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If you or your clients follow rugby, or just need an excuse to holiday in France (and who doesn't) then 2023 is your year, because in 2023 the very best of The Rugby will be on display in nine French cities: **Bordeaux, Lyon, Lille, Marseille, Nantes, Nice, Paris-Saint Denis, Saint-Étienne and Toulouse.** In preparation, this year's French Travel Workshops are putting a strong focus on it and on Paris and its region. Every full time travel consultant attending the Workshop will receive a DIOR perfume.



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FRENCH TRAVEL WORKSHOP

**Melbourne: Wed, 7th Sept. 2022, Sofitel on Collins 4 - 6.30pm**

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\* Upon badge remitted until 6.00 pm in exchange of a business card. Entry details at the Workshop entrance.



## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news, a front cover wrap from **Atout France** plus a full page from **Austrian National Tourist Office**.

## QF grabs Fiji seats

**QANTAS** has been allocated an extra 165 seats per week to operate passenger services on the Fiji route by the International Air Services Commission.

The determination is valid for five years from 19 Aug 2022, and will help service the booming Fiji outbound market which topped Australia's international travel destination list earlier in the year (TD 18 Feb).

## Kick a French goal!

**AGENTS** who attend Atout France's upcoming French Travel Workshop will receive a DIOR perfume and the chance to score two tickets to Paris with Air France.

The session will be held at Sofitel on Collins in Melbourne on 07 Sep from 4pm and will cover off on the travel booking opportunities associated with the Rugby Union World Cup being hosted in the country next year. See the **front page** for info.

## Austrian hotel stays

**LEARN** more about a curated selection of hotels in the Austrian Hotel Collection, ranging from Vienna to Salzburg.

Agents can book client stays from alpine to cities - see **p7**.

## Ager promoted to MD

**THE** Travel Corporation's Uniworld Boutique River Cruises has promoted Alice Ager to the role of Managing Director in Australia & New Zealand.

Global CEO of the cruise brand, Ellen Bettridge, made the announcement today on her arrival in the country before speaking at CLIA's Cruise360 event this week, heaping praise on Ager's "fantastic leadership".

"Alice has been an outstanding General Manager and is ready to take her leadership to the next level as MD," Bettridge enthused.

"Australia is our second largest source market, and if early bookings are any indication, 2023 will be outstanding," Bettridge

said, adding Australian bookings are 38% higher than 2019, and outpacing all other regions.

Ager arrives in the role after spending four-and-a-half years with TTC, before that accruing experience selling luxury travel brands such as Mandarin Oriental Bangkok and RSSC.

"I am excited to see this region reach its full potential with our trade partnerships after what we've been through," Ager said.

**MEANWHILE** Uniworld has also delivered its first taste of what travellers can expect on its 2024 sailings, with three new Rhine itineraries, an extended Mekong river cruise, and new cruise and rail pairings in India all exciting additions to the collection.

A 15-day Grand Central Europe itinerary is on offer, cruising the Rhine, Main and Danube, while extra days on the front or back of trips on land are also available - more details in tomorrow's **CW**.

## ATAS review done

**THE** Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has announced the completion of a three-year review of its ATAS Charter, with the board ready to respond to the recommendations put forward by independent reviewer, Graham McDonald.

AFTA will now embark upon a five-week webinar series starting today, offering members the chance to view the changes being made to the Charter and Code.

AFTA CEO Dean Long will host the session and provide an update on the body - register **HERE** for the 2pm AEST session.

Version 6 of the ATAS Charter and Code will be released later this week.

## 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.

**WITH** the safari portion of the famil over, the trip is in its last day, which will begin with a transfer back to Johannesburg for a city tour.

The group will visit the Apartheid Museum, and the famous township of Soweto, which gets its name from the syllabic abbreviation 'South Western Townships'.

After exploring the Hector Pieterse Memorial and buying some souvenirs at the local crafts market, guests will then check into Premier Hotel O.R. Tambo, before a farewell dinner at the sleek rooftop Marble Restaurant.



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## Agents hold key: Teiotu

EXCLUSIVE

MSC Cruises Australasia's newly-established Commercial Director will seek to further strengthen relationships with travel agents as the line looks to grow the number of Australian and New Zealand guests aboard its global fleet.

Lisa Teiotu was formally appointed to the role last week (TD 17 Aug), and speaking with *Travel Daily* this week emphasised that travel advisors will play a crucial role in the rebounding fortunes of the business as it approaches the peak summer season in Australia.

"Our agent partners, have and always will be, fundamental to the future of MSC Cruises growth in this market," Teiotu said.

One area MSC is currently focusing on is agent education, with the new MSC Masters trade initiative (TD 05 Jul) a major component of the strategy - especially with so many agent partners either changing



businesses or having not sold a cruise in over 18 months.

"MSC Masters is an interactive trade e-training program to help our valued agent partners refresh their skills and learn about MSC Cruises, and topics in the program include MSC Cruises' flagship *MSC World Europa*, pricing models, MSC Yacht Club, 360° virtual ship tours, pre-paid packages, and MSC Voyager Club webinars," Teiotu enthused.

"We have had nearly 200 enrolments to date, a great investment for agents in the run-up to what we hope will be a really successful wave season.

Along with an expected growth in agent partner bookings as a result of Teiotu's appointment, MSC is also seeing a strong appetite among Aussie cruisers for sailings in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

**MEANWHILE** travellers who book select European sailings departing between Apr and Nov 2023 will receive a 50% discount per person on twinshare cabins.

Applicable voyages are in the Mediterranean or Northern Europe and include a *MSC Preziosa* cruise departing Hamburg on 24 Sep 2023.

## Wonders of Australia

SCENIC has unveiled its new 2023/24 Endless Wonders of Australia collection, which highlights 14 journeys featuring new remote outback visits, glamping accommodation and Scenic Enrich experiences.

The new 17-day, tri-state Outback Landscapes itinerary visits the otherworldly landscapes of Mungo National Park, the outback ghost town of Silverton and the red plains of Broken Hill, ending with an overnight trip to Alice Springs on the iconic luxury train, the Ghan.

The collection also showcases a 14-day Outback Queensland Adventure and an 11-day Tasmania Revealed journey.

**CLICK HERE** for full details and to take advantage of Scenic's earlybird offers before 31 Oct.

## Loyalty conversion

SINGAPORE Airlines has confirmed the ability for its passengers to convert VA's Velocity Frequent Flyer Points into KrisFlyer Miles and vice versa has formally resumed.

To take advantage of the loyalty scheme, travellers need to link their KrisFlyer and Velocity accounts, with conversions calculated at a rate of 1.55 Velocity points to one KrisFlyer mile, and vice versa.

A minimum of 5,000 Velocity Points or KrisFlyer miles per conversion applies - for further details, **CLICK HERE**.

**MEANWHILE** Singapore Airlines predicts its total global capacity will be around 81% of pre-COVID levels by Dec 2022, as it seeks to increase services across all key markets in the next few months.

## BA to cut 10,000

BRITISH Airways has revealed it will cut around 10,000 short-haul flights to and from Heathrow Airport between late Oct and Mar 2022 as it continues efforts to minimise ongoing airport delays.

In addition to the mammoth reduction from late Oct, between now and mid-Oct, BA estimates it will also be forced to cancel approximately 629 flights as staff shortages and holiday surges conspire to cause delays.

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## Bootsman brings kick

TRAVELMANAGERS has announced Maggie Bootsman has been appointed to the role of Partnerships Manager, bringing with her eight years of experience as a retail travel agent.

She has previously worked with airlines, a GDS and a travel agency franchise, and most recently was the General Manager of UK-headquartered Travel Counsellors in the UAE.

The newly created role will see Bootsman provide support to personal travel managers in South Australia and Tasmania.

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## Time to work in WA

**THE** Western Australia Government is preparing to launch the first phase of its new 'Discover the Other Side' hospitality and tourism workforce campaign in the coming weeks.

Developed in collaboration with Tourism WA and the Australian Hotels Association, the major recruitment push aims to address labour shortages by attracting hospitality and tourism workers from interstate and New Zealand to work and live in WA.

WA Tourism Minister Roger Cook believes the marketing push "perfectly complements the State Government's \$3.9 million commitment to develop workforce skills for the tourism and hospitality industries".

## 14.4m ready for trips

**AROUND** 14.4 million Aussies are planning a holiday in the next 12 months, new national research from Jetstar has revealed, with NSW and Qld ranked as the most desired destinations, and Melbourne, Sydney and Gold Coast the most favoured cities.

When it comes to picking a travel buddy, being adaptable/flexible was the most important trait, followed by the adventurous and budget conscious, while being "too frugal or stingy", easily stressed and partying too much were ranked as the worst traits.

The research also revealed that Gen Zs prefer to travel with friends, while Millennials opt for their life partner.

## Bidding farewell to African gems



**THE** third day of the Qantas Frequent Flyer/TripADeal luxury African safari famil began with guests rising early for a final game drive, which started ringside at a giraffe fight – a phenomenon even guides note is quite rare.

Giraffes use their necks to spar in encounters which oftentimes turn quite violent, and can result in lost horns, concussions, and in the worst cases, broken knees.

Also spotted by the group on its final game drive was a family of crocodiles sunbaking by a swamp, with some guests daring to get far closer than others - fortunately, a forkl of kudu which came to drink didn't get too close.

Following the game drive were games and a champagne brunch above Sebatana Private Lodge, where guests were joined by wildebeests, zebras & warthogs.

The night brought a final dinner at Leopard Lodge, which gave the group a chance to bid farewell to the much-loved staff (pictured).

Guests also sampled a number of traditional South African shooters, one being the green & white "Springbokkie", composed

of creme de menthe and Amarula - a customary South African cream liqueur.

The shot is most popular when South Africa's national rugby team is playing.

## Moreton Bay path?

**A REPORT** commissioned by Airservices Australia into lowering aircraft noise around Brisbane Airport has recommended reducing the frequency of flights over the CBD and outer suburbs.

Key findings suggested introducing alternate travel routes between 2023 and 2024, such as moving more flight paths over Moreton Bay.

Brisbane Airport welcomed the independent report's suggestions, stating it looks forward to working with partners such as airlines to reduce noise for residents and explore new opportunities to minimise the impact on the community.

## Position Vacant

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## Window Seat

**WHILE** Thailand may have recently decriminalised marijuana for the most part, the country's Health Minister has issued a stern warning to pot smoking travellers - stay away!

"We don't welcome those kinds of tourists," Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said this week.

The ominous words follow hordes of tourists flocking to Thailand to light up joints after the country dropped cannabis from a list of controlled drugs.

However, government officials claim its request for people to avoid getting high is failing to be heeded by guests in the country, with new penalties introduced to discourage public usage of the drug.

Those who do decide to blaze up in public now run the risk of three months in the slammer, as well as a possible fine of up to US\$705.

While Thailand has relaxed marijuana use for medical reasons, recreational use in public remains frowned upon, and travellers may have good reason to be confused, because back in May the Thai Government gave away one million free cannabis plants for home cultivation - that's totally baked logic to us!



## Time to reshape air

**THE** International Air Transport Association (IATA) has revealed that "reshaping airline resilience" post-COVID will be the key theme at the 2022 World Financial Symposium (WFS), with Qatar Airways as the host airline.

The program will take place in Doha, Qatar from 19-22 Sep, with IATA's Director General Willie Walsh and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker scheduled to take to the stage to discuss the aviation industry's future recovery.

While industry losses are expected to reduce to US\$9.7 billion this year from nearly \$180 billion in 2020/21, the industry faces soaring debt levels and challenges as it works toward its 2050 fly net zero commitment.

## Party's over people

**AIRBNB** will continue its crackdown on unauthorised parties across its listings with new anti-party, or risk-scoring, technology, which helps identify potentially high-risk reservations.

During a world-first trial of the tool in Australia from Oct 2021, unauthorised party incidents fell by around 35%, prompting Airbnb to roll out the product nationwide, as well as in the United States and Canada.

The system assesses a range of factors, including the guest's review history, length of time the guest has been on Airbnb, length of the trip, distance to the listing, and weekends vs weekdays.

If a reservation is deemed 'high risk', the guest may be deterred from booking an entire-home listing and redirected to book a private room or hotel room.

## A&K Roadshow prize winner



**PAT** Craig from Helloworld Armadale has taken home the big prize at Abercrombie & Kent's (A&K) recent Rediscover the World of A&K trade roadshow.

Thanks to the company's partnership with Qatar Tourism, Qatar Airways and Discover Qatar, the lucky travel advisor and her plus-one will be able to enjoy a selected A&K international itinerary, including return airfares

with Qatar Airways and a luxury three-night Discover Qatar stopover.

**Pictured:** Major prize winner Pat Craig celebrating her win on stage with Abercrombie & Kent's MD Tour Operations Deb Fox.

## VA priority returns

**VIRGIN** Australia has announced the reopening of Premium Entry gates in Brisbane and Priority Screening lanes at Melbourne Airport for eligible customers.

Eligible VA customers, including Velocity Frequent Flyer Platinum, Gold and Beyond members, will be able to access the fast-track security facilities between 5.00am and 10.00am weekdays.

A spokesperson for the carrier revealed talks are currently underway with Sydney Airport Corporation regarding Premium Entry at Sydney Airport.

## Onefinestay in Paris

**LUXURY** private rental brand, Onefinestay, has relaunched its Paris Home Collection, showcasing a hand-picked selection of the French city's finest properties.

The new collection shines a spotlight on Rue la Bruyere, an elegant three-bedroom apartment located in Paris' Theatre District, and Rue Denfert Rochereau, a modern duplex apartment in the affluent 16th Arrondissement.

Guests who book a Onefinestay property also receive a personal welcome, 24/7 guest support, housekeeping, and the option to add tailored services and experiences such as grocery deliveries, private chefs, childcare, excursions and more.

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## Anna takes the tour



**AN EXPANDED** \$8 million dollar GE Aviation Systems Australia (GEASA) facility, and the largest in the Asia Pacific region, has arrived at Brisbane Airport and will officially open in Sep.

The high-tech workshop will help keep passenger aircraft in the skies, including the Boeing 737 and 787, Q400 and F50 regional aircraft, by maintaining propellers, flight management systems, instruments and aircraft power systems.

The new facility will initially employ 80 people, and is expected to provide a jobs boost, extra skills training, and deliver Queensland significant business as it maintains aircraft systems from around the world.

GEASA has hosted students from nearby Aviation High since 2007, and has just seen the graduation of its first two apprentices, including Daniel Bassett, who has completed his Certificate IV in Aeroskills, Mechanical.

Sam Maresh, Country Leaders GE Australia, believes the “truly global” facility is “an investment in skills capability in the sector and it’s an investment in Queensland and Australia”.

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who attended a tour of the facility, echoed Maresh’s statement, saying, “as we know the airport’s growing here, more flights are coming back as we go

into our post-pandemic phase and we want to make sure we set this state up for the future”.

The second stage of the airport’s Industrial Park has kicked off, with over 12 developments under construction at the moment and another 100 hectares set to become available over the next decade.

**Pictured:** Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk at the new facility with students from Aviation High.

### Tourist abduction risk

**THE** US State Department has warned of an increased kidnapping risk for tourists visiting some areas of Mexico.

The states of Colima, Guerrero, Michoacan, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas have all been added as no-go zones, while Baja California, Chihuahua, Durango, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos and Sonora have been listed as “reconsider travel” levels.

“Violent crimes such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery is widespread and common in Mexico,” the State Department said, adding that while most homicides appeared to be associated with targeted gang activity, criminal territorial disputes can result in bystanders being injured or killed, resulting in some tourist deaths in resorts.

## AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



**IT’S** been a busy week for AFTA with changes to our Board of Directors, AGM, briefings with Ministers and today the release

of the results of the independent review of the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS).

Firstly I want to thank Julie Primmer, who resigned from the AFTA board last week following 10 years of outstanding representation and contribution.

Julie was a vocal advocate for all travel businesses but especially for small- and medium-sized travel businesses during her tenure. We are joined by Roy Merricks, Co-Founder and co-Managing Director of MTA, Roy’s expertise will be hugely valuable as we seek to expand the value of ATAS in coming years as mobile/home-based agents are a segment of the Australian travel sector that continues to grow from strength to strength.

Last week I was back in Canberra with AFTA Directors David Smith and Laura Ruffles, AFTA Jobs and Skills taskforce members Emma Evans and Deborah Ellison to brief the Federal Minister for Immigration, Andrew Giles.

The focus of the discussion was on the importance of an effective visa program that will enhance Australia’s competitiveness and assist in relieving some of our urgent workforce issues.

On the ATAS front, the ATAS Charter Review is now complete.

Today we commence a five-week webinar series to cover changes to the ATAS Charter and Code, obligations of members, best practice and other related issues that the industry is facing.

All webinars will feature specialists in the subject area and we highly recommend all ATAS participants join as this is essential viewing for travel businesses.

In today’s webinar we will detail the Charter review process and the changes that have been approved.

Following the AGM last week, the AFTA Board approved the changes to the ATAS Charter and Code following the five-month Independent Review which was conducted by Graham McDonald.

The review received seven submissions from stakeholders as well as data collected from a public survey (81 responders).

This was the largest and most comprehensive review of the Scheme since its inception and it provides a strong foundation on which ATAS will grow.

### Encountering Brissy

**P&O CRUISES** Australia’s *Pacific Encounter* arrived at Brisbane’s new International Cruise Terminal over the weekend, ready for her inaugural season homeported in Queensland’s capital.

Adorned with a huge banner reading “QLD’s OWN”, the Grand-class cruise ship was welcomed by an enthusiastic group of tourism-connected business owners, including Dan Russell, head of the specialist cruise travel agency Clean Cruising.

*Pacific Encounter* will embark on 24 sailings between now and the end of the year on a variety of itineraries in Queensland and the Pacific, and an additional 54 cruises in 2023.

President of Carnival Australia and P&O Cruises Australia Marguerite Fitzgerald said Queensland was a vital element in the revival of cruise tourism.

### Celebrity eases rules

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has launched new protocols for guests sailing from US and European ports, with the line dropping vaccination requirements and simplifying testing guidelines in a bid to make cruising easier for travellers.

Starting 05 Sep, Celebrity said fully vaccinated guests no longer need to test to board sailings from the US or Europe that are nine nights or less, and a negative test result from an unsupervised, self-administered test will be accepted for all sailings (excluding sailings that visit Australia & NZ).

Children under five years of age sailing from the US and guests under 12 years of age sailing from Europe will also no longer need to test prior to boarding.

Sailings to and from Australia will still require all guests ages 12 and up to be fully vaccinated.

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## Agency updates

**TOURISM** Australia has chosen independent creative communications agency, Poem, to manage its global PR strategy for the next three years.

**MEANWHILE**, Tourism Tasmania has launched a new immersive website in partnership with Clemenger BBDO Sydney and creative tech agency Orchard.

The new online platform showcases the state's best features and allows travellers to add more points of interest to their personalised itinerary using the website's new cutting-edge Trip Planner feature.

## Sydney gets a taste of Memphis



**MEMPHIS** Tourism Director for Australia & New Zealand, Chris Ingram, hosted a get-together recently at Stitch Bar in Sydney, with trade media and travel industry representatives, including the Delta Air Lines team.

The group enjoyed a fun night of old fashioned drinks and cool underground American bar vibes, while Ingram updated them on all things Memphis, as well as holding a trivia game and giving away vinyl records and Memphis-themed goodie bags.

A number of new hotels have opened in Memphis since Australian travellers were last able to visit, including Hyatt Centric, the only hotel in the destination's famed Beale Street, just steps away from historic landmarks, lauded music venues, and Memphis-style barbecue.

Opening last year in the heart of the city's arts and culture scene, The Memphian features two restaurants and a rooftop bar, while the boutique 62-key Arrive Memphis in the South Main Arts District boasts an in-house bakery Hustle & Dough providing fresh

bread and pastries daily.

**Pictured** enjoying the night's southern-style festivities are: Kristine McCarthy, Jenny Rowland, Christina & Jim Butcher, and Carina Stathis.

## Murray never bigger

**MURRAY** River Paddlesteamers has revealed its latest & biggest-ever program of overnight cruises, with 94 sailings between Apr 2023 and Mar 2024 aboard deluxe riverboat, *PS Emmylou*.

The new brochure showcases one-way, three-night 'Discovery' cruises and four-night 'Explorer' cruises, with the option to combine the different itineraries to create new seven-night 'All the Rivers Run' journeys round-trip.

The program also includes new and improved shore experiences, including a Silo Arts Tour and Echuca History Walk on seven-night sailings.

Couples can save 15% and solo surcharges are halved for bookings made by 30 Sep - call 03 5482 5244 and use code "newsave15" or [CLICK HERE](#) for the brochure.

## She Evolves Fiji

**SHE** Evolves is offering agents \$250 commission on each ticket sold to its debut professional and personal development event in Fiji, hosted at Shangri-La Yanuca Island from 26-30 Oct - visit [www.sheevolves.community](http://www.sheevolves.community).

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Events

## COMING EVENTS

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## RECENT EVENTS

**Amadeus** - the latest travel technology trends with Kaylene Shuttlewood and Lance Batty - [CLICK HERE](#) to view.

Switzerland Tourism "Winter Magic Tour" with Livio Goetz and Lisa Maroun - [CLICK HERE](#).

"The Tide Turns for Cruise" with CLIA MD Joel Katz and Jill Abel from the Australian Cruise Association - [CLICK HERE](#).

Norwegian Cruise Line "The Great Cruise Comeback" - [CLICK HERE](#).

Quark Expeditions showcase of *Ultramarine* - [CLICK HERE](#).

AFTA CEO Dean Long Executive Interview - [CLICK HERE](#).

Entire Travel Group with Brad McDonnell and Greg McCallum - [CLICK HERE](#).

To organise an event for your company, enquire at [traveldaily.com.au/events](http://traveldaily.com.au/events)

## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.688**

**AFTER** slumping by 3.5% last week, the Australian dollar has experienced its biggest weekly drop in two years, while the yuan slipped to its lowest in two years as China's economy suffers from a real estate crisis and COVID-zero policy.

Given that China is Australia's biggest export market, financial experts predict the AUD will continue to recede for the rest of the year alongside the yuan.

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UK	£0.585
NZ	\$1.114
Euro	€0.693
Japan	¥94.67
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China	¥4.714
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Canada	\$0.899
Crude oil	US\$90.77

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Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

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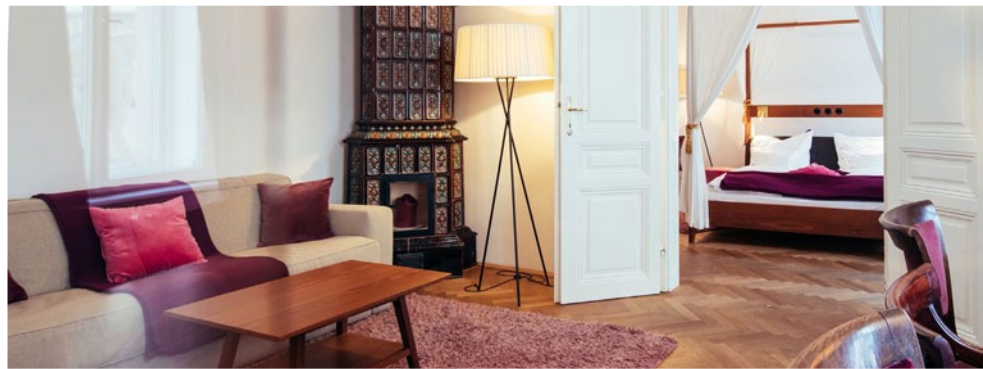
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