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# Travel Daily First with the news

Thursday 17th Aug 2023



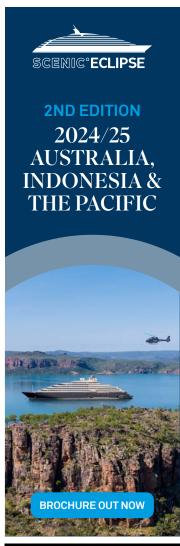
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MTA Sandra di Benedetto

#### Last chance to save!

TODAY is the last chance to save up to 35% on Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) voyages, as well as receive a \$500 airfare credit for select sailings, a free beverage package and more.

For more details, head to the cover page.



### **Travel resilient - Deloitte**

**THERE** is a strong propensity for Australian consumers to continue travelling for leisure even in the face of deteriorating economic conditions, according to Adele Labine-Romain from Deloitte Access Economics.

During a presentation at the BTTB Corporate Travel conference in Sydney, Labine-Romain said she has been very surprised at the resilience of the market particularly the way domestic travel has continued to hold up after the reopening of borders.

The pandemic has also changed many consumers' approach to travel, bringing forward "bucket list" trips, she told *Travel Daily*.

She also believes after years of spending on goods, consumers are now putting a much higher priority on travel expenditure even as they cut back elsewhere.

However "recovery is not even across segments" she noted, with holiday travel continuing to lag behind the well-documented VFR

demand which has seen airfares soar over the last 12 months.

Labine-Romain said high ticket prices means that "somehow we think we're back on track" with more cash flowing through the travel and tourism sector.

"But there are still fewer bodies moving around," she said, which impacts the entire economy.

Resilient domestic demand partly offsets income still lacking from international visitors, Labine-Romain added, but constrained flight capacity continues to be the key factor for Australian inbound tourism.

### Secure with no catch

**SECURE** exclusive group departures for clients with Entire Travel with no financial commitment required until six months before departures.

The company is also offering \$100 digital Mastercards for every booking - see page eight.

### Today's issue of TD

**TD** today has seven pages of news including a photo page from Silversea and Business **Events News,** plus a front cover wrap from Norwegian **Cruise Line** & full pages from:

- Entire Travel
- Emirates



**FARN MORE** 









### EK 47 weekly to LHR

**EMIRATES** will add five weekly frequencies between Dubai and London Heathrow Airport, with the additional services boosting overall flights to 47 weekly.

Seven return flights will operate every day except Sun and Mon.

#### Accor boosts NZ

ACCOR has signed a deal with N7-based Sarin Hotels to open a second Sebel-branded franchise apartment property in Wellington, titled the Sebel Wellington Thorndon.

Sarin already manages ibis Styles Invercargill and The Sebel Welllington Lower Hutt.

### APT ends Ama charters

#### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** long-term future of the iconic APT-branded river cruise product is unclear, after partner AmaWaterways confirmed it will establish a local office to sell its full portfolio via travel advisors in Australia and New Zealand.

APT played a key role in helping establish the river cruise segment here after founder Geoff McGearv took a stake in AmaWaterways in the mid-2000s, alongside Brendan Vacations' Murphy family and Ama co-founders Rudi Schreiner and Kristin Karst.

APT built its product around

full charters of AmaWaterways ships, with the partnership so strong that Geoff McGeary's daughter Louise and wife Anne are both godmothers of Ama vessels, along with other top APT partners such as APT Botanic World Discoveries founder Judy Vanrenen and Bicton Travel's Carole Smethurst.

However responding to an approach some weeks ago, **AmaWaterways Director Gary** Murphy told TD that "APT has chosen not to charter our ships past 2024 so we'll distribute our products ourselves in Australia".

APT declined an opportunity to comment on the new local competitor, while Murphy stressed that the AmaWaterways Australian business will be 100% trade-focused.

He will head here next month to set up the operation which will include an Australian-based call centre to provide full support, training and sales resources.

Australian dollar pricing will be offered for the full Ama portfolio including voyages in Europe, Southeast Asia, Egypt, Africa and next year Colombia, with Murphy confirming "we are prepared to start taking business in early Sep".

**APT Travel Group recently** announced it will offer both APT- and Travelmarvel-branded departures on its new MS Estrela Portugal river ship (TD 04 Jul), and continues to operate three Travelmarvel vessels in Europe. More in today's Cruise Weekly.

#### Crowie aboard ACA

IRONMAN Craig "Crowie" Alexander has been chosen as the keynote speaker at this year's Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Conference breakfast.

Taking place at the Novotel Wollongong Northbeach on 01 Sep, the breakfast session is the final event before the AGM.





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### **QR all smiles for Matildas**



**THE** disappointment of last night's Matildas defeat was somewhat softened for these fortunate guests of Qatar Airways, who enjoyed the match from the comfort of the QR Skybox at Sydney Olympic Park.

Guests included key trade partners who were hosted by Qatar Airways Regional Manager Jared Lee and local chief Justin Kestel, as part of Qatar Airways'

long-standing partnership as FIFA's Official Airline.

Pictured just before kickoff are, from left: Justin Kestel, Adam Joseph, Stella Vlahos and Marianne Apolinaro of QR with Stephen Pearse, Board of Airline Representatives Australia; Helloworld Travel's Stan Scott; Qatar Airways' Jared Lee; and Ram Chhabra and Nidhi Nijhawan of CVFR Travel Group.

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### **VA offers Lyon, Nice**

**VIRGIN** Australia is expanding its codeshare network in partnership with Qatar Airways, last week adding the VA code to QR's direct flights from Doha to Lvon and Nice.

### Aircalin adds more

AIRCALIN has announced it will add a second weekly flight to Nadi (Fiji) and Papeete (French Polynesia) from 06 Dec.

The flight will operate every Wed, and follows news this week that the carrier will also resume flights between Melbourne and Noumea in Dec (TD 16 Aug).

### The Largo debuts

A NEW 18-room hotel has opened in Porto in Portugal, cofounded by Per Enevoldsen, who also co-founded jewellery brand Pandora in 1982.

The Largo is intended to make guests feel like they are staying in a traditional Portuguese home.





### **SINGAPORE**

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Express Travel Group, which is holding its ETGX conference in Singapore this weekend.

**THE** hotly anticipated ETGX gathering will provide an opportunity for Express Travel Group CEO Tom Manwaring to address his members for the first time since the finalisation of the Helloworld acquisition.

HLO MD Andrew Burnes will also present his vision for the newly expanded company, while Dean Long from the newly minted Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is expected to make further revelations on stage, making for a packed program - watch TD for all the details.







## THE whole country got behind

the Matildas for last night's FIFA match against England, and Crown Resorts was no exception.

With Crown Sydney Director of Sales, Michael Fletcher, currently in Las Vegas for Virtuoso Travel Week, it would have been a very late night watching the match.

Matildas captain Sam Kerr scored the only Aussie goal in the match, meaning Fletcher's extreme rebranding of Crown's Sydney, Melbourne and Perth hotels became even more appropriate.

We're not sure how long the supportive signage (pictured) will remain in place, but according to images posted by Fletcher on social media, the properties are all now part of 'Kerr-rown Resorts'.



Kerr-rown Towers Melbourne



Burswood's Kerr-rown Perth



Kerr-rown Sydney

### No Maui for Aug

**THE** latest guidance from Hawaii regarding travel to the disasterstruck island of Maui is strongly urging travellers to defer all travel plans to the west of the island until at least 31 Aug.

The state's Governor, Josh Green, has confirmed all hotels in West Maui have temporarily stopped accepting bookings for future reservations, with Lahaina, Napili, Ka'anapali, and Kapalua all listed as places to avoid for future trips while the areas recover from devastating bushfires.

Governor Green is encouraging those changing travel plans to consider others areas of Hawaii unaffected by the tragedy.

### Epic Australia '24

THE Epic Australia Pass is on sale now for the 2024 winter season, providing unlimited access to Perisher, Falls Creek and Hotham, as well as popular resorts around the world.

Priced at \$959, travellers can pay \$49 upfront and the rest in May 2024 - see **HERE.** 

### Flying with Matilda

**BONZA** will name its next aircraft 'Matilda', after the plane's namesake soccer team won Australia's heart during the Women's World Cup.

The fifth plane is due to arrive next year after Bonza's Gold Coast base launch, joining the likes of Sheila, Shazza and Bazza.

### Vietjet discounts

**BUDGET** carrier Vietjet is marking Vietnam National Day by offering 2 million discounted tickets to Ho Chi Minh City.

The celebratory offer applies to routes from Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney, as well as services from Vietnam to other Asian destinations.

Travellers only have until 22 Aug to take advantage of the promotion, which is valid for travel periods between 06 Sep and 31 Mar 2024.

TRAINING ACADEM



### BTTB winner off to NYC



YESTERDAY'S 2023 BTTB Corporate Travel Conference wrapped up with a special award recognising two-way excellence in travel management.

The hotly contested Travel **Buyer-Supplier Relationship** Award was accepted by Cherie Men on behalf of Elite Woodhams Relocation and Shae Anderson from key supply partner Quest Apartments/The Ascott Limited, pictured with award presenter Anna Piper from Travel Daily.

### VN expanding MEL

VIETNAM Airlines is set to add a third weekly frequency on the Melbourne-Hanoi route.

GDS screens indicate the services will utilise A350-900XWBs departing each Mon, Wed and Fri, while VN will also maintain three weekly Sydney-Hanoi A350 flights.

Runner-up plaques were also awarded to NSW Treasury/FCM and Sanitarium/CTM.

The major prize was return Business class flights to New York courtesy of United Airlines, along with Big Apple accommodation from BWH and a ticket to the upcoming Skift Global Forum.

### Ovolo CX collab

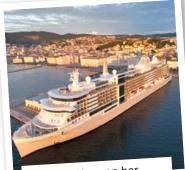
**OVOLO** Hotels is partnering with Cathay Pacific to offer a new plant-based menu, based on the offering from the hotelier's Hong Kong based eatery VEDA by Ovolo.

The agreement will see a "huge variety of tantalising, thoughtfully crafted plant-forward options" offered to Premium Economy and Economy class passengers, with a rotating selection of dishes under the newly created menus from now until Jun 2024.



## Travel Daily

Thu 17th August 2023



**SILVER** Nova on her maiden voyage this week.



MICHAEL Middleton from My Cruise with Fiona Prosser at Globetrotter and Silversea's Phillippa Walker.

### Silver Nova's impressive preview

**LAST** week Silversea hosted a three-day architectural preview of its newest ship, *Silver Nova*, prior to her maiden voyage.

Valued travel partners and members of the press attended a roundtrip voyage from Venice on board the exciting new vessel.

One of the most environmentally conscious ultra-luxury cruise ships ever built, *Silver Nova* is Silversea's 12th ship and the first to launch this year for Royal Caribbean Group, becoming the 64th ship in its global fleet.

Guests enjoyed enriching experiences both onboard and ashore - they experienced *Silversea Nova*'s impressive range of luxurious bars, restaurants, and lounges, and Otium, the cruise line's Roman-inspired wellness program, complete with all-new enhancements. Innovative culinary program, Sea and Land Taste (S.A.L.T.) was also enjoyed, billed as an ecosystem of culinary discovery, immersive excursions ashore, food lectures, hands-on culinary experiences, and more.



JASON Liberty, President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Caribbean Group; Barbara Muckermann President and CEO of Silversea; and Bernard Meyer, Meyer Group.

ROB Warner from Clean Cruising with MTA Travel's Sharyn Owen.



PHILIPPA Walker, Silversea; Cherie Bowman, Lux by itravel; Fiona Prosser, Globetrotter; and Lucy Bellamu, Lux by itravel. Back: Candice Van Den Bos, Infinity Holidays NZ; Carla Oscuro, Captains Choice; and Noriye Oto, Our Vacation Centre.



SALLY Riu, Lion Travel; Rob Warner, Globenet; Kenneth Yau, Silversea; Massimo Brancaleoni, Silversea; Fiona Prosser, Globetrotter; Donal O'Sullivan, Cruise World NZ; and Carla Oscuro, Captains Choice.



CHEWING the fat are Vicki Van Tassel, Cruise Director; Adam Sachs, Director, S.A.L.T; Roberto Bruzzone, SVP Marine Operations; Barbara Muckermann, Silversea President; Jason Liberty, CEO Royal Caribbean Group; and Captain Cosimo Pontillo, Silver Nova.



SILVER Novo's reimagined pool deck, which overlooks the water on her starboard side, and all-new outdoor venues exemplifying her unique openness to the destination.



**ASTRID** Richardson, Travel Associates; David Brandon, Savenio; Liam Jarman, Savenio; and Donal O'Sullivan, Cruise World.



businesseventsnews.com.au

#### This is Gold Coast

**THE** Destination Gold Coast **Business Events Team has** secured \$50 million in leads with its signature business events famil, This is Gold Coast 2023 (TIGC23).

Around 80 event planners, conference organisers and media representatives from Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia participated in the three-day familiarisation program, which showcased the city's best venues, culture and experiences for meetings.

TIGC23 featured a fullday trade show at the Gold Coast Convention and **Exhibition Centre with more** than 40 tourism partners and products, plus a series of networking events and activations at multiple venues across the Gold Coast.

### Conference offers

**PALAIS** Royale Blue Mountains has launched a 15% Conference Boost campaign, giving planners a 15% discount on half- and full-day meeting packages and 15% off best available overnight stay rates for mid-week stays - email sales@ palaisrovale.com.au to book before 31 Sep.

**MEANWHILE**, Danang Marriott Resort & Spa in Vietnam is offering one free room night for every 20 room nights booked and a 60-min welcome reception with free-flow soft drinks or beer for bookings made by 30 Sep - CLICK HERE.

### **FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR AOTEAROA**

IT'S all systems go for New Zealand's business events industry, after the country's government lifted all remaining COVID-19 restrictions this week, including mandatory seven-day isolation.

**Business Events Industry** Aotearoa has welcomed the announcement, with chief Lisa Hopkins (pictured) saying the association is "thrilled this has finally happened".

"Conference delegates and incentive visitors will no longer have to isolate for seven days and can manage their own health requirements without any compulsory mandates.

"Events organisers and delegates can now plan with confidence and be assured New Zealand's approach to the pandemic has moved from an emergency response to sustainable long-term management."

#### **Smart Studio**

**HILTON** Singapore, the largest Hilton hotel in Asia Pacific, has unveiled Smart Studio, a brand-new meeting space featuring five versatile function rooms.

Each room is equipped with the latest audio-visual and meeting technology, including 98-inch LED screens with video conferencing capabilities, and there's also a communal lounge fover where delegates can gather.

The positive news comes after Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) secured the annual Amway Distributor seminar, which is expected to deliver around NZ\$40 million to the country's economy.

Nearly 10,000 of Amway China's top achievers will make their way to Auckland and Queenstown between Oct and Dec 2023, with the program including visits to Rotorua and Aoraki Mount Cook.

Prior to COVID-19, China was NZ's second largest market, and has contributed over NZ\$1.7 billion to its economy, with Chinese delegates often travelling in off-peak seasons and engaging in a range of activities.

TNZ Chief Rene de Monchy said "securing the Amway China visit is not only a win for our industry but will help to provide a cash injection into New Zealand's retail, accommodation,

### Mentor at MEA!

**MEETINGS** & Events Australia (MEA) has announced a second round this year for its mentor program, set to run between 01 Sep - 30 Nov.

The program promises to equip planners with the skills and knowledge necessary to hold senior event management positions.

MEA members have until 23 Aug to express their interest see HERE for details.



hospitality and transport sectors during our off-peak season."

MEANWHILE, Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre has appointed Nathan Gardiner as the new Head of Technology and Innovation.

He is tasked with managing the centre's audio-visual and information communication technology functions, with the goal of ensuring it remains on the cutting edge of innovation in the events industry.

### **DMC Down Under**

**AUSTRALIA** Conferences & Incentives (ACI) has joined the DMC Network, a consortium of global destination management companies, as its first Asia-Pacific member.

ACI will help the network expand into the Aussie market, and allow it to cater to "widespread interest from clients to venture further abroad and put together bucket list experiences".



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### **APPOINTMENTS**

Send your new appointments to: appointments@traveldaily.com.au

Scott Eger has started his role as General Manager at Sofitel Adelaide. Eger brings more than two decades of experience in the hotel industry, having worked in similar senior and general managerial roles, including as General Manager at Mayfair Hotel and Novotel Sydney Darling Square prior to that.

Succeeding the retiring Sam Saxton, Delphine Cassidy has been appointed as Jayride's new Independent Non-Executive Director. The Melbourne-based executive was previously the Non-Executive Director for property builder Simonds Group where she had also served as the Chair of the Nomination Committee. She is currently the CCO at mining services business Orica.

Guy Hutchinson has been appointed President for Middle East & Africa at Hilton Hotels. Beginning early next year, Hutchinson will oversee around 300 properties in the region, either already open or in the pipeline, as well as leading a workforce of over 29,000 employees. Prior to returning to Hilton, the experienced hotelier was with Rotana Hotels as its President and CEO since 2020.

Bringing over 15 years of tourism development experience, Bradley Nardi has been appointed as VisitBritain's new Commercial Manager for Australia and New Zealand. Nardi will oversee VisitBritain's strategic relationships and trade engagement across the ANZ market. He was the previously inaugural General Manager in the Northern River region of NSW at Tweed Tourism Company, and joins the organisation at a time of sharp growth in Aussie visitation.

World Travel Protection has promoted Brisbane-based Cheryl Hood to the position of Global Client Relationship Director. Continuing her 13-year journey with the organisation, Hood will now provide enhanced support and account management for WTP's worldwide clients and operations, as well as take charge of the sales teams in Australia. She was most recently the group's Client Relationship Director.

Niall Kelly has joined Aimbridge Hospitality as its Head of Business Development EMEA. Kelly will focus on growing the company's portfolio and footprint across Europe, Middle East and Africa. Kelly brings over 25 years of experience in deal-making with more than 220 hotel transactions in the international market and he was most recently the Managing Director of NK Hotels in Ireland for 11 years.

Aviation industry veteran Samantha Bennett has been appointed as the new General Manager at Tourism Top End, effective from 28 Aug. Continuing her tenure with the tourism body, the transition will see her shifting from the Director on the board to the GM role. She is also the Operation Manager at Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia and had an almost 16-year stint with Qantas as its Planning Officer.



### Mollie completes final leg



**KYUSHU** Tourism Organization recently had the honour of hosting Aussie swimming champion and gold medallist Mollie O'Callaghan. after her world record-breaking performance in the FINA World Championships in Fukuoka.

Joined by her sister Sophie, the 19-year-old swimming sensation enjoyed a luxury adventure stay on the Japanese island, sharing the highlights with her fans on her social platforms.

Her itinerary included a visit to Monkey Mountain, white water rafting on the Kuma River in Kumamoto, and kayaking in the mangroves and snorkelling the reefs of Amami Island.

O'Callaghan (pictured) also experienced Japanese culture and tradition through activities including a mud dyeing experience, Kiriko glass workshop and exploring Kumamoto Castle.

During her trip, the talented athlete offered swimming lessons at a local school in Kagoshima

to inspire the next generation of Japanese swimmers, with the thoughtful gesture picked up by the Japanese media and broadcast across the country.

"I had so much fun, I really loved it and it was a great opportunity to come out here to the school," O'Callaghan shared.

"It's very inspiring to see for myself the next up and coming generation of Japanese swimmers," she added.

### Crystalbrook offers

LUXURY has never been so affordable with Crystalbrook Collection, which is offering up to 40% discounts across its entire Aussie portfolio of properties.

The promo is valid for stays between 01 Sep 2023 and 28 Mar 2024, with rates per night from as a low as \$209 at Crystalbrook Albion and Crystalbrook Bailey.

The sale ends 28 Aug - for details, CLICK HERE.



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