Work closer to home with multiple locations available, competitive salary + incentives. Other unbelievable staff benefits provided. Interviews currently in progress, APPLY NOW!!!



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