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Korean Air to BNE

KOREAN Air is rejigging its Australian schedules with a change that will see it operate Seoul-Brisbane services in Jan and Feb next year.

An updated schedule advised to travel agents today also indicates that KE will not operate its Sydney-Seoul flights at all in Feb next year, with the last flight on 30 Jan and resuming on 02 Mar.

KE Brisbane flights will operate thrice weekly from 01 Jan-27 Feb.

1000MTG plots US growth

EXCLUSIVE

NICOLA Veltman and Ben Ross, the founders of “work from anywhere” corporate agency 1000 Mile Travel Group (1000MTG) are relocating to the US to guide the organisation’s expansion after its acquisition by Corporate Travel Management earlier this year (TD 01 Jul).

The pair will be based in Denver, Colorado with oversight of about 600 home-based travel advisors who are already part of the Corporate Travel Management business in the USA.

As CTM has expanded globally it has acquired a number of remote agent networks alongside TMC deals under brands including Montrose Travel (TD 04 Jan 2016), Corporate Travel Planners (TD 24 Dec 2019) and Travel & Transport Vacations (TD 29 Sep 2020), since rebranded as Allure Travel by CTM.

Veltman and Ross will head up the existing MTravel head office team of about 15 people, overseeing the combined operations across the USA along with the various networks, bringing their 1000MTG expertise and experience to the business.

In Las Vegas for Virtuoso Travel Week, Veltman told *Travel Daily* the acquisition had accelerated plans for the US rollout of the 1000MTG operation.

“All of the independent contractors are now falling under our model,” she said, with the current network being 90% leisure focused.

1000MTG has traditionally focused on home-based, work from anywhere travel experts who are running corporate portfolios on average worth \$1.5m-\$2m annually.

“That’s what we know through and through and do very well... the leisure focus is definitely very different for us, but at the same time it’s similar because we’re still looking after and developing business owners to be successful,” she said.

The plan is to launch 1000MTG as a corporate specialist division in the USA, complementing its well-established operations in Australia and the UK, and to run it alongside a leisure-focused side of the business under a single organisation.

Veltman said further details of the new structure are expected to roll out in the coming months.

WIN! a Hawaii trip

TRAVEL consultants can earn up to 15% commission as well as having the chance of winning a trip for two to Hawaii as part of a promotion by The Travel Junction, which is highlighting a range of exclusive Hawaii packages.

Offers include return HA flights from Sydney, seven nights at Hilton Waikiki Beach and a discounted resort fee of US\$25 plus tax per room per night, priced from \$2,064 per person.

There’s also a special resort credit for Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa - see the **last page**.

New United chief

TIM Wallis has been appointed as United Airlines Regional Sales Manager for Australia, NZ & Tahiti.

Wallis has been with United since 2016 in various roles including leading corporate sales nationally and heading up the corporate/TMC account management team since 2019.

He replaces Julie Reid who stepped down from the role earlier this year (TD 16 Mar).

More appointments on **page 8**.



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FIND OUT MORE



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news, a photo page from Virtuoso, plus full pages from:

- TravelManagers
- The Travel Junction

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The travel industry's best kept secret revealed



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Utah webinar series

THE Utah Office of Tourism has announced a new four-week 'Wonders of Utah' webinar series, which will run live on Zoom.

Agents can click **HERE** to register before the first session on Tue 30 Aug and go into the draw to win a \$100 gift card.

Concerns over QF buy

THE proposed purchase of Alliance Airlines by Qantas (**TD** 05 May) has raised "preliminary competition concerns", according to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), who this morning suggested the planned takeover of the private charter specialist would likely deal a blow to consumers through decreased competition.

"We are concerned that this proposed acquisition is likely to substantially lessen competition for air transport services to and from regional and remote areas in Queensland and Western Australia for corporate customers," ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb said.

"This merger would combine two of the top three operators of air transport services in Qld and WA...and industry participants have expressed strong concerns about the impact of this proposed acquisition on air transport services, particularly to regional

and remote areas," she added.

The competition watchdog also noted it was taking into consideration the level of alternative services provided by airlines such as VA and Cobham's regional services arm, which was recently purchased by Rex (**TD** 15 Jul), and is also considering how the removal of Alliance's aircraft leasing services would impact the ability of new entrants to compete on regional routes.

In response, Qantas maintained it was still "confident" the purchase of the remaining 80% of Alliance would get the tick of approval, highlighting that Alliance only represents 2% of the total Australian aviation industry, and supplies about 30% of charter services, whereas players like Virgin Australia account for roughly 22% of the market.

"There are a significant number of charter operators that make it an extremely competitive segment," QF's John Gissing said.

Qatar discounts

QATAR Airways has launched a new sale on 150 destinations, including a number of popular European routes.

Return trips from Sydney to Copenhagen are on offer for \$1,679, with the promo available until 21 Aug.



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Travel Daily on location in South Africa

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Qantas Airways and TripADeal, which are hosting a luxury African safari famil.

THE luxury African safari begins in earnest today, with guests to hear a wildlife talk in the middle of Sebatana's private bush on what animals, birds, and plants the group may encounter during our stay.

Later in the day, the group will travel to Welgevonden Game Reserve, one of the largest private parks in South Africa, where the "big five" may make themselves apparent, alongside hyenas, cheetahs, wild dogs, aardwolves & 300 kinds of birds.

Once the sun goes down, the group will return to Sebatana for an exhilarating night safari.

Qantas adds Tonga flights

QANTAS has today announced the addition of Tonga to its South Pacific network, with direct services between Sydney and Nuku'alofa's Fua'amotu Airport to be opened up to the public.

The carrier has maintained connectivity to Tonga since Dec 2020, supported by the Australian Government's Pacific Flight Program, but "from today passengers can also book a flight directly on qantas.com," the carrier said in a statement.

The A330 services will also be available for booking via GDS.

Following the recent reopening of Tonga's borders, QF will fly one weekly rotation on the route each Thu, with the four-and-a-half hour flight the only direct service between Australia and Tonga.

Qantas also recently committed to weekly Samoa non-stops, after also serving the destination during the pandemic by providing critical passenger and freight links

under the Government-funded support program.

"Since the opening of Australia's border, we have seen strong demand across our Qantas operated South Pacific services," a QF spokesperson said, adding that Fiji is currently up 50% on pre-COVID demand, while Noumea is 13% higher and flights to Samoa are performing ahead of expectations.

"These flights will help Australian-based South Pacific islanders visit family and friends back home, as well as providing travel-hungry Australians a choice of Pacific neighbours to explore.

"We anticipate the Tonga services will be well-supported by both Tongan nationals and Australians, and are excited to strengthen family and community connections as well as boost tourism opportunities to this beautiful Pacific Island kingdom," the spokesperson added.

Amtrak goes live

FRESH from receiving financial investment from Dale Ventures last month to pursue North American investment (*TD* 25 Jul), Rail Online is now offering Aussie agents a 24/7 connection to live Amtrak inventory - becoming the only OTA in the country to do so.

The move means Aussie agents can now avoid foreign transaction fees normally associated with Amtrak bookings in US dollars, with e-tickets purchased through Rail Online also offering users the ability to self-manage all itinerary changes and refunds.

Rail Online's CEO James Dunne said the deal was timely due to strong enquiries for Nth American rail journeys at present while air connectivity remains restrained between Australia and Europe.

Amtrak's network connects more than 500 destinations in 46 US and three Canadian provinces, boasting a fleet of 300 trains.

Agents can register for Rail Online by **CLICKING HERE**.



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Samoa plants flag in Oz

EXCLUSIVE

THE Samoa Tourism Authority (STA) has revealed more details about a planned ramp up of its trade focus in the Australian market, including two locally-based sales roles currently being sought by the promotional body.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this morning, a spokesperson for the STA said that at least two sales executives are in the process of being recruited, with one role to be based in Brisbane and the other in Melbourne.

The new recruits will be charged with supporting a number of new trade marketing initiatives planned over the next six months, including a travel agent famil which will form part of its refreshed educational program, the details of which are still to be finalised and released.

Agent incentive programs were also confirmed to be part of the marketing mix to boost bookings

to Samoa, as will the Pacific Island nation's Agent Samoa Specialist Portal featuring new webinars and previous agent presentations.

Local trade activity will also be supported by a Samoa Trade Roadshow, which is planned for first quarter of 2023, in addition to a Tourism Exchange in Samoa, which is also slated to take place during the same quarter.

Renewed efforts in Australia follow the appointment of a new CEO at STA, with the country's Cabinet appointing Pativaine Petaia-Tevita as its new chief, replacing Tupa'i Robert Ah Sam.

Petaia-Tevita was previously STA's Manager of Finance and Corporate Services.

Meanwhile the STA previously told *TD* that air connectivity was a priority this year (*TD* 20 Jun), however the group is not yet able to advise if any new air partners have signed on, with updates to be made in due course.

Qantas dines out

QANTAS has partnered with Seagrass Boutique Hospitality Group to offer its loyalty members new ways to dine out and score points.

Under the new agreement, Qantas Frequent Flyers can now earn and use points at 40 dining venues across Australia, including brands such as Ribs & Burgers, 6HEAD, Italian Street Kitchen, Hunter & Barrel and The Meat & Wine Co.

Three points will be earned per dollar spent at the more premium venues of 6HEAD, Hunter & Barrel and Meat & Wine Co, while two points can be accrued per dollar spent at Ribs & Burgers and Italian Street Kitchen.

Frequent flyers can also use points to pay bills in full, or for a portion of the total using Points Plus Pay at all venues, while loyalty members can also 'double-dip' on earning points by using points-earning credit cards when they dine at the restaurants.

Travel Daily
on location in
Las Vegas

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of **Travel Associates and Virtuoso** which are hosting its annual **Virtuoso Travel Week luxury extravaganza here.**

WE ARE heading for home today (or as they say "Leaving Las Vegas") slightly ahead of most of the Virtuoso Travel Week delegates, with sore feet and a spinning head after an intense four days at the event.

Travel advisors and suppliers are staying on a little longer as appointments and professional development sessions continue today and tomorrow.

The end of the 34th edition of Virtuoso Travel Week will be marked by a gala dinner and awards night which wraps up the show on Thu evening local time.



Chief Executive Officer

South Australia is more than wine and churches. Yes, the wine is world class, food mouth-watering, but SA is home to truly epic landscapes, from pristine coastlines to endless swathes of ochre outback. Rich in culture, the state regions offer a wealth of memorable experiences from swimming with sea-lions to world-class dining to innovative events and festivals, immersive experiences. From vibrant Adelaide to pristine Kangaroo Island to the timelessness of the Flinders Ranges and Outback, there's something to appeal to everyone to share eloquent and meaningful, uniquely Australian stories about the Indigenous culture, wildlife, geology, food and lifestyle.

South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) are seeking a **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** that is a dynamic, strategic, collaborative leader who can drive growth, identify new opportunities, and expand our emerging markets. Like the rest of the team, you will not be afraid to roll up your sleeves to support SATC promote and develop the State as a tourism and events destination.

As an outcome focused, enterprising, entrepreneurial CEO, you will bring broad experience in national and international arenas as well as a proven track record in assessing the potential of tourism and event opportunities. Your ability to deliver marketing plans to build destination brand, products, and experiences is coupled with being sensitive to the wider social and political environment, including government priorities and imperatives.

A highly competitive and attractive remuneration package will be negotiated with the preferred candidate reflecting the importance of the role and contribution the CEO will make to South Australia and the Tourism industry.

Confidential enquiries can be directed to **Phil Morton** or **Delinda Kalic** at **Morton Philips** on +61 8 8210 8510. Applications can be made in Word format through SEEK.

Morton Philips



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QF pilot training

QANTAS and global training provider CAE yesterday announced a new purpose-built pilot training facility in St Peters near Sydney Airport, with aspirations to provide training for up to 4,500 new and current QF and JQ pilots and cabin crew annually.

Expected to open in early 2024, the proposed centre would house up to eight full-motion flight simulators, including for Airbus A350 and A320 aircraft recently ordered as part of the Project Sunrise ultra-long haul flights and Jetstar's domestic fleet renewal.

The "state significant" project is subject to planning approvals, with the NSW Govt agreeing to expedite its assessment.

Darwin Palmerston up for sale



THE Rydges Palmerston Darwin (pictured), one of the largest hotels in the Northern Territory, has been listed on the market for the first time since it opened to the public in 2015.

Located south-east of Darwin's CBD and airport, the 200-room, 4.5-star hotel features a 24-hour reception, six large event and conference spaces, a restaurant and bar, pool, and gym.

The property offers easy access to key demand drivers, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) fields, mining and port facilities and Australian Defence Force bases.

The hotel is operated by Rydges Hotels & Resorts, however the purchaser is able to rebrand or own and operate the property, which consistently achieves near 100% occupancy levels and generated a net profit of \$7.2m in the past financial year.

Expressions of interest will be open until 22 Sep.

PER rail link opening

THE rail line to Perth Airport will open in Oct, with the WA Government announcing that the new Forrestfield Airport link will commence operating on 10 Oct.

The \$1.9 billion line, which includes three stations linking the city's eastern suburbs to the city, has been delayed for more than two years since its initially planned 2020 debut.

Fares will cost \$5 one way and the line is forecast to carry about 20,000 daily passengers during its first year of operation, increasing to 29,000 daily by 2032.

The new stations are located at Redcliffe, Airport Central and High Wycombe, with the project jointly funded by the state and federal governments.



Window Seat

AIR Canada is attracting the wrong sort of attention after allegedly serving a water bottle and a napkin as a "vegan meal" to a traveller flying from Germany to Toronto.

Unfortunately for the airline, the aggrieved passenger was a travel writer, known as The Kind Traveler on TikTok, who promptly posted a photo of the incident to her not-insignificant social media following.

It turned out that due to flight disruptions the special meals didn't make it on board before the 10-hour service departed - but in the end flight attendants came to the rescue with a bread roll, apple, banana and granola bar from Business class.

Her video has had over 150,000 likes on TikTok and attracted more than 1,000 comments - one from another Air Canada traveller who claimed when they flew with the carrier the vegetarian meal offered was a shredded carrot on white bread, according to the *Daily Hive* website.



Wholesale/Retail Travel Consultant, Hobart, Tasmania

Looking for a change of scenery? Look no further....Tassie has it in spades! Tasmania also has a booming visitor economy.

Not only is our visitor market recovering quickly from Covid-19 but with a lifestyle to envy the opportunity to live and work in Tasmania appeals to many.

TasVacations is a long-established travel wholesaler promoting over 150 Tasmanian tourism products to the world. An opportunity exists for an enthusiastic and committed travel professional to join our small but growing team.

Are you our ideal candidate?

We are seeking a proactive and motivated sales professional focused on maximising sales opportunities both with customers directly and via the travel trade. The successful candidate will also be to demonstrate the following:

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of Tasmania as a destination – it's brand attributes and visitor experiences
- Be passionate about ensuring travellers maximise their holiday experience in Tasmania with TasVacations
- Handle incoming calls and email quote requests from both travel agents and directly from the public
- Drive high conversion from quotes and leads to sales through timely and effective follow-up
- Deliver on TasVacations brand promise of "curating unforgettable Tasmanian holiday experiences"

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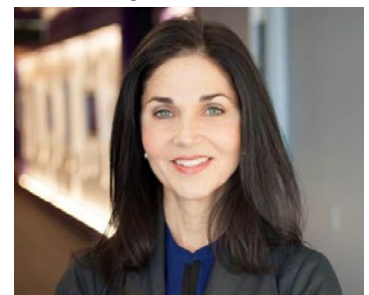
Please go to this link: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/58078433>.

How to Apply

Interested applicants are welcome to contact TasVacations for a copy of the Position Description by contacting jobs@tasvacations.com

Applications close COB Thursday 25th August 2022

Lori is preferred



PREFERRED Hotels & Resorts has named Lori Straszberg (pictured) as its new Senior Vice President of Marketing, effective immediately.

Straszberg joins Preferred with significant experience gained during 16 years with Marriott and Starwood, as well as more recently at PetVet Care Centers.



Soneva offer

LUXURY resorts operator Soneva has announced details of a new Meetings & Events offer which is available at its Soneva Fushi and Soneva Jani properties in the Maldives, as well as Soneva Kiri in Thailand.

Valid for corporate getaways with a minimum three nights between now and 17 Dec, the exclusive offer includes daily meals at selected resort restaurants, roundtrip plane transfers and "group experiences designed to harmoniously inspire, recharge and invigorate teams, leaving them ready to take on the challenges of business".

Prices start at US\$1,500 per night per one-bedroom villa with a 20 room minimum - for details see soneva.com.

MCEC HONOURS CLUB MELBOURNE

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) honoured its annual Club Melbourne Ambassador Program Award winners in a ceremony at the venue yesterday.

Supported by the Melbourne Convention Bureau, the program includes 126 esteemed Victorians from various fields, including medicine, science & environment, technology, engineering and education.

Since 2005, the Club Melbourne Ambassadors have helped to secure 156 business events for the city, bringing in more than 177,000 delegates and \$1.02 billion to the state's economy.

The Annual Club Melbourne Fellowship program was also announced at the ceremony, with Melbourne researchers Dr Gemma Sharp and Dr Houjin Wang named as this year's recipients.

The Fellowship program was created to support and recognise excellence in Melbourne's next generation of research leaders.

Chief Executive Peter King said, "I'm proud of the investment and commitment we have made to Club Melbourne through our ambassadors' hard work... MCEC regularly hosts some of the largest and most prestigious conferences in the world".

The Centre's events line-up includes the country's largest clean energy event, All Energy Australia, which will be held from 26-27 Oct and is expected to attract more than 10,500 industry professionals.

MCEC will also house the next instalment of THE LUME Melbourne in Oct, titled *Monet & Friends Alive*, showcasing the life and works of artists including Monet, Cezanne, Renoir, Manet in an immersive sensory encounter.

So far, the permanent digital art gallery located within MCEC, has seen over 600,000 attendees since its opening in spring last year, which saw it kick off with a Vincent van Gogh experience.

MEANWHILE, the Centre has revealed its partnership with Melbourne Skyfarm has resulted in 650kg of veggies harvested and donated to MCEC's food charity partner OzHarvest since Sep 2021.

The project is transforming the 2,000m² rooftop of MCEC's Siddeley Street carpark into an urban farm with sustainable dining, education & event spaces.

The Centre is "always working to find innovative ideas that provide better outcomes for our community, our customers and our environmental footprint," Sustainability Manager Jacinta Caraballo said, adding, "Skyfarm is the perfect project to bring all these elements together".

NZ snags Oz event

THE Massage & Myotherapy Australia National Conference will be held outside of Australia for the first time, after Tamaki Makaurau Auckland won the bid to host the 2023 event at the Grand Millennium, which will bring around 300 qualified therapists to the region in May.

Massage & Myotherapy Australia CEO Ann Davey said, "we wanted to do something with a bit of a bang for our 20th year and New Zealand is it...it's a terrific opportunity for our therapists to fit in a holiday".

10 tips for an inclusive event

EVENT management company Arinex MD Nicole Walker has put forward 10 ideas on how to create a more inclusive event.

She starts by recommending a diverse managing committee to ensure a broad mix of opinions and ideas, as well as creating diverse and inclusive program content.

Walker also suggests maximising the registration process by collecting info on attendees' needs and expectations, and seeking feedback after the event to measure its performance against goals for inclusion.

Partnering with like-minded sponsors, exhibitors and suppliers; forgetting the one-size-fits-all approach to delegates; and choosing an accessible venue were among other tips offered by the MD.

Grapevine, Texas heads to Auckland

THE Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau recently travelled to Auckland to meet with trade & media over lunch at Non Solo Pizza in Parnell.

Director of Leisure and International Sales, Heather Egan, highlighted the upcoming 36th annual GrapeFest, which is the largest wine festival of the Southwest.

Egan also presented Grapevine as the go-to business events destination in Texas, located



between Dallas and Fort Worth.

The region offers premium meeting facilities, seminar spaces, dining, the Urban Wine and Craft Brew Trail and shopping along Main Street in Historic Downtown.

Broken Hill Bash

THE Broken Hill Mundi Mundi Bash kicks off today, with the three-day camping event expected to draw around 9,000 revellers to sing along with Aussie music legends such as Midnight Oil, and participate in a number of quirky outback activities.

Stamford Plaza Mel

AS PART of its 'Winter Warmers' special, Stamford Plaza Melbourne is offering a Day Delegate Package starting from \$85 per person, which includes main conference room hire from 8am-5pm, full catering, stationery supplies, and basic AV package plus the option of a 30-minute Pizza Party - call 03 9659 1182.

Ignite the Future

REGISTRATIONS are open for Business Events Industry Aotearoa's (BEIA) 46th AGM and Annual Conference, which will be hosted from 04-06 Oct at Napier Conference Centre in Hawke's Bay under the theme 'Ignite the Future' To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Virtuoso in the sky with diamonds

LAST night the thousands of Virtuoso Travel Week delegates staying at the Bellagio, Aria and Vdara hotels in Las Vegas descended on another property, for a celebratory evening at the new Resorts World Las Vegas.

The relaxed event, sponsored by Carnival Corporation's multiple cruise brands, saw many get their dancing shoes on at the resort's Zouk nightclub, while outside in the neighbouring poolside area attendees were treated to a high-tech drone show which spelt out the new Virtuoso consumer tag-line "So Virtuoso" in the Las Vegas night (below).



FRONTIER Travel's Virtuoso delegation with the team from Hyatt.



CARNIVAL'S cruise brands were even part of the dancefloor light show.

SONIA Jones from Sonia Jones Travel and Lisa McFadyen from Black Book Travel with some of the Marriott Worldwide Virtuoso crew.



1000MTG'S Nicola Veltman and Maria Ferrara, Executive Director of Leisure & Hosting at MTravel.



SAVENIO founder David Brandon with Kelly Webb from Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa.



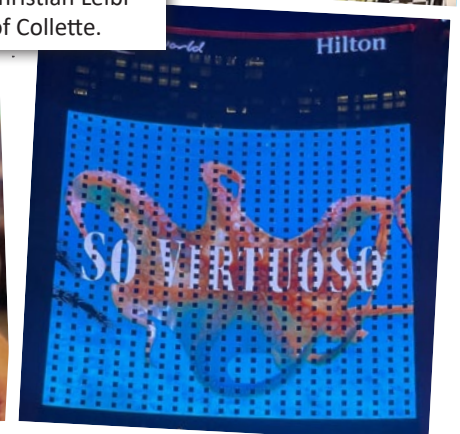
CHRISTINA Kerr and Lisa Knight from Travel Associates with Christian Leibl-Cote and Todd Bridges of Collette.



TINA Killeen from Spencer Group set for take-off with Virgin Galactic.



JOEY Dudding from The Beekman New York with Smartflyer Australia's Lena Nielsen.



APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Centara has appointed **Metta Boonyaritipong** as opening General Manager for Centra by Centara Hotel Bangkok Phra Nakhon, which is set to open in Oct. Boonyaritipong previously held the General Manager post at Centara Sonrisa Residences & Suites Sriracha since Jul 2020, during which she successfully navigated the hotel through the challenging pandemic period.

Daniele Vastolo has assumed the role of General Manager of LUX* Grand Baie, Mauritius, where she will help position the **Luxe Collective** property as the island's best luxury resort. Vastolo has over two decades of experience in the luxury hospitality and wellbeing industry, including his most recent role as General Manager of Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som in Qatar.

Michael Fettes has joined **MSC Cruises** as General Manager of the new PortMiami cruise terminal, where he will help manage the opening and operation of the facility. Fettes clocked up 18 years of experience with Royal Caribbean Group, mostly recently as senior manager for the company's Oasis-class Terminal A at PortMiami.

CBRE Hotels has expanded its Sydney-based Capital Markets team with the appointment of **Ritika Diwan** as Director. Diwan brings more than 15 years of experience in the hotels sector in India.

VV secures US\$550m

IT LOOKS like it might be smooth sailing ahead for Virgin Voyages, after the cruise line announced this week it has secured US\$550 million in fresh funding from new and existing investors, led by funds and accounts managed by BlackRock.

The premium cruise line will allocate the extra cash to bolster its growth strategy and strengthen its financial position as the renewed appetite for cruise continues to grow.

CEO of Virgin Voyages, Tom McAlpin, said the capital boost "comes at a time when we're looking forward to exponential growth that will, in turn, help us achieve what we set out to accomplish".

Magma Santorini

HYATT Hotels Corporation has announced the opening of its first property in the Greek Islands under its upscale brand, The Unbound Collection.

Magma Resort Santorini offers 59 guest rooms, including 24 suites, complete with verandas, walk-in showers, living and dining spaces, and private pools.

Guests can also dine at the hotel's exclusive culinary concept, Magma by Spondi, indulge in treatments at the Lava Spa and Wellness Centre, and break a sweat at the site's fully equipped fitness centre.

The property also houses a private events space, Magma Hall, which is decked out with the latest tech and can fit 250 guests.

Victory for Inspiring Vacations



THE team at Australian-owned travel company Inspiring Vacations were beaming after they took home gold yesterday at the 19th Annual International Business Awards (IBAs).

The organisation was named the Gold Stevie Award winner in the Company of the Year in the Hospitality and Leisure, Medium-size category, after being judged by more than 300 executives worldwide.

The judges praised the company's "smart and brave pandemic situation management" and noted its ability "not only to subsist during the confinement, but now to emerge as a key player in the tourism industry".

Inspiring Vacation's Chief Executive Officer Paul Ryan said he was "extremely proud" of the win, adding, "this is a satisfying endorsement of our company's

navigation of the challenging business environment over the past two years".

The 2022 IBAs received more than 3,700 entries from organisations across 67 nations, with winners in other categories including Google, DHL Express and IBM.

Pictured: Co-founders and members of the senior leadership team at Inspiring Vacations toast their win.

Explorer in New Cal

P&O CRUISES flagship *Pacific Explorer* will be the first cruise ship to return to New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands after the region reopened its maritime borders.

Guests sailing from Sydney on 01 Oct on a nine-night itinerary will enjoy local celebrations to mark the return of cruising during an overnight call to Noumea, followed by a call to Lifou.

Scheduled calls to Mystery Island and Port Vila have been cancelled, as Vanuatu's borders remained closed to cruise ships.

Radisson in Nepal

RADISSON Hotel Group, in partnership with The Centurion Hotel, has announced the launch of Radisson Biratnagar in Nepal, which is set to open in the third quarter of 2024.

Located 10 minutes from Biratnagar Airport, the 145-room hotel will feature a pool, fitness centre, spa, restaurants, and event spaces, and is part of the group's plan to double its footprint across the South Asia region.

Wide Eyes payment

WIDE Eyed Tours has announced TravelPay B2B as its official payment partner.

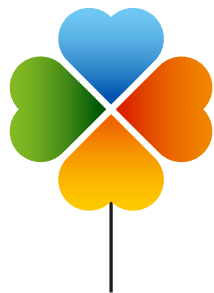
Travel advisors can now make a Wide Eyed booking through TravelPay's portal.



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The travel industry's best kept secret revealed

The Australian travel industry's most
comprehensive and transparent financial
protection - find out why here



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- Return economy tickets with Hawaiian Airlines - Sydney to Honolulu
- 7 x nights accommodation at Hilton Waikiki Beach
- Exclusive discounted resort fee - \$USD25 plus tax per room per night
- SAVE UP TO: \$215 per person

FROM \$2064 PER PERSON

Offer Package Code: AU28533 | Terms and conditions apply.

WAIKIKI BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA EXCLUSIVE OFFER

- Return economy tickets with Hawaiian Airlines - Sydney to Honolulu
- 7 x nights accommodation at Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa twin share
- Exclusive \$USD200 resort credit per room per stay
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Offer Package Code: AU28672
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