





2018 CANADA, ALASKA **AND USA PRE-RELEASE** ENDING SOON



SALES of luxury cruise line Regent Seven Seas have more than tripled since parent company Norwegian Cruise Lines Holdings opened a dedicated office in Sydney 18 months ago. The company has also seen

about 30% growth in Oceania Cruises sales, and current 2018 bookings for both lines are running at about three times the level for the same time last year.

Speaking to Travel Daily in Sydney this morning, NCLH executive vp of international business development Harry Sommer said it was pleasing that the investment in the local market was bearing fruit.

"Business is fantastic," he said, with the local Oceania and Regent teams led by Steve Odell "totally trade focused" and targeting key luxury retailers.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- inPlace Recruitment
- Voyages to Antiquity
- Collette product profile pg

The upcoming Australasian deployment of Norwegian Jewel this Nov is also seeing a strong response, with good yields and loads making it the company's "best sold ship for the season" across the globe.

While indicators are positive, Odell and Sommer echoed concerns of other lines about Sydney's capacity constraints.

They are meeting with Sydney Ports today to discuss berthing in Sydney, which is significantly impacting the cruise sector's growth potential - see today's Cruise Weekly for more.

EK all A380s to Beijing

EMIRATES will upgrade its Beijing route to an all Airbus A380 op from 01 Jul, with EK308/309 upgauged from Boeing 777-300ERs to the superjumbo.

Cruise Cuba options

VOYAGES to Antiquity is today promoting a range of new Cuba & Caribbean sailings in 2017/2018 including a Christmas itinerary see page nine for more details.

视 Wendy Wu Tours COCK-A-DOODLE

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Collette Passion Play

COLLETTE has begun taking pre-registrations for seven tours that will coincide with the 2020 **Oberammergau Passion Play.**

Tours that will incorporate the once-a-decade play in Germany include its Austrian Delight and Imperial Cities - pg 10 for more.





Reservations in Sydney: 02 8248 0060





Backpacker tax recovery

TOURISM Australia's concerted effort & \$10m investment to lure working holiday youth travellers back to Australia following the drawn out 'Backpacker Tax' debate six months ago appears to have paid off, with enquiries rebounding to new highs.

According to The Global Work & Travel Co, an international gap year travel agency specialist, enquiries for Australia fell as much as 30% at the height of the controversial tax (TD 26 Nov).

Chief exec Jurgen Himmelmann said many youth were altering plans and looking at alternative destinations such as the US & NZ.

"During the height of the backpacker tax debate, our London & Vancouver offices were inundated with questions from travellers, unsure how the changes would affect their plans," Himmelmann said overnight.

But The Global Work & Travel Co says it has seen a bounceback, with enquiries surpassing prebackpacker tax controversy levels by more than 25%.

"Travellers have started to make

Pullman Rotorua

ACCORHOTELS will bring the first internationally recognised 5-star hotel to Rotorua, with the group revealing plans to open the Pullman Rotorua by early 2019.

The 130-room hotel is currently under development as a conversion project on Arawa Street in Rotorua's CBD.

Australia their #1 working holiday destination again," the firm said.

Tourism Australia boss John O'Sullivan said the organisation had received "encouraging feedback & results" from the first phase of the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) campaign which targeted western markets.

"Australia ranks in the top five destinations in the world for intention to visit in the next two years among youth travellers across ten of our key markets".

He added the WHM campaign was about to be extended to include additional markets.

Wu EOFY incentive

AGENTS booking any Wendy Wu Tours 2017 or 2018 departure before 30 Jun valued at over \$5.000 will receive a \$50 Coles-Myer gift voucher as part of the tour operator's latest incentive.

The 'Cock-a-doodle-Wu' promo offers a prize pool of \$12,500, including the chance to win six weekly giveaways of \$500 gift vouchers and the grand prize of a Pandaw Cruise, valued at \$9,500.

To enter the competition, agents need to tell Wendy Wu Tours why they are their preferred tour operator (in 25 words or less) and provide a booking number.

For full details, CLICK HERE.



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First with the news Tuesday 23rd May 2017

BREAKAWAY American Airlines rnational Travel Industry Club American Airlines Industry Rates to Los Angeles. Book Anytime to 30JUN17. Economy Class from \$620* Return PP plus taxes. * Conditions Apply. Taxes approx. \$200* - \$220* pp. **CLICK HERE for further details**

Points drive Aust buyers

FREQUENT flyer points and other rewards are a key driver of Australian spending decisions, according to a Galaxy Research survey on credit card use.

The study found more than two thirds of respondents would make a card purchase decision based on whether they would receive points, and that Australians' preferred rewards were frequent flyer points and

Jetstar birthday sale

JETSTAR is marking its 13th birthday with sale fares and 300,000 'return for free' seats.

The complimentary seats are available on return flights from 83 domestic and international destinations, for travel periods between Jul and Dec this year and from Jan to Mar 2018.

The deals are on sale to 24 May. **CLICK HERE** for details.

retail store gift vouchers. Conducted for Virgin Australia's

Velocity Frequent Flyer scheme, the study found Generation Y respondents were the most points-hungry, with 80% saying they were motivated to buy a product to earn points.

They were followed by Gen X at 69% and Baby Boomers at 57%.

Gen Y were also the most active users of points, with one in four saying they redeemed points more than six times a year.

ACCI tourism head

THE Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) has named Richard Lindsay as the manager of its Australian Chamber - Tourism.

Lindsav has held various roles in industry and govt, most recently as exec director at the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors.

NZ visitor record

NEW Zealand has posted a record year for tourism in the 12 months to Apr 30, having welcomed 3.6 million visitors.

The latest figures from Stats NZ show overseas visitor numbers were at an all time high, climbing 10% above the previous year.

In the month of Apr, a total of 311,900 visitors arrived in New Zealand, a 21% increase on the same month last year, mainly due to the later Easter.

Outbound travel was also up, with a record 2.7 million Kiwis taking an overseas trip in the year to 30 Apr, an 11% increase on the previous year.

MEANWHILE, New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment says international visitor spending totalled NZ\$10 billion (A\$9.4b) in the year to 31 Mar,

Despite increasing visitor numbers, the total spend was down 2% on the previous year.



POLICE in Tokyo have mounted a safety crackdown on the operators of go-kart tours after a spate of accidents involving drivers dressed as Super Mario and other Nintendo characters.

The Japan Times reports five companies have been charging up to \$100 for two-hour go-kart tours, but have been involved in at least 12 accidents since police began monitoring them in Mar.

Police have demanded operators require helmets and safety gear to be worn and that phone use be banned.





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Tuesday 23rd May 2017

The Murray local gsa

BESPOKE Hotel Representation & Resources has been appointed general sales agent in Australia & NZ for The Murray, Hong Kong.





Major prize for the 2017 footy tipping competition is two return economy class airfares to any one of EMIRATES 39 European destinations

New Chimu brochure

CHIMU Adventures has unveiled its inaugural Latin America & Antarctica Small Group Tours brochure for 2017/18. The program features two

categories, Overland Expeditions and Discovery Tours that are operated by Viva Expeditions.

Overland road trips take a max of 16 travellers while Discovery Tours use a mix of transport and stay in rustic cabins with groups no larger than 20.

The 23-day Enchanting South America includes wine tasting in Chile and exploring the wonders of Machu Picchu.

Prices start at \$13,300pp, more info HERE.

ARTN misses out

THE Australia Regional Tourism Network chair, Simon McArthur, has criticised the lack of specific attention to tourism in Thu's release of the Regions 2030: Unlocking Opportunity in Regional Australia report.

McArthur lauded the increased funding for regional infrastructure but said regional tourism "has been snubbed by not being included as one of the key industries that will help drive the social and economic outcomes for regional communities".

"I encourage Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash to reconsider her dept's vision to unlock more regional tourism development opportunities, needed to keep our regional tourism offer differentiated," McArthur said.



No Atout France event would be complete without pomp, with a jazz band on hand providing entertainment and prizes courtesy of Tefal, G.H.Mumm and The North Face up for grabs.

Pictured soaring to new heights is Patrick Benhamou director of Atout France and Ingrid Kocijan commercial director of Rail Plus.

Explore winter sale

EXPLORE Worldwide's latest sale includes savings up to \$190 per person on 100 trips including walking and cycling adventures across Europe.

Deal available for select departures between Jun and Sep 2017 when booked by 19 Jun. More details HERE.

ARE YOU AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE ATAS TRAVEL AGENCY? Voting is NOW OPEN for the NTIA People's Choice: RETAIL TRAVEL AGENCY OF THE YEAR.



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RED BUS SALE - NETWORK WIDE

Bali

France apres-ski party

choose for a skiing holiday. This is set to change however with the team from Atout France staging a lavish Apres-Ski dinner party for the travel trade last night at Sofitel Wentworth Sydney.

PITTED

against the

likes of Japan,

New Zealand

and Canada,

France is not

destination

Australians

Over 250 people gathered to learn about the variety of ski options, accommodation, gastronomy and entertainment from resorts including Val-d'Isere, Chamonix, Courchevel, Megeve

and Val Thorens. Staff from the resorts were keen to impress upon the trade the value of booking ski passes early, with prices from as little as \$400 per person for a six-day pass to Val-d'Isere.

Each resort offered an abundance of ski schools, family retreats and luxury spas with cosponsor of the evening, Emirates, highlighting the daily flight options into France for the winter season ahead.

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Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Blue World active cruise

A MIAMI-BASED entrepreneur is aiming to shake up the cruise industry with the launch of what he claims is "the world's first active lifestyle line".

Gene Meehan, chairman and founder of Blue World Voyages, said the line's first ship would enter service in May 2018 and sail 350 passengers on Miami-Cuba itineraries for six months before offering Costa Rica and Peru-Chile voyages.

The ships will offer cycling, hiking, watersports, yoga and meditation, a sports centre, golf simulators, food-pairing wine lounges and an indoor basketball

Canada eDeclaration

AUSTRALIAN travellers to Canada can now save time when they arrive at Vancouver airport using the new eDeclaration app.

Created by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) the app allows you to create a declaration for up to five travellers with the same place of residence.

The app will generate a QR code that will print your info at the primary inspection kiosks. court for passengers to enjoy. Blue World is separating itself from other cruise lines that offer health and wellness components by claiming all passengers will be 'like minded people' who are active and health-conscious.

Unlike other cruise ships, Blue World claims it will allow customers to have a say in future itineraries as long as it is a destination with health, fitness and culture opportunities.

Owner Meehan is planning to use crowdfunding with a campaign to begin in Jun, which will enable travellers to become equity partners in the line, with benefits such as owning a suite, which they could then rent.

St Regis Shanghai

ST REGIS Hotels & Resorts announced the opening of The St. Regis Shanghai Jingan, making it the brand's ninth hotel in the China region.

Owned by B.M. Holding, the 436 room hotel includes 66 suites, and 55 residences.

The hotel is situated on West Beijing Road in the Jingan District.

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We have yoga on a Thursday at lunch time, a private room for staff use and a very active social committee.

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Serko results up & up

SERKO announced it is on-track to generate profit for the current financial year after total revenue rose 9% for year to 31 Mar.

The \$14.3m total revenue compares to \$13.1m in 2016.

Serko's annual net loss before tax narrowed by 44% to \$3.3 million from \$5.4 million in the prior year.

In the profits update, it was noted that approximately 50% of corporate travel bookings in Australasia were booked on the Serko platform.

Avis president quits

THE president & chief financial officer of car rental giant Avis Budget Group has resigned & will leave the company "to pursue other opportunities" in Jun.

David Wyshner has been cfo at Avis Budget since 2006 and was appointed president in Jan 2016.

Chief executive officer Larry De Shon praised Wyshner, saying he was "instrumental in growing our global footprint" and that he had "contributed to our success".

A search to fill the cfo position on a permanent basis is now on.

SITA blackout

YESTERDAY'S computer outage at airports in Australia (*TD* Mon) causing massive queues & some international flight delays was triggered by a "major telecom failure in the UK of a top provider to SITA's datacenter".

DSTAR

In a statement, SITA said the nearly 3hr disruption was treated with "utmost urgency" and was ruled out as a "cyber-attack".

"We regret any impact this incident has had on our customers and passengers."

"In response, we implemented an alternative communications link & resumed services".

Hainan Nespresso

CHINA'S Hainan Airlines will offer a selection of Nespresso flavoured coffees aboard longhaul international business routes operated by Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* aircraft.

The new cabin product also features an advance in-flight entertainment system with faster response time and a 'Seat Chat' social feature allowing pax to communicate "chat room style" with other passengers.

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE® IS HIRING IN SYDNEY!

Norwegian Cruise Line is one of the fastest growing global cruise brands, delivering world-class experiences to its guests across Europe, the Caribbean, and the U.S, including Alaska and Hawaii. NCL will also have a ship homeporting out of Sydney from November.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE, NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE - SYDNEY CBD | SALARY + CRUISE BENEFITS

We are seeking a results-driven Marketing Executive to join our APAC team. Reporting to the Marketing Manager and working closely with the global team in Miami, this hands-on role will act as custodian for the Norwegian Cruise Line brand in Australia & New Zealand. You'll be given the opportunity to contribute to marketing planning whilst also co-ordinating campaigns, communications and sales collateral across both digital and traditional channels and supporting stakeholders, partnerships and PR.

Your previous marketing experience will see you thrive in an environment with exposure to a dynamic, global brand, some great mentors and the odd travel opportunity!

APPLICATIONS TO PHILIPPA@ALEXANDER-ASSOCIATES.COM.AU | 0404 842 384

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AFTA update

From AFTA's chief executive, Jayson Westbury

HELLOWORLD Travel, the Travel Professionals - it has a great ring to it and there is no question that the Helloworld Travel Conference held last weekend on the Gold Coast demonstrated the acceptance and excitement that this new name and direction along with the return of the jingle has brought to all involved in the company.

It was a great pleasure to take part and participant in both the Helloworld Business Travel Summit and the Helloworld Travel Owners Managers Conference (OMC) and terrific to see so many familiar faces at both events. This year the content was diverse and interesting with a range of speakers really helping all the participants to think about how to make a difference in their business. And with a business agenda as strong as it was and a new corporate story to tell with the change to Helloworld Travel there was plenty to talk about.

Congratulations to all involved in making this year's Business Summit and OMC the best ever for sure. And to top off all of that, who would have ever thought that Jimmy Barnes would smash out a spectacular finish to an amazing weekend. I think there are travel agents across the country that will be still dancing the days away as they think back to the Hellloworld Travel Jimmy Barnes Concert that we all were surprised with on the last night. Perhaps the Jimmy Barnes song Good Times sums it all up really well.

On a final unrelated note, VIVID SYDNEY kicks off this Fri for 23 nights of mind blowing extravaganza and as a parochial Sydneysider I can't wait. Each year Destination NSW and the organisers of VIVID seem to be able to change that event to elevate it to a new level. It has become such an internationally recognised event that I am sure no matter which part of the country you reside, you would have to be proud of an event like VIVID as it shows imagination and creativity that we would like to be known for as a nation.

I hope that many from within the travel industry get to experience this wonderful class event.

You can get all of the information at https://www.vividsydney.com.

Mauritius booming

Kimpton into Europe

MORE than 2,000 Australians visited the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius in Apr, a 35% increase on the corresponding time last year, provisional data collected by Statistics Mauritius shows.

For the year ending 30 Apr, the island nation achieved an 18% growth in Aussie arrivals.

Across all markets, numbers are up 7.5% between Jan and Apr.

Australia is Mauritius' 10th biggest inbound market, while France was top with 24,488 visits.

Wong's China saving

HELEN Wong's Tours is marking the China-Australia Tourism Year 2017 with a discounted nine-day tour to Beijing and Xian.

The tour is available with a \$500 discount and is priced from \$1,999 per person twin share.

Departing Australia on 09 Sep, the tour explores Beijing and Xian before travelling to Hangzhou for a cruise on West Lake.

The itinerary includes China Eastern flights and will return to Australia on 17 Sep.

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels

Group has debuted its Kimpton brand outside of the Americas for the first time, with the launch of Kimpton de Witt Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

The hotel features 274 rooms and has a three-storey 'Little House' dating back to the 1600s contained within that can be rented for groups seeking a highend private abode, offering two king-sized rooms & a living room. Kimpton de Witt is located in the heart of Amsterdam's city centre, near Centraal Station.

Viking Ra free flights

VIKING Cruises is offering free return Economy class flights from Australia to Europe when booking its 12-day Pharoahs & Pyramids Nile river cruise before 30 Jun.

The new Egypt program begins in Mar aboard Viking's all-suite *Viking Ra* which accommodates up to 48 passengers.

Departures operate roundtrip from Cairo, with prices starting at \$7,495ppts in a cat AC suite.



FREEDOM Road Destinations will reunite with the AFL next year for the next Asia Shanghai Cup, having successfully served as official travel partner to the inaugural Aussie Rules event held in China earlier this month.

An estimated 5.000 Aussies travelled to Shanghai to see the first ALF premiership game held in China, with Port Adelaide coming out on top against the Gold Coast on 14 May.

Another 14 teams competed in the AFL Asia Shanghai Cup held on the previous day.

Grant Keys, president of AFL Asia, said "The local knowledge of our travel partner Freedom

Road Destinations combined with their presence in Australia made them the ideal choice. The travel arrangements for players and fans were executed seamlessly adding to the success of the event."

MEANWHILE, a new partnership has been announced between Freedom Road Travel and Show Group Enterprises.

Show Group's Showfilm is seeking to expand its footprint into China, allowing it to service film and TV productions between China, the US and Australia.

The move expands Showfilm's network of int'l travel industry providers and facilitates reliable logistical services.

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Samoa PM defends dropping VA

THE Samoan government is mulling plans to recommence international flights using its flag carrier Polynesian Airlines.

This comes in the wake of the government's decision to end a decade-long joint venture with Virgin Australia (TD 18 May).

Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi said it was the best move for Samoa to let go of its tie-up with Virgin Australia.

Speaking to local media, the PM added that now was the time to revive Polynesian Airlines' international operations.

Langham incentive

THE Langham Melbourne is offering agents making a new group booking by 31 Jul the chance to win a weekend away at The Langham, Auckland.

A winner will be announced on 04 Aug, with the prize including return flights and two nights at the Langham Auckland.

"When you own your own airline, you can make your own policies about your airline which will reflect the policies of our country," Tuilaepa said.

Tuilaepa believes a national airline would allow the country to control pricing and drive more tourists to the island nation following concerns from local hotel operators about numbers.

"This can't continue on especially when the airfares continue to increase and the hotels are complaining that there are not enough tourists coming to Samoa," he remarked.

StayWell Vivid deal

STAYWELL Hospitality Group has released a travel deal for Vivid at its Park Regis City Centre hotel in Sydney.

Guests can save 20% on stays between 25 May and 18 Jun, with prices starting from \$155pn. CLICK HERE for more.



This month, Travel Daily is giving travel agents the chance to win a trip to New Caledonia, courtesy of Aircalin, New Caledonia Tourism and Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa and Golf Resort.

The trip for two includes return economy class tickets flying with Aircalin from SYD/MEL/BNE, 4 nights accommodation and buffet breakfast at Sheraton New Caledonia Deva Spa and Golf Resort and return airport transfers courtesy of New Caledonia Tourism.

To win, answer each question correctly and have the most creative final answer. Send your entries to newcaledonia@traveldaily.com.au



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ACA speaker line-up

PREPARATIONS are underway for Australian Cruise Association's annual conference themed "Together Towards Tomorrow" taking place from 6-8 Sep.

The event will take place on the Sunshine Coast with a line-up of speakers secured including Steve Odell, senior vp & md Asia Pacific for Norwegian Cruise Line.

He will speak about opportunities, challenges and brand diversity.

Matt Grimes from Viking Cruises, Sarina Bratton of Ponant Yacht Cruises and Tammy Marshall from The Bhive will also speak at the event.

More than 140 people are expected to attend.

Contours new brox

CONTOURS has launched its latest Latin America brochure, with travellers booked by 30 Jun, eligible for savings of up to \$250 on select itineraries.

Highlights of the brochure include visits to Buenos Aires, Iguacu Falls, Machu Picchu and exploring Cuzco.

CLICK HERE to view the latest Latin America brochure.

3K Ramadan boost

JETSTAR Asia (3K) is adding 13 services between Singapore and Medan, Surabaya, Palembang, Pekanbaru and Penang – to meet the increased travel demand over Ramadan and the Hari Raya Puasa holidays in 2017.

The additional flights will operate between 16 Jun and 02 Jul.

Countries in Asia will celebrate the holiday on 25-26 Jun.

Pandaw solo saving

PANDAW is offering solo travellers in South-East Asia no single supplement charges on a selection of expeditions and departure dates until 2019.

A range of cruises are available, including itineraries in Indochina along the Mekong, in Halong Bay and on the Red River. CLICK HERE for more.





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

\$1AUD = US0.747

OVERNIGHT the AUD/USD climbed to its highest level since o3 May as the weakening US Dollar continues to drive markets around the world.

In other markets, the euro continued to gain, with the AUDEUR falling back to eightmonth lows.

The dollar suffered a blow last week after Australian wages recorded their poorest growth in 20 years. Elsewhere, the dollar was down

0.7% versus the NZ Dollar as it neared three-month lows.

Wholesale rates this morning.

l	JS	\$0.747
l	JK	£0.574
I	ΝZ	\$1.067
ł	Euro	€0.665
	Japan	¥83.02
1	Thailand	ß25.64
(China	¥5.14
	South Africa	R9.891
(Canada	\$1.008
(Crude oil	US\$50.3

ONYX names new ceo

ONYX Hospitality Group has promoted executive vp and chief operating officer Douglas Martell to chief executive officer.

Martell succeeds Peter Henley who held the role for nine years.

Belmond acquisition

HIGH-END travel firm Belmond will acquire the 96-key Cap Juluca luxury resort on the Caribbean island of Anguilla in the British West Indies.

The deal, worth approx US\$84.6 million, will see Belmond take over management of the resort.

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Attention to detail
Monday to Friday

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TEMP Assignment - Leisure Sydney - Inner West 4-5 week assignment

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Great environment

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