

You're Invited!

DESTINATION
A CELEBRATION FOR THE INDUSTRY

DATE
WED 7 DEC 2022, 6PM TIL LATE

SEAT
SYD- FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

WE'RE STILL
"STILL STANDING"
CELEBRATION



Thanks to our
generous sponsors



First Class Sponsors



Business Class Sponsors



AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™



CARNIVAL • CUNARD • HOLLAND AMERICA LINE • P&O CRUISES • PRINCESS • SEABOURN

TICKETS ON SALE FROM NOVEMBER



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including our **Luxury** update, plus a cover page thanking the sponsors of our upcoming **Still Still Standing Celebration** (tickets on sale next month) and a page from **Destination Canada**.

ATAS cancellations

AFTA has confirmed the termination of eight members of the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), two cancelled due to having breached provisions of the ATAS charter and a further six having failed to renew their membership.

AFTA has cancelled the participation of Teds Tours (ABN 89 634 358 151) and Australia & New Zealand Travel Company (ABN 11 642 241 914) due to a "Breach of s2.5 (d) of the ATAS Charter" - the section of the charter which deals with Business Compliance and Governance.

Of those which did not renew their participation in the scheme, five are listed on the AFTA site as being out of ATAS effective from 28 Jul, including Tuscany Untouched Tours (ABN 48 613 426 378), Bargain Flights Pty Ltd (ABN 97 625 940 230), Shuntong Travel (ABN 66 604 117 491), Shoji Australia (ABN 55 930 316 527) and Travel @ Maddington (ABN 97 600 952 565).

More recently Helloworld member Viator Travel (ABN 60 001 105 193) is also listed as having failed to renew, with its cancellation effective yesterday.

Several of the now cancelled ATAS participants continue to display the scheme's logo on their websites.

Tour East to cease trading

EXCLUSIVE

TOUR East Australia, the inbound business once partly owned by Qantas and now a division of Japanese travel giant JTB, will be wound up at the end of the year, with clients and industry partners advised this week that the company had now ceased taking any new bookings or quotation requests.

Tour East said the decision had not been made lightly.

"Unfortunately due to the financial impacts of the COVID pandemic overall, we are unable to continue our Global Inbound Australia business at this time," according to an update from the firm obtained by **Travel Daily**.

"We have enjoyed working with you in providing wonderful experiences for your clients when visiting Australia, and thank you for all your support over many years of doing business together," JTB told its customers.

"As we work towards winding back our Global Inbound operations, we will be in further contact with you to discuss options for any 2023 bookings being held," the message from

the company advised.

JTB has owned Tour East for about eight years after acquiring it from its previous owners who included Qantas (**TD** 09 Oct 2014).

In more buoyant days the company had operations in Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia as well as Australia, with JTB at the time of the acquisition pledging to strengthen the business "and become the number one destination management company in Asia Pacific".

Tour East Australia was established in 2007 as a joint venture between Qantas Airways Limited and the HTT/Tour East Group in Singapore, with the startup led at the time by former QF executive Simon Bernardi, who is now Managing Partner of Australia and Beyond Holidays.

In its heyday Tour East Australia had a \$30 million annual TTV.

Devries to lead Swan Hellenic

BRIGITA Devries has been appointed as the new General Manager Australia/New Zealand for luxury expedition cruise operator Swan Hellenic.

Devries was formerly Dream Cruises' local Vice President Sales & Marketing, before the line's parent company Genting Hong Kong spectacularly collapsed earlier this year (**TD** 19 Jan).

She told her LinkedIn community Swan Hellenic's commitment to sustainability and responsible tourism brings her "immense pride" to represent the line in Australia.

For more information, read today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

WIN a Canada trip

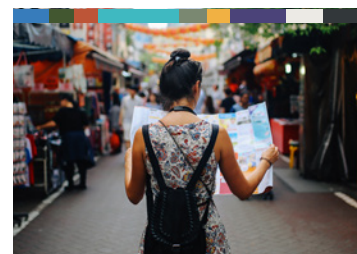
DESTINATION Canada is offering travel advisors an opportunity to win a spot on an upcoming winter fam to Vancouver and Whistler.

The offer is available to those who sign up for the organisation's Canada Specialist Program training initiative, which also offers exclusive selling tools and itineraries - for more details see **page seven** of today's **TD**.

Cover-More site

COVER-MORE Travel Insurance has launched a new trade website offering insurance and a range of resources for travel advisors.

The site includes a new "What type of traveller are you?" quiz to help consultants "better understand their customers' deepest travel desires" along with sales tools, inviting agents to become Authorised Representatives - see covermoreconnect.com.au.



News TRAVEL NETWORK Jan to Jun 2023
TREND FORECAST

Discover what the future holds as the industry navigates the path to full recovery.

For category insights for your brand contact your News Corp Australia representative today

VIEW HIGHLIGHTS

News Corp Australia

Brochures available to order at TIFS.

Welcome SOUTHEAST ASIA

Wendy Wu Tours.
New 2023/24 brochure out now!
Save \$250pp on all group tours

Offer applies to 2023 & 2024 group tour departures. Subject to availability. Visit wendywutours.com.au for full details. ATAS A10517



agent.raileurope.com
your dedicated Rail Partner

RAILEUROPE



Window Seat

LAST night's farewell celebration for Astrid Gruchmann-Licht, the long-time chief of the Austrian National Tourist Office (ANTO) in Australia (see **page four**) showed further evidence of the meticulous attention to detail which has characterised her 32-year local career.

Guests were welcomed to a delightful soiree in the Northern Foyer of the Sydney Opera House, with drinks and canapes served before the formalities and a performance by members of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

During the speeches attendees were invited to make themselves comfortable on a sweeping staircase - made more comfortable for their pampered posteriors courtesy of some specially created Austrian-themed cushions (**pictured**) - complete with tag lines from ANTO's latest campaign.



Childcare funding key - AFTA



WHILE not specifically targeting the travel sector, last night's Federal Budget announcement confirming significant increases in child care subsidies is likely to help address the industry's severe workforce issues, according to AFTA CEO Dean Long.

Speaking to **TD** today, Long said based on typical travel industry wages, the move will effectively remove the financial disincentive to return to work for anyone who has left the industry over the last three years to have a family.

"You know we have jobs for you, and we know you love our industry's culture," he said, with the Government to increase the maximum subsidy rate to 90% for families earning up to \$80,000.

He also welcomed increased funding for inbound visa processing, supporting continued efforts to address long backlogs.

Federal Tourism Minister Don Farrell noted a \$48m allocation over four years to support the

seemingly disconnected areas of infrastructure upgrades for caravan parks alongside "recruitment and marketing in the tourism and travel sectors".

Tourism Australia's budget was cut by \$35 million over the next two years, with the budget papers noting the reductions are "due to the temporary nature of the Government's additional tourism marketing campaigns as international travel resumes".

The Budget predicts it will take until 2023/24 for airports and airlines to recover to pre-COVID international capacity levels.

Pictured at AFTA's hosted budget dinner table are, from left: CEO Dean Long; Glenn Wilcox, Corporate Travel Management; John Hart, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Executive Chair - Tourism; Express Travel Group's Tom Manwaring, AFTA Chair; Jane McKeon, Cover-More; and Brett Jardine, Council of Australian Tour Operators MD.

Qld, Trip campaign

TOURISM and Events Queensland is partnering with Trip.com Group with a global campaign targeting travellers in Australia, NZ, the UK, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, inviting them to experience "A Beautiful Way to Be" in Qld.

evergreen

CANADA & ALASKA 2023



Earlybear Offers End 30TH NOVEMBER

Conditions apply

VIEW 2023 BROCHURE >

SCENIC®

**2023 Europe River Cruising
Earlybird Offers End 31 October**

Fly Business Class from \$3,995pp*
or
Economy Class flights included up to \$2,000pp*

VIEW BROCHURE >



*Terms and conditions apply

With Scenic, it's more than a 5-star river cruise. It's truly all-inclusive luxury in a class of its own.

Imperium for sale

THE Administrators of the Imperium Group are working on completing an urgent sale of operations including Adventure Tours Australia, Discovery Fraser Island, Dingo's, Outback Tour Services and Website Travel Global Marketplace, after the overall business was placed into voluntary administration earlier this month.

Parent company Imperium Tourism Holdings appointed BDO's Andrew Fielding and Shaun McKinnon to eight related companies, with Fielding saying despite the move it was "business as usual", with all current and planned tours to proceed and deposits being honoured.

Imperium acquired Adventure Tours Australia from Intrepid Travel three years ago (**TD** 20 Dec 2019), while sister brand Adventium repaid about \$6.5m to local tour operators after an ACCC investigation into the company last year (**TD** 23 Mar 2021).

Travalyst Amadeus

TRAVALYST, the not-for-profit sustainable travel organisation founded by Prince Harry and chaired by Intrepid co-founder Darrell Wade (**TD** 26 Apr), has announced the addition of Amadeus to its coalition.

The tech provider is Travalyst's eighth partner, alongside Visa, Booking.com, Expedia Group, Google, Skyscanner, Tripadvisor & Trip.com Group (**TD** 04 Sep 2019).

Amadeus is expected to enhance Travalyst's reach and reinforce the organisation's objective of helping travellers make sustainable travel choices.

Travalyst CEO Sally Davey said the new partnership "brings us significant reach within the travel industry and agent community, allowing us to embed our strategy and frameworks more deeply".

The group is working on a framework of shared principles and methodology for reporting sustainability, initially focusing on aviation and accommodation.

SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF FINNAIR

with the
Travel Daily
Training Academy

[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel Daily

Soaking up the Tuscan sun



THE Australian and New Zealand winners of the Travel to Italy Academy competition experienced the best of the Tuscany region this week on a famil hosted by The Italian National Tourist Board, Toscana Promozione Turistica and Qatar Airways.

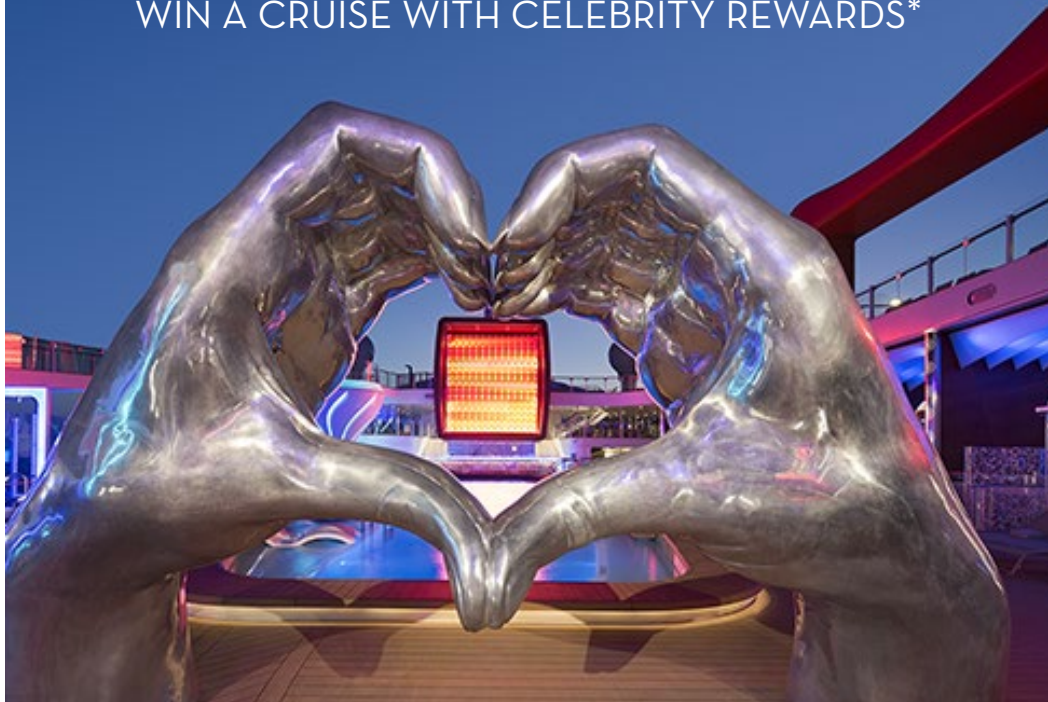
After arriving at Rome Fiumicino airport, the group was taken on a guided tour which explored Florence, Pisa, Lucca, San Gimignano, Siena, and Capalbio.

The lucky agents got to relax in the thermal baths of Bagno Vignoni, enjoy meals in typical Italian trattoria, and visit wineries in the Chianti Region.

Pictured: Anita Coombs, Pakenham Travel; Alfina Maugeri, Flight Centre; Olivia Windsor, Untold Italy; Selese Rowe, Travel Managers; Leah Gage, In2Travel; Dolton Bruce, Flight Centre NZ; and Emanuele Attanasio, Italian National Tourist Board.

NEW LUXURY. NEW REWARDS. NEW COMMITMENT.

WIN A CRUISE WITH CELEBRITY REWARDS*



Introducing our revolutionised trade portal, The Celebrity Commitment - your gateway to selling luxury effortlessly. Discover a new social share feature, customisable flyers, expansive toolkits and improved functionality alongside refreshed brand imagery designed to inspire sales. It's part of our ongoing commitment to the travel community in our comeback, and beyond.

THE CELEBRITY
COMMITMENT

Celebrity **X** Cruises®

Celebrity
Rewards

[LEARN MORE](#)

*Terms and conditions apply.

Domestic travel hunger

AUSTRALIAN and New Zealand travellers are hungry for domestic travel, new research from AAT Kings has revealed, with 48% of Aussies prioritising domestic or interstate travel post-COVID.

The survey of 850 travellers also showed that only 19% of the 55+ age group will prioritise international travel, versus 27% for under-55s, making the older generation much more likely to seek out domestic holidays.

New Zealand is firmly back on the travel map, with 54% of Australians considering a guided trip to Aotearoa's South Island in 2023 - up over 10% from last year - and 49% considering a visit to the North Island.

South Australia and Adelaide were also earmarked as potential 2023 holiday destinations, with almost 40% considering a trip to the Wine State - an increase of 7% compared to last year.

Russia update

AUSTRALIANS have been formally advised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to avoid travel to Russia, due to the security environment and the ongoing impacts of military conflict with Ukraine.

There are limited transportation options, restrictions on financial transactions and possible service and product shortages, according to a Smartraveller update yesterday, which urged Aussies in Russia to leave immediately.

The Great Barrier Reef/ Queensland was also identified as a top destination, with 43% of travellers considering a guided holiday to the region, followed closely by the Northern Territory, with over 40% considering a trip to the Top End or Red Centre.

Overall, the inability to travel during COVID has increased the appetite for travel in over half (57%) of Australian and New Zealand travellers.

AAT Kings CEO Ben Hall believes domestic travel will "well and truly maintain popularity into 2023", adding that the recent findings had influenced the creation of four of the company's new 2023/24 tours which focus on South Australia.

SQ back in T2

ALL Singapore Airlines flights to South East Asia will now depart from Terminal 2 at Changi Airport instead of Terminal 3, with pax advised to proceed directly to T2 for check-in.

Scot flight departures will remain at Changi Terminal 1.

MH, Travelport

MALAYSIA Airlines announced it has signed a multi-year renewal agreement with travel tech company Travelport, which will allow Travelport customers to access the airlines' future NDC content via the "next-gen travel retailing platform", Travelport+.



LAST night stakeholders from across the Australian and Austrian travel communities paid tribute to the stellar achievements of Astrid Gruchmann-Licht, who is leaving the Austrian National Tourist Office (ANTO) after 32 years of leading its local operations (**TD** 19 Sep).

A gala event at the Sydney Opera House was attended by travel agents, government representatives, members of the cultural and arts communities and more, with a host of accolades for Gruchmann-Licht's tenure which saw arrivals from Australia to Austria grow significantly - not to mention a host of creative activations, partnerships, families and more.

ANTO Director of Markets Heidi Tscharf gave Gruchmann-Licht a special honour from the Austrian

Government, recounting her local career which saw 26-year-old Astrid Licht arrive in 1991 to establish the local office.

A global restructure of ANTO will see Australia become part of the organisation's Asia Pacific region led from Bangkok, with the local operation's new leader Kathrina Denk to relocate to the office of Austrian Consul General, Karl Hartleb.

Gruchmann-Licht said despite being offered a new role within ANTO, the changes represented a "golden opportunity" for her to return to her hometown of Salzburg with her husband whom she married in 2019.

Gruchmann-Licht and Denk are **pictured** with former Opera Australia CEO Rory Jeffes, ANTO's Heidi Tscharf & Consul-General Karl Hartleb, who led the accolades.

BunnikTours

Join the original small group touring Specialists!

Bunnik Tours are looking for full-time Travel Specialists to join our growing Adelaide-based sales team. Are you:

- Passionate about travel with a customer-centric focus;
 - Highly motivated to strive for excellence in customer service & satisfaction;
 - Hungry to sell & have a drive to achieve targets & KPI's?
- The successful applicant must have a wealth of travel experience, exceptional rapport building skills with both clients & agents, be tech savvy & ready to connect our customers to the world.

Please submit a cover letter & CV via Seek.

APPLY NOW

CROATIA & SLOVENIA

Signature Journeys

2023 Cruise-Tours

by **BEYOND TRAVEL**

SAVE
up to
\$300
per cabin

Dorchester sales boss



DORCHESTER Collection has appointed Arabella El Barkouki (**pictured**) as its new Global Director of Sales.

The move is effective immediately, with El Barkouki to report to Dorchester VP Commercial Philip Morris.

Having previously been Dorchester's Regional Director of Sales for UK, Europe and Russia for four years from 2008, El Barkouki returns to the group from Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, where she was most recently VP of Global Sales Partners.

SLH offers villas

SMALL Luxury Hotels has unveiled a new Private Collection which currently features 76 private villas across 28 countries.

SLH said the range offers the privacy of a standalone villa with the "perks and services of a boutique hotel" - see slh.com/private.

COMO CONFIRMS SINGAPORE MOVE

COMO Hotels & Resorts yesterday confirmed details of a move into Singapore, with the planned 2023 opening of a new Como-branded luxury hotel property in the city centre.

Local representative Jonica Paramor said the newbuild would "take it back to where it all began", with the company based in the Lion City but until now only having hotels and resorts in other global destinations.

The 150-room newbuild will be located just off Orchard Rd, and will also feature an upmarket retail and dining precinct, Paramor confirmed.

The announcement was made as part of a national roadshow being undertaken by the ultra-luxury brand, showcasing to the Australian industry updates and reopenings of Como properties as various destinations emerge from the pandemic.



Demand has surged for Bhutan following the recent announcement that its border measures are being eased, while Como's operation at Fiji's Laucala Island Resort is also proving popular - along with strong demand in the Maldives, Thailand, Bali, Europe and more.

Meanwhile Como Perth, one of Australia's leading luxury CBD

hotels, is also seeing high levels of visitation from both international guests and Australian families seeking a luxury domestic break.

Pictured at yesterday's event are, from left: Jonica Paramor, Jocelyn Whiteside (Como Bhutan, Thailand and Fiji), Josefine Norman (Como Maldives), Gabi Vincent (Como Perth) and Eugene Feklistov (Como in Bali).

Boutique Lancemore Milawa opens to guests

LANCEMORE Group has announced the reopening of the reimagined Lancemore Milawa in Victoria's High Country, with the property said to "expand the vision of a contemporary country residence".

Lancemore CEO Julian Clark said the multimillion dollar transformation of the hotel aimed to cement the location as a "premiere destination

for luxury regional travel in Australia", with 40 rooms and suites complemented by an onsite restaurant and bar, two luxurious lounge areas & a pool - all set in delightful gardens.

Lancemore Milawa is set at the gateway of King Valley, within three hours' drive of Melbourne or an hour from Albury, and is surrounded by famed wineries and top-notch food producers - **CLICK HERE**.

Langham GC debut

PREMIUM travel advisors from across the country were among those hosted for the official opening of the new Langham, Gold Coast which opened its doors last week.

Queensland's newest luxury destination soft opened in Jun, but now also features the Michelin-starred fine dining eatery T'ang Court as well as the in-house Chuan Spa & Coral Moon cocktail bar.



VOYAGE COLLECTION

APRIL 2024 THROUGH MAY 2025

Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

LEARN MORE



Air Tahiti says oui

AIR Tahiti announced it will extend its new bi-weekly seasonal Seattle-Paris route from 12 Jun 2023.

The service, which heads to Paris from the carrier's Papeete base via the Seattle-Tacoma Int' Airport, was inaugurated on 05 Oct.

Combined with the five rotations programmed via LA, the new service means Air Tahiti will offer a total of seven weekly flights between Paris and Papeete from Jun to Aug 2023.

Menega's new GM

EMPORIUM Hotel South Bank will welcome Julie Manega onboard as its new General Manager from 01 Dec.

Taking over from John McIlwain, Manega will move from her current role of Director of Sales and Marketing, which she has filled for the company over the last decade.

Previous experience with Stamford Plaza Hotel Brisbane saw Manega work across operations, food & beverage, and more.

Talent scouts on the lookout



TOURISM Talent's Australian chief Chris Flynn is in Sydney this week to meet with the organisation's NSW GM, former Luna Park executive Mark Taylor (**TD** 21 Mar), as they target the ongoing workforce shortages in the inbound and outbound travel industry.

The specialist industry recruiter was initially established in New Zealand, followed by an Australian operation which launched just before the pandemic, and with recovery under way, is keen to ramp up its presence in the market.

As well as actually putting

people into jobs, they have a mission to educate the industry about recruitment, with a planned video series showcasing interviews on the topic with key corporate leaders.

Both Flynn and Taylor have extensive industry experience and contacts which they say sets Tourism Talent apart, with Flynn formerly director of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and Taylor also formerly Chairman of the NSW branch of ATEC.

See tourism-talent.com.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



The Dilly Hotel on London's Piccadilly is set to undergo an extensive £90 million refurbishment, after being acquired by Israeli hospitality company Fattal Group. The hotel, which first opened in 1908, features 283 rooms and suites, an indoor swimming pool, squash courts, basement bar Downstairs at the Dilly, and restaurant Madhu's at the Dilly, which serves Punjabi cuisine. It is yet to be revealed what the property will be renamed to.



The Westin Resort & Spa Ubud Bali has opened, marking the brand's debut in Bali. The resort comprises 120 contemporary guestrooms, suites and villas, in addition to several dining options such as all-day dining venue Tabia and The Lobby Bar, a wellness spa, 24/7 fitness studio, kids club, and two flexible meeting rooms.

Guests are ideally positioned to explore Ubud's attractions, with Ubud Monkey Forest and Ubud Royal Palace a short distance away.



Marriott International is preparing to bring its W Hotels brand to the Dominican Republic, with construction to begin soon on the **W All-Inclusive Punta Cana Uvero Alto**. The adults-only, all-inclusive luxury property will feature 349 guest rooms with balconies and plunge pools, as well as several suites, a spa with 11 treatment rooms, a retail area, three pools with pool bars and 11 food and beverage destinations. The resort is slated to open in 2025.

Apollo to meet

APOLLO Tourism & Leisure today confirmed the Supreme Court of Queensland has ordered that the postponed shareholder meeting in relation to its proposed merger with NZ-based Tourism Holdings Limited (**TD** 10 Dec 2021) will take place on 11 Nov.

The companies have also issued a "Replacement Scheme Booklet" which contains key information for shareholders to consider in evaluating the deal.

Seabourn special

CREATIVE Cruising is offering \$500 shipboard credit per suite on the first 10 Seabourn bookings deposited from today.

On top of that for select 2022-23 voyages booked, travel advisors will receive a bonus \$500 gift card for themselves, or \$1,000 for a penthouse suite or above - details 1300 362 599.

**CANADA
SPECIALIST
PROGRAM** 

WIN A WINTER FAMIL TO VANCOUVER AND WHISTLER

PHOTO: WHISTLER, GUY FATTAL

Sign up today to our free online training program:

- New training modules
- Canada famil opportunities
- CSP Webinars and E-newsletters
- Exclusive selling tools and itineraries
- Access to private CSP Facebook group

 **Register now**

CANADA 