

Gold Choice winners cruise the Mekong

FROM mounds of tasty tarantulas in fragrant markets to sophisticated fare in celebrity chef Luke Nguyen's cooking school - Travellers Choice's 2017 Gold Choice Award trip to Cambodia and Vietnam had a unique culinary flavour.

APT hosted this year's journey - an exclusive excursion reserved for Travellers Choice's top 10 agents - with the itinerary based around a seven-night cruise along the Mekong on *AmaLotus*.

The voyage offered an authentic taste of life along the river, with ox-cart rides past rice fields, small boat excursions to floating villages, and encounters with snake wine and scorpion snacks.

Then, on the final night, the group enjoyed a cooking class at Grain, a Ho Chi Minh restaurant owned by SBS chef Luke Nguyen, who is also a brand ambassador for APT.

Travellers Choice presents Choice Awards to its top 30 members, based on support for preferred partners.

As well as reward trips, winners receive exclusive sales incentives and grants, which can be used towards any of the network's member services.

For more info, visit www.travellerschoice.com.au.



HUNGRY? Denis Collins considers a tarantula snack.



CAMBODIAN children play with Travellers Choice's well-travelled mascot Trevor.



GOLD Choice Award winners enjoyed a champagne sunrise at Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple complex, the world's largest religious monument.



BRIAN Slater gives a traditional greeting to a pickled snake.



GOLD Choice winners enjoy a 'Cook & Dine' cooking class at Luke Nguyen's Grain Restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City. (L-R) Chris Petrie, APT; Brian Slater, Maria Slater Travel; Lucy Bellamy, Savenio; Christian Hunter, Travellers Choice; Dave Hulsman, Ucango Travel & Cruise Centre; Grain Cooking School Chef; Leonie Ivey, Windsong Travel; Lesley Shepherd, Select World Travel; Michelle Everson, Jamison Travel; Denis Collins, Discover Travel & Cruise; Tania Allen, Oliver Travel and Scott Ellis, APT.



CHRISTIAN Hunter (back) and Brian Slater hail an ox-cart Uber for a ride through the Cambodian countryside.



APT'S Scott Ellis emerges from one of the Viet Cong tunnels in Cu Chi near Ho Chi Minh City.



SAMPEAH: Gold Choice winners pay their respects in a Buddhist monastery in Oudong, the former capital of Cambodia.