

**Travel Daily**  
on location at  
**Seven Spirit Bay Wilderness Lodge**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Journey Beyond's *Outback Spirit*.

**LOCATED** on the Cobourgh Peninsula in Arnhem Land, right at the top of Australia, Seven Spirit Bay Wilderness Lodge offers guests a unique outback experience.

Accessible only by boat or aircraft, the lodge's luxury villas are scattered among a native tropical rainforest with private decks to soak up the sounds of the pristine wilderness or enjoy the water views of Coral Bay.

Activities offered include fishing trips as well as 4WD safaris to discover the rugged landscape and spot the wide variety of wildlife.

## We can do it faster: CTM

**CORPORATE** Travel Management (CTM) believes it will make a full recovery from COVID ahead of the broader corporate travel sector, a market update from the company this morning predicts.

The business primarily attributes this quicker recovery speed to its strong market share gains made over the last two years, savvy investments in technology, and "little to no" future recovery impediments noted in the North American, European and Australian markets.

CTM also stated that it anticipates revenue to surpass calendar year 2019 levels by the fourth quarter of 2022, with its operations to be 75% larger than it was pre-COVID thanks to strategic acquisitions, most notably the purchase of Helloworld's corporate division which was formally completed early last month (*TD* 01 Apr).

However CTM has conceded that unique servicing issues are facing the Australian market this year, problems it characterises as "short-term" and part of its "global focus" to fix, predicting May and Jun as the time for the challenges to be resolved.

These problems have included supply chain staff shortages, including a lack of human resources within its newly acquired HLO business.

Major recruitment drives have kicked off to stem the people power issue, with wage inflation also perceived to be a key but manageable problem, to be offset by increased automation that will drive productivity & lower costs.

### Today's issue of *TD*

*Travel Daily* today features six pages of industry news plus a full page from *Rocky Mountaineer*.

## MCEC chief to go

**MELBOURNE** Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) CEO Peter King has announced plans to depart the role he has held for the last 11 years.

King will remain with the organisation while it recruits his replacement, saying he has made the decision with mixed feelings and that the "time is right for a changing of the guard".

Vic Minister for Tourism, Sport & Major Events, Martin Pakula, paid tribute to King, saying he had been "instrumental in building Victoria's global profile through conferences and business events over many years".

During his tenure King oversaw a major expansion of the venue and delivered record revenue and economic impact for the state.

He's also led sustainability efforts within the organisation and its stakeholders, and during the pandemic managed the transformation and diversification of the business.

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## Window Seat

**MILLENNIUM** Hotels & Resorts has opened M Social Decentraland in the Metaverse - a network of three-dimensional virtual worlds facilitated by the use of virtual reality.

The virtual "hotel" will launch on Thu, making it Millennium's first virtual property, joining its actual locations in Paris, New York City, Singapore, and Auckland.

Modelled on different M Social hotels around the world, the new digital property aims to encapsulate what the brand's identity is all about.

Located near Genesis Plaza (wherever that is) at the heart of Decentraland, Millennium's virtual hotel sits on what is supposedly "prime digital land", and is positioned as a hub for "explorers to discover new experiences and connect with like-minded individuals".

Guests at the hotel will be greeted by an avatar welcoming you to stay - sounds scary.

## EK boarding pass power

**EMIRATES** is pulling out all of the stops to entice Australian travellers to fly with the carrier, this week unveiling a new promotion which offers its passengers discounts on a range of experiences in Dubai.

The EK boarding pass (printed or digital) used by travellers passing through or stopping for a visit in Dubai will double as the My Emirates Summer Pass between now and 30 Sep, enabling passengers visiting the city to access special offers and discounts at various venues.

These benefits include a complimentary sailing on board Tour Dubai's one-hour Marina Sightseeing Cruise, although that specific offer is only valid until the end of May, as well as discounts on food and beverages at Accor hotels, sightseeing bus tours, and a range of spa and beauty salons.

Further applicable discounted experiences include hundreds of participating retail, leisure and dining outlets in Dubai, such as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Bath & Body Works, Atlantis Aquaventure, IMG World

FIND OUT MORE

## VIETNAM & CAMBODIA *Delight*

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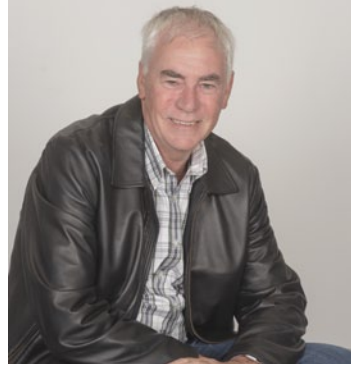
FROM ONLY **\$4,499** WAS \$4,799

of Adventure, Sofitel Spa, and Arabian Adventures.

The boarding pass is nontransferable and must be matched to proof of identification, and can be used multiple times at the same venue.

For more information on the Summer Pass offer, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Bonza selects COO



**BONZA** has appointed Michael Young (**pictured**) to be its new Chief Operating Officer, replacing the short-lived tenure of Peter McNally who disembarked from the carrier in Mar (**TD 07 Mar**).

Young joins Australia's newest airline after previous stints with Tasman Cargo Airlines in New Zealand, where he was CEO, as well as COO roles with Jetstar Japan and Saida Gulf Airlines.

Young also has some solid experience in the Australian aviation market, having occupied the role of GM of Operations Planning at Virgin Australia from 2010 to 2012.

"Michael's proven track record and approach to planning and operational skills will see Bonza continue the great work we've achieved to-date in preparing for take-off," CEO Tim Jordan said.

## Anne learns Italian

**ANNE** Wild & Associates (AWA) has landed the Italian National Tourist Board as a client, which will see the agency represent the brand in Australia and NZ.

"Italy is a dream destination for Australian and New Zealand travellers and a country which is close to my heart as one of the 4.6% of Australians who can proudly claim Italian ancestry," AWA MD Anne Wild enthused.

The win follows AWA's recent appointment to the Minor Hotels account (**TD 28 Apr**).



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## Jetstar gets crafty for its 18th

**JETSTAR** Airways is saying “cheers” to turning 18 with a huge birthday sale, and the launch of a limited-edition range of quirky seltzers (**pictured**).

More than 400,000 seats will also be available in the 18th Birthday Return for Free sale, with return domestic fares leading in from \$69 and return international from \$199.

The sale starts at midnight tonight and will last for 48 hours, while early access opened for Club Jetstar members from midday today, with travel periods varying per route, but include mid-Jul 2022 to late Feb 2023.

The fares will be available on almost 100 routes, including 59 domestic services and 29 international flights, and will be promoted alongside a range of “birthday seltzers” inspired by Australia’s favourite holiday destinations.

The carefully crafted selection



of destination inspired beverages have been brewed in collaboration with Victorian-based Hop Nation Brewing Co, and will be available for purchase **HERE** from 17 May.

Available in four exclusive flavours including Bali, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Queenstown, each seltzer “tells a fun, entertaining story of the iconic destination it’s inspired from, whilst also paying homage to a selection of the top local and international destinations”, Jetstar said.

## Six Senses Fiji sold

**SIX** Senses Fiji has been sold to new owner Sequitur Resorts, following a successful restructure.

The sale was exclusively managed by JLL Hotels & Hospitality Brokers’ Nick Thompson and Peter Harper, with all previous bookings to be transferred and honoured.

Six Senses will predominantly be staffed by local Fijian workers and has opened after being closed for two years because of COVID.

## Global distribution

**THE** Qantas Distribution Platform will soon become available to travel agents in UK, US and South Africa, before being rolled out to other markets in the coming months.

The platform is already used by advisors in Australia and NZ, which was recently enhanced by adding the ability to issue a name change fee for name change requests (**TD** 28 Apr).

## Royal links with WWF

**THE** Royal Caribbean Group has inked a new five-year agreement with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to continue its framework for improved sustainability business practices.

The deal will see work completed to improve the cruise line’s environmental goals across experiences offered on its ships, at sea and on shore.

## CLIA Live is back

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) has marked the return of its popular CLIA Live series, with the first session held in Melbourne last week.

The workshops offer agents two days of key information from reps involved in all forms of cruising, with content suited to both experienced and fledgling agents.

Events will next be held Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney between now and early Jun. More details **HERE**.



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Sale ends 13 May 2022.  
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## LA guides the way

LOS Angeles Tourism has partnered with travel experience company Atlas Obscura to launch an official tourist guide to the city.

The new suite of content includes a hardcover edition of the Explorer's Guide to LA, an official visitors map, a meeting planners guide, as well as a special luxury guide.

Highlights include a taco trek around LA for foodies, a hidden gems art trail, & cultural insights into various neighbourhoods.

## Accor's touch of class

ACCOR has been appointed the official accommodation partner of Australia's fast-growing NRL Touch Football competition.

The two-year deal will see the hotelier accommodate touch footballers across a range of tournaments, camps and events, from grassroots to elite levels, catering for Touch Football Australia's 700,000 participants.

## Please come back Kiwis

**FOLLOWING** the resumption of two-way, quarantine-free travel between Australia and New Zealand this week, Tourism Australia has launched a major marketing assault on Kiwi travellers, imploring them to "come and say g'day" to Australia and "don't go small".

The campaign is running across TV, print, digital and social channels in New Zealand, hyping up the travel appeal of both Australia's iconic destinations and hidden gems.

"Australia has amazing icons which we are renowned for around the world such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and this campaign will also showcase a number of our lesser known but equally spectacular experiences and destinations which Kiwis can now discover," Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison said.

"There is no doubt the last two years have been incredibly challenging and many Kiwis had to put off taking holidays as a result, so with trans-Tasman travel back on the cards, we're asking Kiwis to think big about a holiday in Australia and to 'come and say g'day,'" she added.

Before COVID disrupted travel in early 2020, New Zealand was Australia's second largest source market for international visitation and the fourth most valuable for spend, with Kiwis likely to take top spot while the former number one market, China, maintains strong travel bans.

Of the \$2.6 billion spent in Australia by New Zealanders in 2019, \$1.9 billion (73%) was for leisure travel, with the average spend of each traveller notching up around \$1,940 per trip.

In 2019, trans-Tasman routes account for 18% of int'l inbound seat capacity to Australia.

## Work + pleasure

**HALF** of working Australians say they have intentions to combine work and travel soon, new research conducted by YouGov and Airbnb suggests.

"Many Aussies are looking to head abroad more frequently and in flexible new ways - including off-peak international jaunts and overseas workcations," Airbnb Country Manager ANZ Susan Wheeldon said.

The same report also found that Aussies want to travel more frequently following the two-year shutdown, with more than 60% of respondents stating they want to make the most of being able to travel normally again.

Just over half indicated they plan on taking an international trip as "soon as they're able to", with more than 70% expressing "excitement" about the prospect of an overseas trip this year.

A third of Aussies want to visit famous cities, & a similar number want to revisit a favourite spot.

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# Azamara Onward named in Monaco

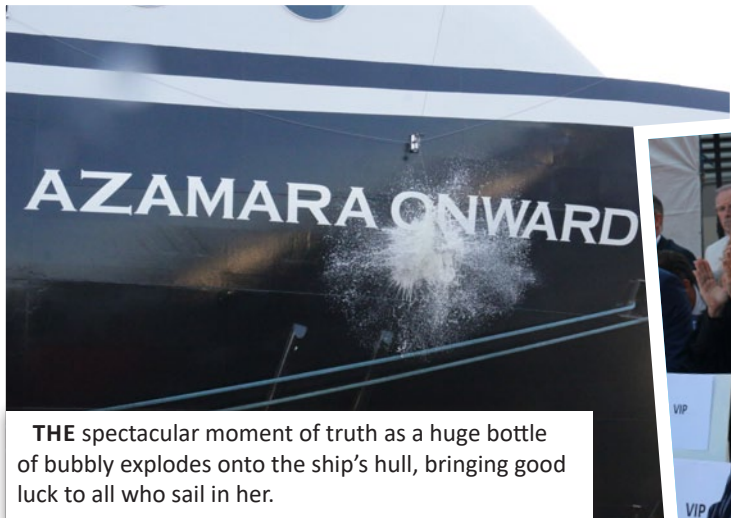
**AN ENORMOUS** Champagne bottle was smashed satisfyingly into the bow of Azamara Cruises' new *Azamara Onward* overnight, in a glittering dockside ceremony in Monaco. Attendees were treated to musical performances and speeches celebrating the moment, which saw godmother Beth Santos, the entrepreneurial founder of travel community and lifestyle brand Wanderful ultimately release the bubbly for a highly successful christening.

Azamara CEO Carol Cabezas was almost overwhelmed by the moment, saying "this is an exciting new chapter for our company, and we are so thankful for our hardworking team both on board and offshore, for making this possible". *Onward* has now left Monaco on her inaugural commercial voyage, a 10-day Mediterranean voyage concluding with an overnight stay in Ravenna, Italy.

Santos said she was honoured to have been selected as the ship's godmother, saying "this is such a symbolic moment not just for Azamara but for the entire travel industry. Following two years of pause, we look forward to pressing *Onward* with new mindsets, new adventures and new opportunities to learn how we can be better travellers". More in today's *Cruise Weekly*.



**AZAMARA** Cruises CEO Carol Cabezas; *Azamara Onward* godmother Beth Santos from Wanderful; the ship's Captain Carl Smith; and Azamara Director of Sales for Australia and NZ, Belle Osmic.



**THE** spectacular moment of truth as a huge bottle of bubbly explodes onto the ship's hull, bringing good luck to all who sail in her.



**DIGNITARIES** honoured in the christening crowd included top loyalty guests Mr and Mrs Page, who have cruised more than 500 nights with Azamara.



**THE** dulcet tones of a Nice-based childrens' choir raised everyone's spirits during the ceremony.



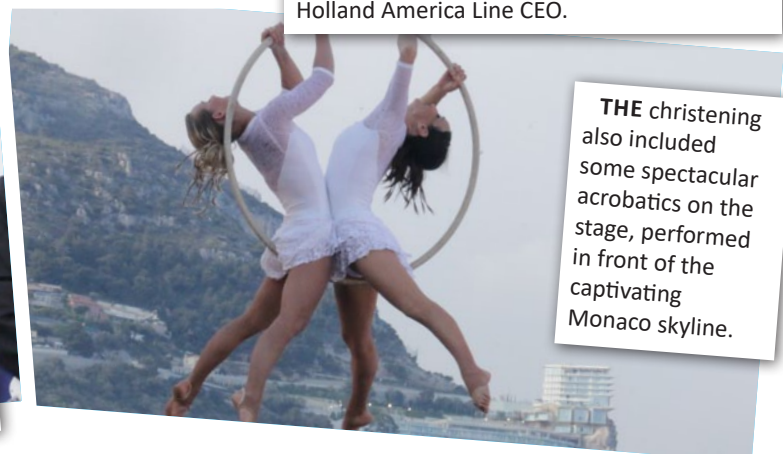
**ATTENDEES** included Azamara Cruises' Orlando Ashford, who is also the former Holland America Line CEO.



**CRUISE** director Eric De Gray revved up the crowd before gloriously bursting into song alongside some of the other shipboard performers.



**CAPTAIN** Carl Smith helps godmother Beth Santos cut the ribbon with a pair of giant novelty scissors.



**THE** christening also included some spectacular acrobatics on the stage, performed in front of the captivating Monaco skyline.



## Air Canada Rouge heads out west

AIR Canada Rouge has inaugurated two new connections linking Quebec City to the country's west.

New seasonal services to Calgary and Vancouver have commenced, with the former destination to be offered four times per week, and the latter three times per week.

These new seasonal domestic routes, which will operate until the end of Oct, will be operated by an Airbus A319 aircraft.

## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.740**

**THE** Australian dollar is at three-month lows, ahead of the Reserve Bank of Australia's decision on lifting rates today.

The AUDUSD fell to Jan lows, as United States-based shares enjoyed a solid rebound this week, following a shocking performance in the prior month.

The Dow Jones was also down as much as 463 points at one point, before a shift in investor sentiment saw American markets recover and end up increasing by 84 points.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.740
UK	£0.563
NZ	\$1.085
Euro	€0.632
Japan	¥82.25
Thailand	฿24.66
China	¥5.049
South Africa	9.748
Canada	\$0.965
Crude oil	US\$68.69

## Treasures finally found in Sydney



**TREASURES** of the South Pacific last Wed hosted a convivial media event in Sydney.

As the world continues to open up, the islands of the South Pacific are excited to welcome Australians to the region, especially with the recently announced May relaunch of flights to Papeete via Auckland with Air Tahiti Nui (*TD* 25 Mar).

At the event were representatives from destinations such as Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, Tahiti, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, and New Caledonia.

Also represented were Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, Niue, the Marshall Islands, American Samoa, Palau, Nauru, and Micronesia, under the 'Hidden Treasures of the South Pacific' banner.

**Pictured** is the team: Rose Evans, Norfolk Tourism; Thalia Acornley-Jones, Vanuatu Tourism; Rebecca Marshal, New Caledonia Tourism; Richard Skewes, Tourism Solomons; Sarah-Louise

Robinson, Fiji Tourism; Caroline Brunel, Tahiti Tourisme; Rob Thompson, Fiji Tourism; Fasitau Ula, Samoa Tourism; and Crystal Kranz, Cook Islands Tourism.

## Colombia mix up

**AVIANCA** and Viva Air Colombia are set to join forces, in a union between the country's flag-carrier and its largest LCC.

Financial details have not yet been disclosed to the market, but the unification promises to bring a lower cost structure and a more interconnected route network.

As part of the transaction, the two airlines will become part of the same holding company, and Viva founding partner Declan Ryan will join the board of directors of Avianca, which will assume operational and financial control of the smaller airline and a number of its subsidiaries.

Until formal approval is granted by the country's aviation authorities, the carriers will continue to operate independently in the meantime.

## Tweet World cruising

**MACANA** Maldives Liveboards has appointed Tweet World Travel to be its General Sales Agent for the Australian market.

The cruise line offers three great ships, *Princess Handy*, *Princess Dhonkamana* & *Princess Rani* which all explore the waters of the Maldives.

Tweet World Travel will also represent Macana in NZ.

Travel Daily  
Events

## COMING EVENTS

**TD Events** is the new way to showcase your product or service to the travel industry.

**Wed 22 Jun** - Amadeus - details coming soon

**Thu 28 Jun** - Livn Group - details coming soon

**Missed an event? Don't worry, you can catch up at any time.**

## RECENT EVENTS

**"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](#).

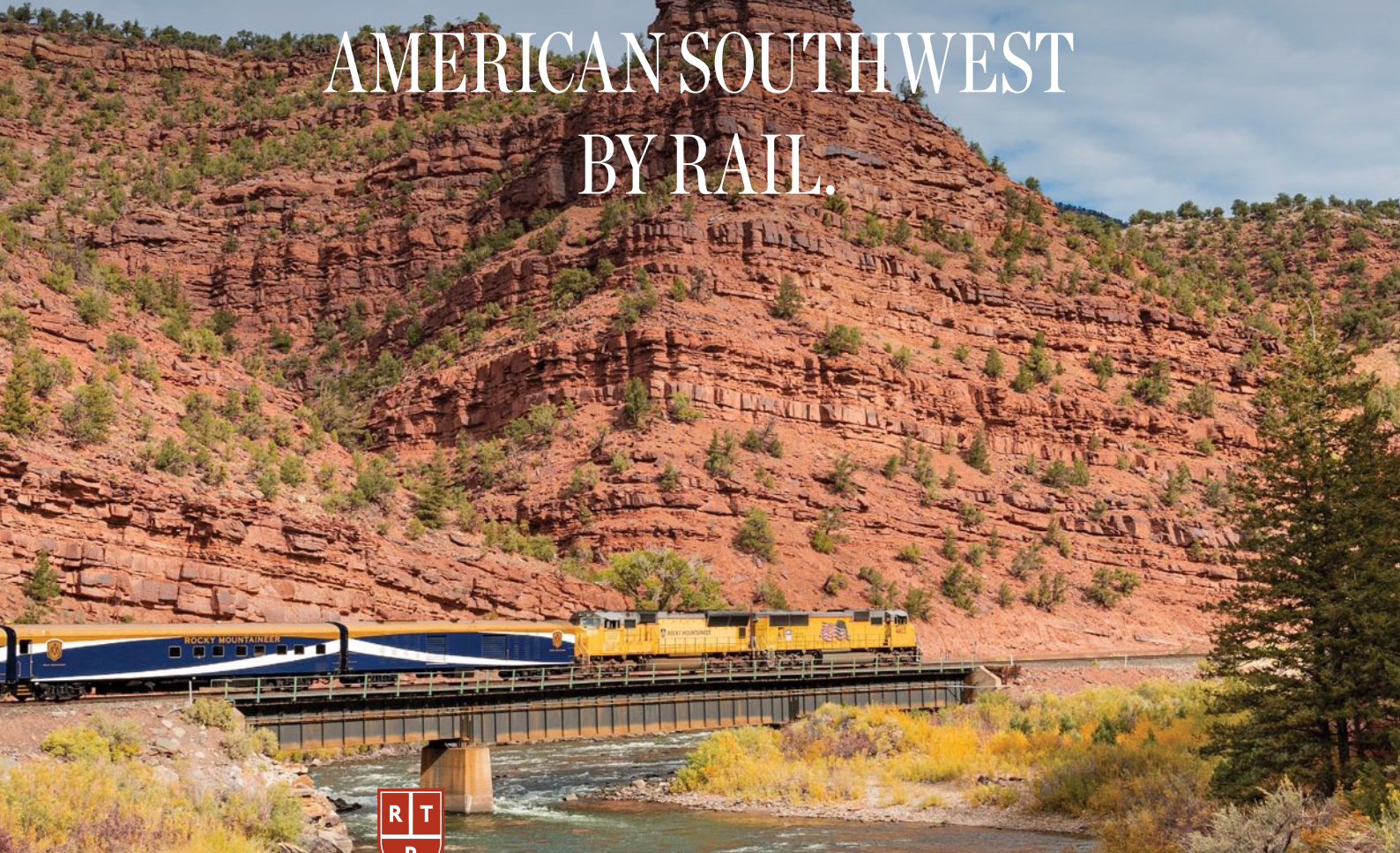
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