



Nicole King
Ballarat Holiday + Cruise

What's better than a **low-fee** buying group?
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Say NO to fees.



Royal rejigs season

ROYAL Caribbean International this morning confirmed it would not proceed with the planned upcoming Australasian deployment of *Serenade of the Seas*, while *Ovation of the Seas* will now instead operate 24 domestic-only departures from 13 Dec through until 31 Mar 2022.

The revised program will feature a mix of two- to 10-night voyages, with all previously scheduled *Ovation* and *Serenade* sailings cancelled.

Travel agents are being advised this morning, with impacted guests automatically issued with a 125% future cruise credit, but can also opt for a full refund or Lift & Shift to 2022-23 sailings.

More details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Travel certificates by Oct

THE Federal Government is set to roll out a new QR code-based vaccination certificate system within months, based on the Visible Digital Seal technology backed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The plan has been approved by the Government's expenditure review committee, following a proposal submitted jointly by the Federal Ministers for Health, Employment, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, according to a Nine Publishing report this morning.

The vaccine certificates, which are being targeted for implementation as soon as Oct, are being developed by Services Australia, which this week confirmed a deal with Apple and

Google to allow digital wallets on smartphones (*TD* yesterday).

ICAO's Visible Digital Seal system ensures the vaccine certificates cannot be faked by using a so-called "cryptographic signature".

It's understood the Government is also proposing the system could be used for domestic travel, enabling quarantine-free trips for vaccinated passengers.

There's also debate about whether the platform could be used by the events sector or even for entry to venues, similar to initiatives currently being implemented in some European countries such as France.

Australia is believed to be in talks with several countries in relation to the establishment of two-way travel bubbles based on the vaccination certificates.

Tassie Walk for Wild

THE Tasmanian Walking Company (TWC) has launched a new Walk for Wild fundraising event series, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The initiative centres around coordinated departures on 08 Oct this year, with 100% of sales donated to WWF's Regenerate Australia program which aims to rehabilitate habitats impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires and "future-proof Australia against climate disasters".

"This is a chance for Australians to be part of a defining moment for the future," said TWC co-owner Brett Godfrey.

"Walk for Wild is an exciting opportunity for people to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of walking in Australia's remote wilderness areas, while at the same time knowing the full purchase price of their walk is contributing to this incredible conservation effort," he said.

Spots are still available for the special walks which include the Bay of Fires Lodge Walk, the Cradle Mountain Huts Walk, the Twelve Apostles Lodge Walk and the Three Capes Long weekend - see taswalkingco.com.au.

Switzerland sessions

SWITZERLAND Tourism wants to connect 13 key partners with the Australian travel trade during the first ever virtual Switzerland Travel Experience.

The two-day event taking place 18-19 Aug will feature games, quizzes, networking opportunities and a virtual exhibition, with plenty of prizes up for grabs.

To register **CLICK HERE**.

QDP status bonus

THE NDC-based Qantas Distribution Platform (QDP) now has the capability to deliver bonus Qantas Points and Status Credits to QF frequent flyers.

The enhancement means agents who are participating in the Qantas Channel can help their customers grow their points balance via special offers, which will be "available from time-to-time on specific flights, routes and destinations," according to an update on the Qantas Agency Connect portal.

Access to the enhancements will be dependent on the capability of an agency's technology partner.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has six pages of news including our PUZZLE page.

Now that's Just Wow

VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism Australia has launched its Just Wow trade incentive, offering advisors who make rebookings for the brand during Aug the chance to win major holiday prizes.

For every postponed trip that gets rebooked between 01-31 Aug, advisors will earn one entry into a draw to win either hotel stays, flights or touring products.

To be eligible, entries need to be received by Fri 03 Sep and the winners will be drawn at random and advised by email on Fri 17 Sep - for more details about the promotion, **CLICK HERE**.



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Ship in pole position

POLAR exploration vessel *Le Commandant Charcot* has been delivered to Ponant by the Vard shipyard in Italy.

The Polar Class 2 ship can accommodate 245 guests in its 123 staterooms, and will also house 235 crew members.

Crystalbrook GMs

CRYSTALBROOK Collection has made a trio of General Manager appointments in the local market.

Jeremy Nordkamp has been recruited to manage Crystalbrook Vincent in Brisbane, acquired in 2020 (*TD* 24 Sep), while Melissa Shaw will take over the leadership of Crystalbrook Riley, Cairns and Emma Alcorn will now lead Crystalbrook Albion, Sydney.

"Each of the General Managers has been chosen for their leadership expertise and stand-out flair for delivering first-class guest service," Crystalbrook's CEO Geoff York said.

CT adds two to its fold

TRAVEL buying network CT Partners has added two premium NSW travel agencies to its group (*TD* breaking news yesterday).

Continuing its expansion, which has seen CT add six agencies to its network this year alone, the two newest members are leisure and cruise specialist Landmark Travel and corporate- and leisure-based Frontier Travel.

Landmark's Gerd Wilmer said he looks forward to again being able to determine his own destiny with a group of like-minded agents, while Frontier Director Rowland Howlett added "transparency and flexibility" attracted him to the network.

CT Chairman Barry Mayo commented on the network's recent growth in membership applications, saying it was receiving unprecedented interest "motivated by the uniqueness of our business model".

"With 100% of supplier

payments passed directly on to members, and a high level of collaboration between members, we are delighted to welcome Frontier Travel and Landmark Travel to the group," Mayo said.

The Sydney-based agencies are leaving Magellan Travel Group to join CT, after their prior network was acquired by Helloworld in 2018 (*TD* 19 Dec 2017).

PATA goes virtual

THE Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has announced its Virtual Travel Mart will take place from 02-05 Sep.

Leshan, China will be the featured destination for this year's high profile business-to-business travel contracting & virtual networking affair.

The event is being organised in conjunction with the Sichuan International Travel Expo - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



Window Seat

WE KNOW travellers in Australia crave off road experiences, but a resident in Germany has clearly taken the concept of all-terrain vehicles way too far.

The 84-year-old man has been fined €250,000 for illegally owning a WW2 tank, which extraordinarily he claimed to use occasionally to snow plough his driveway.

In addition to the tank, the ageing military enthusiast was also found to be in possession of a cache of weapons, including an anti-aircraft gun and a flak cannon (whatever that is).

We just feel sorry for the neighbours in this story.



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The pandemic and the environment. Has this been a time for travel businesses to pause for effect? Read more in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

Vic infrastructure needed

AN INCREASED investment in tourism infrastructure will be “crucial” to ensuring the Victorian tourism industry remains an attractive destination for visitors when international travel returns, a new report tabled by Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee of Victoria recommends.

The report expresses a number of key concerns for the state’s struggling sector, including a major shortfall in spending from domestic tourists when compared with previous int’l visitor levels.

Among the many suggestions contained in the study is for the Vic Govt to work with the tourism sector to identify ongoing development needs by expanding the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, as well as to extend travel voucher schemes - particularly in off-peak periods.

Visit Victoria is also encouraged to work more with regional

tourism boards to develop tailored support packages, including future marketing campaigns to drive visitation.

A JobKeeper equivalent scheme from the Federal Govt for the state’s tourism businesses was recommended in order to retain staff, while mental health was also identified as a key area of focus, advocating for more targeted mental health initiatives and improved communications.

TIME taps watch

NEXT month will be the 43rd intake of the Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME).

With the recent demand in the market, coupled with an acute skills shortage, the industry will be looking for the next crop of the brightest and best managers and leaders to shine a light on the way forward for the rest of the sector - travelindustrymentor.com.au for an application form.

Opening up a can of tourists



AN UPCOMING ring pull-shaped viewing platform on top of Perth’s Optus Stadium is tipped to become one of the city’s most sought-after tourist attractions.

Set to be completed during 2022, the platform will allow visitors to walk around the roof of the mammoth sporting venue and take in the surrounding view, with rooftop tours to be made accessible to all ages and abilities, adding to the popular HALO rooftop tours already in place.

“This is an exciting addition to

the suite of stadium tours and proves Western Australia’s ability to draw visitors to the state and provide world class sporting and entertainment experiences,” WA Sport and Recreation Minister Tony Buti said.

“We often see footage of people on the rooftop during sports broadcasts, which provides ancillary promotional benefits to our state,” he added.

Pictured: A render of the upcoming 42-metre-high ring pull viewing platform.

Switzerland.

SWITZERLAND TRAVEL EXPERIENCE 2021

18-19 August 2021 / VIRTUAL EVENT
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REGISTER HERE AND WIN

Lago Di Saoseo Copyright: Nicola Fueter

SWITZERLAND TRAVEL EXPERIENCE 2021 TRANSITIONS TO VIRTUAL

Due to incredibly unpredictable travel restrictions, it was impossible to bring everyone to meet in Australia this year. That's why we've decided to transition the Switzerland Travel Experience STE 2021 to a virtual experience.



Swiss Travel System.



Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called *Keep Dreaming* is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



TA splashes ad cash

DESPITE the country's travel and tourism sector being lashed by COVID lockdowns and border restrictions, new data from Pathmatics shows that digital ad spend from Tourism Australia rose sharply in Jun.

The tourism body increased its digital marketing spend from \$463k in Apr to around \$1.7 million in Jun, the highest it has been since Jan 2020.

Jun also saw Qantas open the wallet on digital ads to the tune of \$634k, up from \$558k the previous month, while the Tourism New Zealand spent an extra \$85k in Jun when compared to May.

We're just vax keen!

MOST Aussies (72%) are okay with vaccination passports as a prerequisite for domestic travel, polling from *The Guardian* shows, while (62%) agree 80% of people should be fully vaccinated before Australia reopens its borders.

Holiday Inn eyes Ballarat

THE Holiday Inn & Suites Ballarat Goldfields has been unveiled as the latest property in the IHG Hotels Australian pipeline, with the property (render **pictured**) flagged to open its doors in 2024.

The regional 110-room resort will boast a range of amenities to attract business events, including 400m² of meeting space and a large ballroom with impressive rural views, as well as 90-person restaurant nearby.

Further features include a day spa, bar area, gymnasium and outdoor pool and spa.

IHG's VP of Development for Australasia Abhijay Sandilya said the property's "resort-feel" will make it a top choice for group



bookings & the MICE sector.

"This will help drive mid-week occupancy particularly from corporate travellers and it will also be a popular destination for weddings," he said.

Butcher hooks back

BRETT Butcher has returned to the role of Group CEO of Langham Hospitality Group after departing the position in 2014.

The Australian-born luxury hospitality executive takes on the role based in Hong Kong to help the brand push a path forward through the challenges of the global health crisis.

"Brett is an experienced hotelier with significant experience in luxury hospitality and he is ideally suited to lead the company through our COVID-19 recovery phases and implement a solid succession plan for the group," Langham's Executive Chairman K.S Lo said.

Tripfuser rebrands

TRAVEL network Tripfuser has rebranded to Designer Journeys in order to better communicate its unique designer travel proposition to the travel market.

Backed by investor RACV, Designer Journeys' platform provides unique travel experiences through its global network of hand-selected Local Designers - knowledgeable local travel experts who deliver travel experiences in over 70 countries around the world.

The network provides an easy-to-use customisation platform which simplifies designing a trip for clients; a dedicated travel concierge team, supporting travel advisors at each step of the design booking and travel experience; and a Designer Journeys agent support team, which works with agents to support bookings growth by using its suite of marketing services, and access to its gallery of almost 2,000 designer itineraries.



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Travel Daily



Italy word search

P	A	R	M	E	S	A	N	Z	I	Z	D	P	J	V
E	T	S	A	O	C	I	F	L	A	M	A	L	E	E
R	U	V	X	Y	G	G	N	S	I	X	L	N	N	I
R	P	V	N	J	X	N	A	L	I	M	I	I	Y	S
E	O	T	A	L	E	G	U	D	K	C	C	N	K	K
T	I	K	I	C	W	U	T	T	E	U	A	V	G	X
E	I	E	S	O	X	O	T	W	T	C	Q	D	F	N
U	E	Q	Q	L	Q	O	O	T	S	K	Z	O	E	E
Q	P	S	E	O	Y	L	E	U	U	F	D	L	C	N
N	M	I	H	S	V	F	T	M	V	W	O	O	N	I
I	O	C	O	S	K	F	E	E	O	S	R	M	E	U
C	P	I	X	E	B	V	A	V	C	R	X	I	R	G
S	R	L	O	U	Y	E	C	Y	O	I	Z	T	O	N
X	T	Y	V	M	R	N	Z	U	Y	L	H	E	L	I
L	V	L	A	K	E	C	O	M	O	O	F	S	F	L

SEE if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| AMALFICOAST | LINGUINE |
| CINQUETERRE | MILAN |
| COLOSSEUM | PARMESAN |
| DOLOMITES | POMPEII |
| FETTUCINE | ROME |
| FLORENCE | SICILY |
| GELATO | TUSCANY |
| LAKECOMO | VENICE |

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

I	E	V
N	G	O
L	V	R

- Good – 19 words
- Very good – 28 words
- Excellent – 37 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Know your brands

LOGOS are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is. See if you can identify these four logos.

1



2



3



4



Whose flag is this?



THIS landlocked enclave's flag follows the tried and tested design of many countries, with a simple coloured background and the country's coat of arms in the centre.

The three towers in the coat of

arms represent the three citadels of the enclave, and although it has only been in use since the 14th century, the enclave actually claims to be the oldest extant sovereign state.

Do you know whose flag this is?

ANSWERS 04 AUG
 Know your brands: 1 Seabourn Cruise Line, 2 Warner Bros, 3 Red Rooster, 4 Early Settler
 Whose flag is this: San Marino
 Unscramble: ergo, evolving, girl, giro, give, given, giver, glen, glove, gliver, goer, gone, goner, gore, govern, grin, groin, grove, grovel, ignore, legion, liger, ling, linger, lingo, long, longer, loving, ogive, ogile, ogre, region, reign, REVOLVING, rewing, ring, roving

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Travel Daily



A Lion in the way

QANTAS is not the only airline in the region furloughing staff due to a spike in cases of the Delta variant (**TD 03 Aug**), with Indonesian carrier Lion Air also announcing that up to 8,000 employees are being stood down due to reduced services.

Lion is currently operating 15% of its normal pre-COVID capacity.

Joburg Hyatt House

HYATT Hotels will soon debut its Hyatt House brand in the South African market, flagging the Hyatt House Johannesburg Sandton will open its doors in Oct.

The property will feature 43 studio guestrooms and 19 apartment-style suites, as well as a fitness centre & swimming pool.

Airbus eyes Aussies

AIRBUS has appointed Sefiani to be its PR agency in Australia, with the company charged with lifting the profile of the aviation manufacturer in the local market.

Sefiani's brief will include promoting its products across commercial aircraft, helicopters, defence and space verticals.

"Australia is an important market for Airbus with huge potential for the future, including possibilities to develop new innovative partnerships," Airbus' Head of Communications Asia-Pacific, Sean Lee said.

Monaco goes green

MONACO has unveiled more details about its future sustainability strategy that it believes will make the destination an even more desirable country for future travellers by becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Key initiatives include more eco-friendly transport such as electric bikes and clean energy vehicles, along with the new MonaPass tool, helping tourists locate the nearest electric bikes on offer.

The Government of Monaco has also introduced eco-friendly yachting and a host of new renewable energy options for local businesses.

Carnival welcomes

CARNIVAL Australia has applauded news that a \$232m Townsville channel upgrade will improve access for cruise ships of up to 300 metres in length.

"The ambitious Townsville project, combined with other infrastructure initiatives, such as the new Brisbane Int'l Cruise Terminal...and the dredging of Trinity Inlet in Cairns, means Qld is ideally placed to make the most of the recovery of cruise tourism," President Sture Myrmell said.

It's time for TikTok

BE READY baby boomers, American Airlines is providing 30 mins of free access to the Gen Z social platform TikTok for passengers travelling on the airline's Viasat-equipped narrowbody aircraft.

The option is now available as AA works to increase the speed of its in-flight wi-fi capabilities.

"Faster wi-fi allows us to deliver diverse entertainment options & invest in innovative partnerships," AA MD of Customer Experience Clarissa Sebastian said.

Win Adventures Through COVID by Parris Fotias

Every day this week *Travel Daily* and Parris Fotias are giving readers the chance to win a signed copy of Parris' new book, *Adventures Through COVID*.



Parris Fotias has just flown home from a work trip through India. Eleven days later, COVID-19 is officially declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation. Soon after, the Australian Government closes its international border under Biosecurity Act 2015.

Adventures Through COVID is a personal odyssey that chronicles the frustrations of life during the pandemic.

It is a pilgrimage through past memories looking back on the funny, the ridiculous and the almost forgotten to help cope with an uncertain future.

To win today's copy be the first person to email the correct answer to the question below to competitions@traveldaily.com.au

Which Dorchester Collection hotel features prominently in Sofia Coppola's award winning movie *Somewhere*?

ACCOMMODATION

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.



Small Luxury Hotels of the World has welcomed **Le Domaine d'Ablon** into its fold this month. This French country house's six Cottage Suites transport you into 16th century Normandy, with their half-timbered architecture, verdant gardens, and unique

decor, which incorporates antique furniture, artworks, and wall hangings. The five-acre luxury retreat is in the rural heart of Lower Normandy's Pays d'Auge area, near to Le Havre and Honfleur.



St. Regis Hotels and Resorts has made its debut in China's major eastern city of Qingdao with **The St. Regis Qingdao**. The hotel has introduced its iconic butler service, celebrated rituals and exquisite dining to Qingdao, strategically located in the city's Haitian Center, the tallest building in Shandong Province.

Occupying the 58th to 78th floors, The St. Regis Qingdao is the highest hotel in the region, and offers guests views of the Yellow River.



InterContinental Hotels & Resorts is bringing a new luxury experience to Azerbaijan with the opening of **InterContinental Baku**. The hotel is the brand's first in Azerbaijan, and this location has certainly been worth the wait, with the

128-room-property overlooking the Bay of Baku, allowing guests to enjoy mesmerising views of the Caspian Sea, the Port of Baku and the Flame Towers.