



25TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

This year is Viking’s 25th anniversary. To celebrate, we’ve just launched a brand-new collection of river, ocean, and expedition offers, the likes we’ve never done before – it’s a milestone anniversary after all.

In true Viking style, our 25th Anniversary Sale will be an unmissable event with national advertising, innovative marketing activity, and an array of tools and assets available to you in the Viking Marketing Centre – [click here](#) to view.

Available for a limited time, or until sold out, here’s a look at some of the anniversary offers you can leverage now:



OCEAN OFFERS

Incredible new offers on our most popular Mediterranean and Scandinavian itineraries, plus amazing fares on Asia, Australia and New Zealand ocean voyages valued up to **\$8,000** per couple.



RIVER OFFERS

Unmissable cruise-only offers on all 2023 European and Mekong river voyages saving your clients up to **\$5,600** per couple on their inclusive cruise-only fare.



EXPEDITION OFFERS

Save up to **\$5,000** per couple on our new Viking Expedition voyages in 2023 & 2024. Our collection of cruise-only offers span Antarctica, the Great Lakes and South America itineraries.



MISSISSIPPI OFFERS

For the first time, save up to **\$2,400** per couple on our brand-new *Viking Mississippi* 8-day voyages – the most modern ship on the Mississippi

DISCOVER THE NEW ANNIVERSARY OFFERS

For more information contact your Commercial Manager or email agents.anz@vikingcruises.com

138 747 VIKING.COM MYVIKINGJOURNEY.COM/AGENT

Reid to MC NTIA

TELEVISION personality Richard Reid has been named as the MC of the upcoming National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) gala dinner on Sat 15 Oct.

Reid, who started his Australian career as the "Hollywood Gossip Guru" on Channel Nine's *Today* show, is also well known to the industry through his long association with Visit USA.

He was also the winner of *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here* in 2019, and will appear at the NTIAs courtesy of sponsorship by Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers.

AFTA CEO Dean Long said with the 2022 NTIAs being the first time the event will have been held in three years, "we know it's going to be a night of excitement even above and beyond normal levels of NTIA enthusiasm as we all celebrate being back together".

"We need someone like Richard to keep the evening moving along in a way that is fun and supports that celebration," he said.

Tickets for the industry night of nights at Sydney's International Convention Centre are currently on sale at afta.com.au on a first-come, first-served basis, with ATAS accredited members and AFTA allied members enjoying discounted pricing of \$220+GST.

Industry suppliers and other stakeholders will pay \$260+GST, and in a departure from previous years people buying a full table do not need to provide attendee names at the time of purchase.

NCL backs new berth call

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line CEO Harry Sommer says it's unlikely Australia will see its new Prima Class ships deployed locally in the foreseeable future, citing little political will to improve the Sydney Harbour berthing situation.

Responding to a question from **TD** on board the new *Norwegian Prima* which was christened by pop megastar Katy Perry on the weekend (see **page six**), Sommer said "in terms of home porting in Australia, there's a specific issue that is just for Sydney: you have only one berth available for ships that can't pass under the bridge".

"I don't recall any other major port in the world that has just one berth...Sydney only allows one ship in, and the people that have been there for 20 years tend to monopolise that space, so we have to send a ship that can fit under the Sydney Harbour Bridge," Sommer said.

NCL does have three ships of that size in its fleet, and this summer Sommer confirmed the line will send the newly upgraded *Norwegian Spirit* Down Under after a US\$160 million makeover.

He noted comments from Oceania and Regent Seven Seas chief Steve Odell at last week's Cruise360 conference in Sydney (**TD** 26 Aug) making an impassioned plea to the NSW Government to move forward with additional berths now that the pandemic is hopefully behind

us, and to consider alternatives such as Yarra Bay as an option.

"But quite frankly Steve and I have an ongoing joke in private that we're both going to be old men in wheelchairs by the time Australia's governments get their act together to make that happen," he said.

"I don't mean to disparage anyone, I'm just not sure there's a political will to do something that's meaningful for the industry unfortunately...until that happens it's hard to do more," he said.

However Sommer confirmed NCL's "super commitment" to Australia both in terms of long-term seasonal local deployments for *Norwegian Spirit*, as well as a key source market.

"Australia is one of our highest growing, one of our best markets - considering the fact that we generate nearly as much revenue from there as we do from the UK which has three times the population, I think is a testament to how well our product is received and the travelling habits of the Australian community".

More from NCL in **Cruise Weekly**.

Viking milestone

VIKING Cruises is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an unprecedented campaign including national advertising to drive enquiry for travel sellers.

A full array of supporting marketing material is available, with the 25th Anniversary Sale covering ocean, river and expedition cruises across the globe - see the **cover page**.

BA flies back to BA

BRITISH Airways will resume direct flights between London Heathrow and Buenos Aires in late Mar 2023, with the service to operate five times per week initially using a Boeing 787-8.

BA previously flew to Buenos Aires on a daily basis prior to the pandemic, but after resuming in Jan this year flights have operated with a stop in Sao Paolo.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news including photos from *Norwegian Prima* plus a front cover wrap from **Viking Cruises**.

COMMERCIAL SALES / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Amadeus has an exciting opportunity for a Commercial Sales / Account Executive to join our team based in either Melbourne or Brisbane. Enjoy flexible working conditions, career development opportunities and a chance to work with the leading players in the travel industry.

Make your application through:

https://amadeus.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/jobs/job/Melbourne-Victoria/Commercial-Sales---Account-Executive_R1512

Or call/email Ryan on +61 481 122 929
ryan.fripps@amadeus.com for more info.

AMADEUS





agent.raileurope.com
your dedicated Rail Partner

RAILEUROPE

Travel Daily on location aboard Norwegian Prima

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is undertaking the christening voyage of its new Norwegian Prima in the North Atlantic.

AFTER a glittering christening ceremony while docked in Reykjavik, Norwegian Prima has now set forth on her week-long christening cruise, starting off with two days at sea as she crosses to Ireland.

That gives guests on board plenty of opportunity to experience the huge array of innovations including the ship's go-kart track, multiple eateries, shows and activities including the world first The Price Is Right show at sea, which tonight featured godmother Katy Perry as an excitable contestant!

Baillie into South America

BAILLIE Lodges is further expanding its international footprint with the acquisition of a majority share in Chile's Tierra Hotels, which operates experiential luxury lodges in three remote wilderness destinations.

The portfolio includes Tierra Patagonia in Torres del Paine National Park; Tierra Atacama in the high northern desert of Chile; and Tierra Chiloe which is located on Chiloe Island.

The new partnership kicked off on 27 Aug after a long history of collaboration between the Baillie Lodges team and Tierra Hotels founder Miguel Purcell, whose family developed the hotels and has operated the network of properties since 2008.

The move expands the Baillie portfolio into a new continent, complementing its existing properties in Australia and Canada, "further solidifying the company as a leading global

experiential luxury lodging brand," said Baillie Lodges Executive Chairman Michael Moret-Lalli.

"The partnership is a natural fit for our companies and teams, and we look forward to sharing these wonderful new properties and experiences with our guests.

"Both brands share a vision for delivering exceptional, immersive experiences, and I am thrilled for our teams to join forces and continue exploring new frontiers in hospitality and leisure as the world gets back to travelling."

Baillie Lodges said the Tierra properties would retain their current branding, but would benefit from planned "meaningful investment" to ensure they maintain their unique market position with travellers as pre-eminent boutique hotels in Chile, alongside plans to expand the Tierra brand through acquisitions and developments.

Wizzing into Saudi

EUROPEAN low-cost carrier Wizz Air has announced a major expansion of operations into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with 20 new routes for Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam.

The move is expected to bring more than one million additional travellers to the Middle Eastern nation in 2023, from ports such as Bucharest, Budapest, Catania, Larnaca, Milan, Naples, Rome, Sofia, Tirana, Venice and Vienna.

"I see the Kingdom as a long-term strategic market for Wizz Air where we will continue to carry the flag of low-cost flying for the benefit of Saudi residents and visitors," said the carrier's CEO Jozsef Varadi.

The move into Saudi Arabia comes after controversy earlier in the month over Wizz Air's proposed resumption of flights to Moscow, a move which prompted widespread criticism on social media and an eventual backflip from the company.

WE'D LOVE YOUR VOTE

NCL is honoured to be an NTIA Awards finalist for
Most Outstanding Industry Support – Cruise.

VOTE NOW

Voting closes 5 pm AEST 8 September 2022.



NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE®

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

Norwegian Viva



Vista debut pushed

OCEANIA Cruises has cancelled the first three voyages of its new ship *Vista* next year.

Passengers booked on the 14 Apr, 26 Apr, and 06 May departures have been told the move is due to “supply chain and logistical challenges”.

Affected clients are being offered an automatic 100% refund of all funds that have been applied to reservations, along with all taxes & ancillary items purchased, in addition to a 25% future cruise credit.

Qantas price hike

QANTAS is warning Australian travellers to brace themselves for a hike in airfares of up to 20% for international services, citing rising fuel prices as the catalyst.

While addressing the media about the airline’s full year results for 2022 on Fri, CEO Alan Joyce said the business would continue to pass on its increased fuel bill to its customers.

Domestic airfares will increase by a smaller 10% hike, while flights will also be reduced to about 93% of pre-COVID levels.

Marriott brings Good Travel to Fiji



THE Marriott International Fiji Hotel has officially launched Marriott Bonvoy’s Good Travel program over the weekend on Denarau Island, announcing a joint deal with the Mamanuca Environment Society (MES).

The event was held at the Denarau Farm, a flagship of Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, and coincided with a visit by the Executive Area Leadership Team to the Pacific, including APEC President, Rajeev Menon, and Vice President Sales & Marketing, John Toomey.

While presenting the FJD50,000

cheque to an MES representative, Menon said the partnership was a “major milestone” for the company’s Fiji properties, and strengthens its “commitment to support the resilience of the local communities”.

“Good Travel with Marriott Bonvoy is about community collaboration and the curation of purposeful experiences as our guests are searching for these meaningful experiences”.

The Good Travel program will be endorsed by Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort, Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Bay and Sheraton Resort & Spa, Tokoriki Island, Fiji in collaboration with the MES support team.

The program, which expanded to the Asia Pacific earlier this year (**TD** 12 May), focuses on environmental protection, community engagement and marine conservation, and is guided by the company’s sustainability platform, Serve 360.

SIA LHR price rise

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has revealed it will increase market fare prices on bookings (all RBDs) from Australia to London Heathrow.

The modified prices will apply to new bookings made on or after 30 Aug, while the original fare will be honoured for all bookings made up to and including 29 Aug, with code “AULON822” used at the time of ticket issuance.

Whitsundays stay

ELYSIAN Island Retreat, Long Island Whitsundays is giving one **Travel Daily** reader the opportunity to experience the accommodation first-hand with a three-night stay for two adults.

Helicopter transfers, three gourmet meals daily, complimentary hot & cold drinks, and the use of watersports equipment are included - see **page 7** for more information.

THAI AirAsia X adds

THAI AirAsia X will fly four-weekly direct service between Sydney and Bangkok using an Airbus 330 from 02 Dec.

The carrier has also announced it will operate three times a week between Bangkok and Melbourne from 01 Dec.

Position Vacant

Business Partnership Manager VIC

Join a team of travel industry professionals in a dynamic, progressive and award-winning organisation.



TravelManagers is looking for an enthusiastic and motivated business partnership manager for VIC. Bring your exceptional relationship and business management skills to Australia’s largest home-based travel agency group, where you will grow and support our network of personal travel managers.

For more information and a confidential discussion, please call 0414 666 801 or email michael.gazal@travelmanagers.com.au



THE PLACE TO BE

Combine work and leisure with up to 35% off across Thailand, as well as in the Maldives, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and the middle east.



Aussies flock to Kiwi rail

EXCLUSIVE

BOOKINGS for Great Journeys New Zealand (GJNZ) rail journeys have been very strong in Australia since the reopening of the trans-Tasman border, the brand's newly-appointed B2B representative in Australia, Evolution Travel Collective (ETC), has revealed.

Speaking with **TD** late last week, ETC's MD Ingrid Berthelsen said Aussies have been quick to jump aboard GJNZ's scenic rail tours, which includes the Northern Explorer, Coastal Pacific TranzAlpine services.

"Over the upcoming summer season there are already some

services sold out and that's before two of the trains have even re-started," she said.

While the target demographic is typically over 55s, Berthelsen said there had been a recent shift toward younger travellers.

"Rail travel is a great way to connect with family and friends during the journey and I think as more people realise the different travel perspective this gives them it is becoming more and more popular with younger generations," she observed.

In contrast to services in Australia like The Ghan, GJNZ's rail experiences are for one day only, and allay any reticence travellers may have to sleeping on trains for multiple days.

"Customers can choose to enjoy the service as a day trip but we always recommend to break the journey with a relaxed boutique hotel stay like the grand Chateau Tongariro on the Northern Explorer trip," Berthelsen said.

While remaining tight-lipped about the specifics, ETC was also able to confirm that Aussie agents will have the chance to participate in a famil, encouraging advisors to stay up-to-date with its Facebook page **HERE** for details, while an introductory webinar covering GJNZ is due to be held this Wed at 11am AEST.

Attendees will be in the running to score themselves a \$50 gift card, and is open to all Australian and NZ travel agents.

CLICK HERE to register.

WA ready for cruise

THE Western Australian Government announced it is ready for the return of large cruise ships, with *Coral Princess* set to visit Fremantle in Oct, followed by five more luxury cruise ships before the end of the year.

More than 10,000 passengers are expected to arrive on WA's shores by the end of Dec, including to regional areas like Broome, on Cunard's *Queen Elizabeth*, Oceania Cruises' *Regatta*, Holland America Line's *Noordam*, Silversea Cruises' *Silver Muse*, and Azamara Cruises' *Azamara Quest*.

The return of big ships comes on the back of the state's successful Kimberley cruise season, after small ships carrying up to 350 pax were allowed to return from Apr.

More than just Bali

THE Indonesian Tourism Ministry is calling on Aussies to understand the country offers far more than just Bali.

Speaking at the country's first sales mission in Australia last week, Indonesia's Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno, said that while demand for Bali continues to rise, travellers should also consider adding other destinations to their list.

"Indonesia is so much more than Bali," he said, adding that a promotional emphasis is being placed on the seaside town of Labuan Bajo, a 90-minute flight east of Bali, as well as Lombok Island and the Borobudur temple in Central Java.

Close to 900,000 international visitors have arrived in Indonesia since Jan 2022, including over 100,000 Australian travellers in Bali, with Indonesia expecting arrivals to generate US\$1.7 billion in revenue this year.

The Wonderful Indonesia Sales Mission 2022 in Sydney and Melbourne last week attracted 150 Aussie attendees.

NRMA's own way

THE National Roads & Motorists' Association (NRMA)'s tourism division, Expeditions, has launched 'Our Way', an interlinked brand service standards and employee value proposition outlining "how we care, support, reward and recognise our teams".



Window Seat

THERE is at least one way to avoid those long queues and lost baggage problems - board a plane and fly it solo.

That's what 17-year-old British-Belgian pilot Mack Rutherford did recently, becoming the world's youngest person to circumnavigate the globe solo in the process.

The intrepid air traveller completed the audacious journey by passing through 52 countries over a five-month period, taking off from Sofia in Bulgaria on 23 Mar before finally landing back in the country's capital last week.

But before you rent that jet and go your own way, it's worth noting that Rutherford had to endure a night on an uninhabited Pacific island, weather the extreme heat in Dubai, fly through intense sandstorms in Sudan, be held up by airport closures in India, and solve multiple technical problems with his Shark plane - suddenly a delayed flight doesn't seem quite so bad.



Norway Suites Sale

Save up to
\$1,500pp*
on Suites

On their Icelandic high horses



MICHELLE Mickan from Abercrombie and Kent and Michelle Ashcroft of Phil Hoffmann Travel enjoyed a spectacular equine experience in Reykjavik, Iceland over the weekend.

After boarding the new *Norwegian Prima*, the ship remained in port for the first day of its current itinerary in the lead-up to her formal christening ceremony (see **page six**), meaning guests were able to enjoy shore excursions exploring the mystic

landscapes of Iceland.

Apparently you must never call them “ponies”, with the unique Icelandic horse breed refined over centuries to become gentle, hard working and affectionate.

The pair said it was a fabulous day, and well worth the sore muscles - which they fortunately are able to rehabilitate in the spectacular spa facilities on board *Norwegian Prima*.

You're the voice!

THE national boards of the Accommodation Association and Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) have mapped out a road to a single industry voice, as ‘Accommodation Australia’, at a joint meeting last week.

More than 20 respected accommodation sector representatives and CEOs from across Australia gathered at TAA’s Culwulla Chambers in Sydney to discuss working with the new Federal Government, and the development of a combined strategy to combat the industry’s chronic worker shortage.

Accommodation Association President Leanne Harwood - who will also be the first President of new peak body - chaired the meeting, saying: “our two associations are working closer than ever before and we are well on the way to creating something truly special”.

We need a (cruise) hero!

FOLLOWING the traumatising amount of churn the travel advisor profession has been through over the past two-and-a-half years, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Senior Vice President & Managing Director Regent Seven Seas Cruises & Oceania Cruises, Steve Odell, said one of the focuses of the immediate future will be rebuilding the product expertise lost to the sector.

Speaking at last week’s Cruise360 conference, Odell told attendees one of the key takeaways from this month’s Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas was that the cruise sector needs to unite in order to rebuild the large base of product adeptness which once existed.

“There were 6,000 global travel advisors out there (and) the message that we got is that we’ve got to build cruise specialists,

(and) it’s a job that we have to do together,” he said.

“As agents, we have to train new people, but as cruise lines it’s clear we have to support that too because there’s definitely a void at the moment in distribution.”

Odell said agents who stepped up to replace cruise mavens lost to the sector put themselves in line to capitalise on the current booking frenzy.

“There’s heavy demand, and there aren’t enough people to pick it up,” he revealed.

Odell also added cruise’s recovery had been much faster for luxury and premium brands such as those he oversees, with passengers who can afford to spend more doing so.

“We have to get to a place where we are engaging and proactively training people to get cruise specialists.

“To me the biggest challenge is coming up with this,” Odell added.

Wine not try this?

AUSTRALIAN wineries will be assisted in welcoming back international tourists with ‘Wine Tourism Ready’, a free, online, self-paced course developed by Wine Australia.

The program provides expert guidance in six modules, with 21 individual wine-specific tourism lessons covering a broad range of topics, from establishing experiences to mastering marketing for global audiences.

General Manager Marketing Paul Turale said Wine Tourism Ready will support wineries looking to establish new experiences and those which have existing drawcards - see wineaustralia.com/selling/wine-tourism-ready.

ANA’s metaverse

ALL Nippon Airways’ (ANA) virtual tourism platform ANA NEO has unveiled details about its metaverse travel service, ANA GranWhale, which is currently under development.

GranWhale will utilise advanced technology, including virtual and augmented reality, to recreate the destinations and cultures of the world for travellers, and will consist of three main services: Sky Park, Sky Mall, and Sky Village.

The service will be available on a range of devices including smartphones, tablets and VR headsets, with the first version to be called Meta Quest 2.

Round 4 is open

THE Northern Territory Government’s Aboriginal Tourism Grants Program has been expanded, ahead of the round 4 of funding opening today.

The program will see an even bigger funding pool of \$1 million in total, with all NT Indigenous-owned business and organisations invited to apply, so long as they can demonstrate an interest in diversifying into the tourism sector.

Businesses can apply for a support grant of between \$30,000 and \$100,000 to develop & activate new bookable aboriginal cultural tourism products or experiences; and build stronger visitor experiences that encourage travel to the NT and longer stays - **CLICK HERE** for further details.



Travel Daily On Board: *Norwegian Prima* Tee Time

Prima’s Tee Time is the first interactive and tech-immersive mini golf at sea. Players use an intelligent ball linked to an individual profile, with the playing experience including age-appropriate trivia questions on the course as part of the advanced playing experience. Tee 9 is the classic hole-in-one finale, where players get the opportunity to win prizes. If they score, these can range from a free game or on-board credit right through to a seven-night cruise.

Champagne pops for Norwegian Prima

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) looks set to ignite a new generation of cruisers, with the official christening ceremony of its revolutionary new *Norwegian Prima* by pop superstar Katy Perry (pictured) likely to change perceptions of cruising among her 171 million Instagram followers. Perry officiated at a lavish ceremony on board the ship in Reykjavik, Iceland over the weekend, with VIP guests including some of Norwegian's key Australian travel partners treated to a special performance of some of her biggest hits.

The moment was particularly poignant for the NCL team, which endured a 500-day shutdown during the pandemic but at the same time continued to press on with the development of the newbuild.

Norwegian Prima offers a huge variety of onboard spaces including the outdoor Ocean Boulevard, a three-storey go-kart track, multiple pools, a huge spa, 10-storey slides and many activities for guests of all ages.

"We have been eagerly anticipating and preparing for this special event for several years, so we are delighted to embark on NCL's next chapter with *Norwegian Prima*," said Norwegian Cruise Line CEO Harry Sommer.

"We are so thankful to our team members and partners worldwide who have made *Norwegian Prima* a stunning reality."



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line MD APAC Ben Angell puts the pedal to the metal on the on-board three-storey go-kart track.



ANGELA Middleton from NCL, Penny Spencer from Spencer Travel and Virtuoso's Jen Pagett made for a TIMEly trio.



LAUREN Wall and Rochelle Clark from eCruising/Leisurecom; Lisa Borowick, Goldman Group; Penny Spencer, Spencer Travel; and Jen Pagett, Virtuoso.



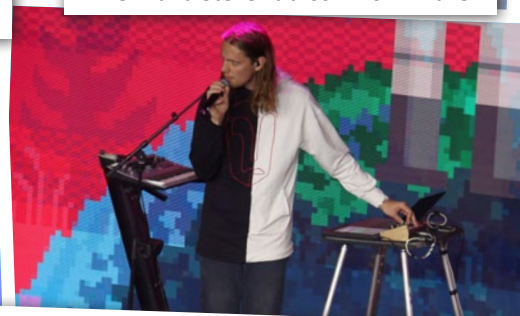
VICKI and Steve Labroski from iTravel.



JEN Pagett, Virtuoso; Penny Spencer, Spencer Travel; Lisa Borowick, Goldman Travel; and Rochelle Clarke and Lauren Wall, eCruising/Leisurecom at Reykjavik's Harpa Concert Hall.



NCLH CEO Frank Del Rio, Katy Perry, Norwegian Cruise Line President Harry Sommer and US radio personality Elvis Duran christen *Norwegian Prima*.



GUESTS at the christening ceremony were also treated to a sensational performance by Icelandic Eurovision contender Daði Freyr.

More than just spend

NEW Zealand's quest to secure more 'high quality' tourists should not be conflated with traditional premium high-spend visitors, Tourism New Zealand's Chief Executive Officer Rene de Monchy has clarified.

"High-quality visitors are defined by more than the money they spend, the high-quality visitor is determined by the type of visitor, their scope of activities, travel across seasons and regions, environmental consciousness and engagement with our local culture & communities," he said.

WA Tourism brand

TOURISM WA has announced the upcoming launch of its new tourism brand, with the official media launch scheduled to take place on 06 Sep.

The organisation is set to hold an industry update event on 07 Sep from 4pm-6pm at Crown Perth, where the senior marketing team will share the new brand assets, detailed promotional plans, and new guides and toolkits.

The event can also be viewed via live stream - to register for the event, [CLICK HERE](#).



Win an eco luxury stay.

Elysian Retreat, Long Island Whitsundays is giving one Travel Daily reader the opportunity to experience first-hand their eco luxury resort with a 3 nights stay for two adults. Included with this amazing prize is return helicopter transfers, three gourmet meals daily, complimentary hot & cold drinks, unlimited use of all water sports equipment plus lots more.

Winner will need to make their own way to Hamilton Island. Full list of inclusions here with the terms and conditions.

To enter please tell us in 25 words or less what makes Elysian Retreat the ideal holiday experience?

Entries to be sent to competitions@traveldaily.com.au

BROCHURES

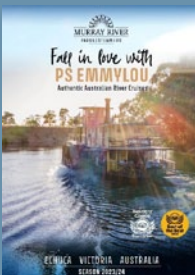
WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



AAT Kings - Australia 2023

Travellers can explore the wonders of Australia with AAT Kings' new 2023 program, from outback journeys in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, to explorations of the Tasmanian wilderness and rainforest experiences in Queensland. New tours included the seven-day Queensland Spirit: Heart of the Outback itinerary, as well as several new Southern Australian journeys, including the five-day Remarkable

Adelaide to Kangaroo Island itinerary, where guests can encounter flora and fauna at Flinders Chase National.



Murray River Paddlesteamers - 2023/24

Murray River Paddlesteamers has launched its latest brochure, jam-packed with overnight cruises for 2023/24 aboard deluxe riverboat, *PS Emmylou*. Itineraries on offer include a three-night Discovery Cruise departing from Echuca every Fri, featuring a Lagoon Wetlands Eco walk, a visit to Morrisons Riverside Winery, guided garden tours of Perricoota Station, riverside BBQ dining under the stars and more. Guests can also opt for the similar four-night

Explorer Cruise, or the seven-night All The Rivers Run Cruise, which is a combination of the three- and four-night itineraries.

Two more in Japan

PAN Pacific Hotels Group has partnered with Tokyu Hotels to launch two new hotels within Shinjuku's new landmark skyscraper complex, Tokyu Kabukicho Tower.

The 97-key Bellustar Tokyo, a Pan Pacific Hotel, and 538-key Hotel Groove Shinjuku, a PARKROYAL Hotel, are slated to open their doors in the first half of 2023, with both properties to be added to the Pan Pacific Discovery loyalty program.

More Filipino luxury

ACCOR and Hann are set to expand their partnership with the signing of two new properties in Clark, Philippines, located within the luxury integrated resort, Hann Lux.

Sofitel Clark will comprise 300 guest rooms, while Emblems Clark will offer 200 guest rooms, with both hotels to feature all-day dining and speciality restaurants, spas, fitness centres, conference spaces, and more.

ibis Styles Bangkok

ACCOR has announced the opening of its new property in Thailand, the ibis Styles Bangkok Silom, located in one of the city's busiest business and entertainment districts.

The hotel's design is "creative and playful" with "vivid pops of colour", offering 264 guest rooms across five different room configurations, each featuring Sweet Bed by ibis, 43-inch Smart LCD TVs, and rain showers.

Guests can dine at Prung Rod, which serves freshly-made Thai-style noodles and soups.

\$3 mill for the Reef

THE Queensland Government has announced a \$3 million Great Barrier Reef Island Marine Infrastructure Package, which will aim to make key islands in the region more attractive and accessible to visitors.

The cash will go towards new and upgraded resorts, ecotourism opportunities, unique experiences and jetty infrastructure.