## Travel Daily First with the news

MEGA-FAM 14-18 MARCH

Wednesday 1st Feb 2023

#### Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, including a photo page from Bonza, plus a full page from Regent Seven Seas Cruises and a product update from Nightcap Hotels.

#### **RSSC** free upgrades

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises is offering guests a free twocategory suite upgrade, plus a 7.5% reduced deposit across every destination until 2025.

Travel advisors will earn a \$250 David Jones gift card for each new deposited booking made by 31 Mar - see **page eight** for details.

#### Nightcap reaches 75

**NIGHTCAP** Hotels has marked a major milestone, reaching 75 hotels nationwide after the recent opening of three new properties across NSW, Queensland and South Australia.

To learn more about the ALHowned brand, see **page nine**.

#### Watch & win Canada

**AGENTS** who participate in Destination Canada's new Canada Mini-Series webinar will have the chance to win a spot on the next Canada Specialists famil in Oct.

Available now on-demand via the Destination Webinars library, agents will need to watch all four parts of the series, which are 15mins long, by 01 Mar to get four entries into the draw.

To watch part one of the series, **CLICK HERE**.

### AACB ticks biz events body

AUSTRALIA'S business events sector is set to be represented by a "new well-resourced peak body" under a unanimously supported resolution proposed at a special general meeting of the Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB).

The vote will see AACB align with the Exhibition and Events Association of Australia (EEAA) and the Australian Convention Centres Group (ACCG), with AACB President, Michael Matthews, saying "a new industry peak body with a sustainable business model will be able to achieve far more and have greater influence than the status quo of smaller underresourced groups with competing priorities".

The combined group will have a single voice to government, with

#### Flinders eco camp

**WORLD** Expeditions has opened a new Eco-Comfort Camp on Tasmania's Flinders Island, offering guests a secluded and private beachfront destination.

The camp features seven sleeping tents along with a communal recreation and dining platform, which serves meals created from local produce, and operates on solar power, uses collected rainwater, and has compostable toilets.

The new six-day 'Flinders Island Walking Adventure in Comfort' includes five nights in the camp with meals, camping gear and return flights from Bridport. Matthews saying the outcome is a key step for the industry, coming at a critical time to face future challenges and strive together for growth towards 2030 targets.

DISNED

AACB CEO Andrew Hiebl noted Australia's convention bureaux are representative of some 1,800 businesses across the country.

"It is in their best interest that city and regional convention bureaux have collectively made this decision," he said.

The EEAA has also formally voted in favour of the new body (*TD* 15 Dec 2022), with the groups to now jointly work to establish its structure and governance.



#### FC raises \$180m

Disneyland

CALIFORNIA

**FLIGHT** Centre has successfully raised \$180 million through fully paid ordinary shares from existing and new investors to help fund the acquisition of the UK travel brand Scott Dunn (*TD* 31 Jan).

Flight Centre's CEO Graham Turner said he was "very pleased" with the support shown by investors, adding that "the acquisition of Scott Dunn will enable us to grow our leisure presence in the attractive US and UK luxury markets".

Approximately 12.3 million new shares were issued under the placement at a discounted price of \$14.60 per new share, a 7.8% discount on the latest share price.

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ANY fans of the suspenseful smash hit TV show thriller *White Lotus* will be enthralled to know that the villas in Italy used as the setting for season two of the series are now available to rent on Airbnb.

Villa Tasca is located in Palermo and features more than 20 acres of garden space which includes the infamous swimming pool and four bedrooms featured in the show, while other amenities include a billiards room, music room, bar and full service staff - eccellente!



#### **CLIA Masters in Mar**

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) will kick off its latest Masters Program on 20 Mar, allowing top cruise specialist travel agents to attain the initiative's highest qualification.

The six-week course, which is self-paced and includes a weekly virtual meeting, is exclusively available to CLIA agents in Australasia who have already achieved Ambassador status.

Participants will learn how to pursue new revenue streams, stand out in a competitive retail environment, develop brand strategies and business planning skills, enhance their personal strengths, reach their target audience, as well as capitalise on data and technology.

Upon completing the course, successful participants will receive 100 accreditation points and become a CLIA Cruise Master, achieving a higher search ranking on the CLIA Australasia website.

For more info, CLICK HERE.



**BECOMING** the Bonza base is just the beginning for Sunshine Coast Airport, CEO Andrew Brodie shared at the airline's launch yesterday, revealing that the airport has also been named as the third international gateway into Australia for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics.

"Where we're sitting today is the Sunshine Coast's international terminal, so it's where people are welcomed into our country and farewelled from our country so we have a lot of work to do to improve this facility.

"We're going to invest close to a billion dollars in infrastructure we've already spent close to \$400 million dollars and we're going to spend another \$600 million in upgrades.

"We've spent approximately \$150 million dollars improving the domestic terminal, we will expand our general aviation precinct and create a hub out of our gateway precinct which will include the first food and drink manufacturing facility here on this airport.

"We look forward to working with similar partners to help us bring this to life and not only grow our domestic network, but also strengthen our international capacity," Brodie concluded. Reaffirming this funding,

Queensland Minister for

Investment, Cameron Dick shared that "Bonza's decision to base itself in the Sunshine Coast is a great vote of confidence, not just in our [Queensland] state, but in our state's future...this is exactly the sort of investment we need.

"As we look toward that maroon runway that runs to 2032, to the greatest event in the world that will be happening in our backyard, we know that the tourism industry and airlines like Bonza will be part of that great tourism story."

**Pictured** giving a big thumbs up to Bonza, Andrew Brodie, CEO Sunshine Coast Airport; Stirling Hinchliffe, Qld Minister for Tourism and Sport; Cameron Dick, Qld Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment; with Bonza CEO Tim Jordan.

### Qatar entry change

**TRAVELLERS** entering Qatar on a visitor's visa must now have approved health insurance coverage for emergencies and accidents prior to arrival, the country's Ministry of Public Health has confirmed.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has indicated that Hayya cards, already obtained by some travellers to enter Qatar during the 2022 FIFA World Cup, may be used for entry until Jan 2024.

#### Saudi stopover visas

**A NEW** Stopover Visa is now available to Australian travellers flying to their final destination with SAUDIA and flynas in a bid to make Saudi Arabia more accessible to tourists.

The new visa option allows passengers to stay in the country for up to 96 hours, and also offers visitors a complimentary onenight hotel stay when travellers book through SAUDIA.

To mark the launch, the country's tourism body has created 24-, 48-, 72- and 96-hour itineraries to inspire visitors to check out attractions such as Jeddah's Al-Balad and the Al-Turaif district in Diriyah.

The new stopover visa has been digitally integrated with airline booking engines and can be obtained within three minutes.



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## Livn makes it even easier

#### EXCLUSIVE

**OPEN** Connectivity Hub Livn has announced a revamp of its Reseller API to assist stakeholders within the travel sector combat an ever-increasing technical complexity within the tours, attractions and activities space.

The latest version of the API, which uses the power of more than 20 tour reservation systems, is aimed at being a "game-changing" innovation for those operating in the tours and activities sales ecosystem, allowing travellers, tour operators, travel agents and resellers to connect directly with each other through one convenient solution.

Speaking with Travel Daily about the launch. Livn founder and COO Steve Martinez said his company was in a unique position to help lead the change in the way itineraries in the events and activities segments are sold,

stating that once customers integrate to Livn's revamped API, they will benefit from a stable system that will intuitively grow with the changing environment, no matter what permutations may arise on the landscape.

"Once integrated to our API, customers can be rest assured that they won't have to do much else or worry about the ever-changing environment downstream because we're handling all that complexity for them; we are delivering something very simple that will change as things evolve," Martinez said.

Other benefits include all products providing necessary information such as metadata, geolocation, images, T&Cs, and cancellation policies, with resellers also guaranteed all products will behave identically regardless of which reservation system they originate from. For more details, CLICK HERE.



#### **NZ** Tourism Minister

THE departure of former NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has led to cabinet reshuffle this week, with new PM Chris Hipkins announcing that Peeni Henare has picked up the tourism portfolio from Stuart Nash.

Nash has been moved on to handle economic development, forestry, police, oceans and fisheries, while Henare acquires the tourism portfolio after a stint as Defence Minister.

Henare's grandfather was James Henare, a former National Party MP, and his father Erima Henare, was the former head of the Maori Language Commission.

#### Win a Chimu trip!

CHIMU Adventures is giving eight lucky Australian travel agents the chance to experience the best of Antarctica on a famil aboard Ocean Endeavour.

There are three ways to be in the running: be one of five topsellers; be one of two randomly drawn winners (must meet certain requirements); or earn the title of 'Best Dressed Store'.

The incentive coincides with the Great Chimu Sale, which offers discounts of up to 45% and exclusive trade offers on over 400 itineraries for the 2023/24 season.

The incentive runs from 09 Jan until 20 Mar - CLICK HERE.

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## QF teams with PETstock

**PET-LOVING** Qantas flyers can now earn Qantas Points when shopping online or in-store at PETstock, thanks to a new partnership between Qantas Frequent Flyer and the Aussieowned pet supply company.

Pet owners will earn one Qantas Point per dollar spent at PETstock and five bonus Qantas Points per dollar spent when making repeat purchases of participating brands stocked in-store or online.

Customers will also be able to

#### NZ Chateau closure

**CHATEAU** Tongariro Hotel in New Zealand has revealed it is set to close its doors permanently at the end of the week.

The hotel is not taking any new bookings after it was found its infrastructure no longer met current safety standards, which will see it close on Sun.

Chateau Tongariro had been in consultation with New Zealand's Department of Conservation regarding the renewal of its 30year lease, but a recent seismic assessment found underground shifts over time meant the safest course of action was to close the hotel, rather than renovate.

Kevin Peeris, Senior Vice President of Chateau Tongariro's parent company, told radio broadcaster *RNZ* it is "disappointing" the iconic hotel has been forced to shut its doors.

#### VV turns Starboard

VIRGIN Voyages has announced it will now be working with LVMH company Starboard Cruise Services to manage its onboard retail experiences.

The two companies will collectively curate the portfolio of brands and custom-designed collections guests will discover on Virgin's ships.

The update comes after the cruise line and its retail partner Harding agreed to "mutually part ways", but still be friends. earn Qantas Points on PETstock's range of eligible services, including grooming, puppy school, and veterinary services.

"Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world and adding more value to the growing spend on pets is great news for members," Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth said.

"Frequent flyers significantly boost their points balance every year through everyday spending like shopping at Woolworths and filling up at BP, and now they can earn points on their pet care too."

Qantas customers will need to join PETstock Rewards and link their Qantas Frequent Flyer details to their account before shopping in order to take advantage of the new benefits.

The partnership also allows customers to join the Qantas Frequent Flyer program for free when shopping at PETstock. For T&Cs, **CLICK HERE**.

#### **New Greenland trip**

QUARK Expeditions has launched a brand new Greenland Explorer itinerary.

Developed around *Ultramarine's* two onboard helicopters, the 11day Sail & Soar the Alpine Arctic cruise will launch next year.

Guests will be able to explore the scenic landscapes and natural beauty of South Greenland as they experience heli-hiking, helilanding, and much more.

Passengers will also be able to set foot on the Greenland ice sheet, the second-largest body of ice in the world.

While there, travellers can also visit one of the most welcoming populations in South Greenland and experience first-hand the rich cultural history, captivating stories, vibrant local agriculture, tourism economy, and excellent cuisine, including a one-of-a-kind culinary experience.

For more information about the new itinerary, **CLICK HERE**.

### **Entire Travel gears for growth**



**ENTIRE** Travel Group has welcomed seven new full-time staff members to its Canada, Islands and Europe sales teams this month, ahead of an anticipated surge in travel demand over the northern hemisphere summer.

The new additions, which include two ex-Flight Centre agents, bring a wide range of travel experience, including frontline and managerial roles across retail and wholesale.

The group met up in Sydney recently for an intensive onboarding program, which included training on Entire's predesigned, independent holiday packages, as well as its website booking platform.

"We are expecting record-level enquiries this year as pent-up demand is fully unleashed," Sales and Marketing Director Greg McCallum said, adding the company is confident that the desire for overseas travel will continue to boom over the next 12 months.

#### DoubleTree debut

HILTON Hotels & Resorts has opened its first location in Japan's Hokuriku region with the debut of DoubleTree by Hilton Toyama.

The hotel is conveniently located within a three-minute walk to the Toyama Station and only a 20-minute drive to the nearby Toyama Airport.

The 13-storey, 201room DoubleTree Toyama features contemporary guest accommodations with five room types, ranging from 26m<sup>2</sup> layouts for up to three people to a 79m<sup>2</sup> Premium suite which can accommodate up to four. "As always, we intend to stay ahead of that surge, which is why we are investing now to ensure our travel agent partners consistently enjoy the highest levels of support throughout 2023," he concluded.

**Pictured** at the North Sydney office are Sales & Marketing Director Greg McCallum (left) with the company's new arrivals.

#### MH provides Auckland assistance

MALAYSIA Airlines will be operating an additional flight from Auckland International Airport to Kuala Lumpur International Airport tomorrow to assist passengers who were impacted by the recent flight cancellations.

Customers wishing to travel on the one-off service can book a seat on MH130, which is scheduled to depart at 3am local time via Malaysia Airlines' official website **HERE**.

# Pacific Encounter makes a splash

**P&O** Cruises Australia's *Pacific Encounter* has made a "double splash" this week, as she heads to Singapore to undergo a threeweek dry dock, adding new Twin-Racer waterslides.

*Encounter* is currently on her way to Singapore after earlier this week becoming the first ship in P&O Australia's fleet to call into Darwin since the resumption of cruising after the pandemic.

Other additions during the Brisbane-based *Encounter's* dry dock will include the P&O Edge Adventure Park, which will be located 10 metres above Deck 16.



luxury@traveldaily.com.au Wednesday 1st Feb 2023

#### New London Emory

MAYBOURNE Hotel Group, which operates London's prestigious Claridge's, The Connaught and The Berkeley Hotels, has announced a fourth property will open in the British capital.

The new Emory will be located in Knightsbridge and is set to open towards the end of 2023.

The property will feature 60 "extraordinary, light-filled suites" set over nine floors of a building overlooking Hyde Park, with each level showcasing the work of a different world-class designer.

The Emory will also have a spectacular rooftop accessible only to hotel guests, while famed chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten will bring his New York culinary concepts to London for the first time.

#### Belmond refurb

**BELMOND** has announced the refurbishment of its luxury property in Portofino, as part of the group's long-term plan to rejuvenate its global portfolio.

A former 16th-century Benedictine monastery, Splendido, A Belmond Hotel, Portofino, will undergo a multiphase renovation, with the first phase due to be completed in early Jun this year with a new pool area, a redesigned Baronessa Suite and an intimate family villa dining experience.

# OCEANIA BRINGS LUXURY ALLURA

**OCEANIA** Cruises has revealed the name of its eighth luxury vessel, *Allura*, which represents the brand's second 1,200-guest Allura Class ship.

Currently under construction at Fincantieri in Italy, the 67,000-tonne newbuild will begin her inaugural season in the northern hemisphere spring 2025, visiting boutique destinations across Europe and the Americas.

Oceania Cruises will release more details on *Allura*'s itineraries this northern hemisphere spring, before the voyages go on sale in the summer.

The vessel will offer new dining experiences including Ember, an upscale signature restaurant serving reimagined American classics, and Aquamar Kitchen.

Guests will also enjoy the largest standard staterooms, all with verandas, and a new Chef's

#### La Collection flags Indonesia property

LA COLLECTION, the upmarket representation business operated by Craig Farrell and Lea Seguier, will expand into yet another new territory later this week, with the addition of a new luxury property in Indonesia.

Full details are expected to be revealed in the coming days - see Fri's issue of *Travel Daily* for more information.



Studio space.

"We are always looking for ways to evolve, elevate and modernise our offerings to continuously surprise and delight our discerning guests as they enjoy immersive new experiences," President Frank Del Rio Jr said.

Del Rio added *Allura* will be "equally as popular" as sister ship *Vista*, whose 2023 maiden season is already sold out ahead of her debut sailing in May (*TD* 09 Dec 2022).

"Allura's inaugural journeys are designed to appeal to all global travellers, whether they revel in the joy that comes with reconnecting with favourite destinations or are excited to discover new places and sights for the very first time," he added.

#### Resplendent Ceylon adds new boutique brand

**SRI** Lanka's Resplendent Ceylon has launched two new properties under the Reverie Brand, with the additions including Kayaam House in Tangle and the shortly-to-open Ahu Bay in Ahungalla.

Reverie hotels are a "collection of laid-back boutique properties which embrace the slow pace of life that the island embodies," according to Resplendent Ceylon MD Malik Fernando.

The offerings in terms of guest experience will be similar to that of the mainstay Resplendent Ceylon hotels, but will focus on smaller, intimate properties across Sri Lanka.

A third Reverie hotel will debut in Dec this year: Kelburne Estate, which will be a collection of hillside cottages in the tea-carpeted mountains of Haputale - see thereverie.life.

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BONZA CEO, Tim Jordan, ready to board.

## Bonza's big day!

AN EXCITED crowd of purple could be seen at Sunshine Coast Airport yesterday morning, as local community members, special guests, and stakeholders boarded the new Boeing 737-MAX-8 known as 'Bazza', for Bonza's very first flight.

As Bazza took to the skies guests on board applauded, giving Bonza a big thumbs up before checking out the new in-flight app to order some iconic Aussie delicacies, including of course, the famed 'Snag-in-a-bag'.

Bonza's first flight travelled on one of its 27 routes, heading from Sunshine Coast Airport to Whitsunday Coast Airport.

Guests were then taken to the iconic Airlie Beach, where a lunch of seafood and local produce was enjoyed right on the beach, in celebration of an historic day in aviation history.



A SEA of purple and a big thumbs up for Bonza!







A VERY Bonza welcome on arrival to Whitsunday Coast Airport.



FROM one airport to another, Sunshine Coast Airport CEO Andrew Brodie gifts Whitsunday Coast Airport CEO, Craig Turner, a souvenir to celebrate their ongoing collaboration.

ANDREW Brodie, Sunshine Coast Airport CEO, takes Bonza CCO Carly Povey for a tuk-tuk ride around Airlie Beach.



G'DAY from Airlie Beach.





about the exciting flight on arrival to the Whitsundays.





### 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.



Choice Hotels International has unveiled a new property under its upscale brand, Cambria Hotels, in Texas. Cambria Hotel Austin Uptown Near the Domain is a five-storey, 135-room hotel located near several attractions, including the Rock Rose

Entertainment District. The hotel features multi-purpose indoor and outdoor spaces for work and relaxation, a fitness centre, onsite dining and contemporary guest rooms with spa-style bathrooms.



Nobu Hospitality has announced Nobu Hotel & Residences Al Marjan Island in the United Arab Emirates, underscoring its presence in the Middle East. It will be the brand's second hotel development in the UAE, following the announcement of an Abu Dhabi location late last year. The hotel will offer almost eight

kilometres of unspoiled beaches and waterfront views of the Persian Gulf, and will encompass a spa, a fitness facility, and more.



Mint House has announced a new location in Florida, Mint House at Metro St. Petersburg. The hotel will open its doors in the northern spring, marking the third Florida location for the tech-first hospitality brand, and the first in the state outside of

Miami. Mint House St. Petersburg will bring spacious, high-end apartment-style accommodation to the Tampa Bay area, offering 100 keys in the city's thriving Edge District.

### McNeil hops aboard

**HURTIGRUTEN** Expeditions has announced the appointment of Alex McNeil as SVP Expeditions Product and Guest Experience, where he will be tasked with developing the brand's next generation of expedition cruises.

McNeil has completed over 100 expeditions over his 15-year-long career, including reaching the Geographic North Pole on 14 separate occasions, and specialises in sustainable adventure travel.

### **ITB Berlin is online**

**ITB** Berlin's convention program is now available online, with leading travel industry figures this year discussing the topic of "mastering transformation".

Among those sharing their vision for tomorrow's tourism industry will be TUI Chief Executive Officer Sebastian Ebel, Singapore Tourism Board chief Keith Tan, and UNWTO Director Dirk Glaesser.

The comprehensive program is available online HERE.

NGAPORE W TRAINING ACADEM



Bonza "never say never

AUSTRALIA'S newest airline is here to stay, affirmed Bonza Chief **Commercial Officer Carly Povey** (pictured) earlier this week.

"We're incredibly confident that we're here for the long-term and will earn the right to grow," the CCO enthused.

Currently Bonza bookings can only be made by customers directly through the app, or through a travel agent, with Povey explaining that "the very, very large majority of our [Bonza's] bookings are coming through the app".

However, Povey explained that the airline will "never say never" to further partnerships with the travel trade in the future.

"We've tried to keep it quite simple to start with, whenever we get too complicated we not only start to bring cost into the equation but we have to make sure that we're being deliberate.

"We've got a lot of interest in group travel, we've got a lot of people looking to book us for events, and I think that's something that with the travel trade we can look to partner on.

### Plantation update

**PLANTATION** Island Resort in Fiji has announced the closure of its Black Coral Grill restaurant until 03 Mar, however guests are still able to dine at the property's other venues in the meantime, including the Copra Restaurant, Tavola, and the Snack Hut.

The property has also advised that its kids eat free policy applies to all dining areas except Tavola, with the age changing to 11 years and under from 01 Apr.



"For the travel agents, an investment in that is a sign to say 'we really want to partner, let's now look at what the opportunity sits like beyond it'.

"So my question to them would be, 'what more should we do?'", Povey concluded.

#### Martin of the future

FORMER CEO of Qantas Founders Museum, Tony Martin, has joined Outback Pioneers as Business Futures Director, where he will help the Longreach tourism enterprise plan and develop future projects and partnerships.

During his time leading the Qantas Founders Museum, Martin led major infrastructure expansion and delivered the museum's new Luminescence Longreach experience.

Martin also worked as General Manager of Outback Queensland Tourism Association, a Longreach Shire Councillor and as Director of Operations for the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb and Story Bridge Climb.

He began his role with Outback Pioneers on 23 Jan, and will work with the company's partners, plus govt and tourism organisations.

### Travel Daily

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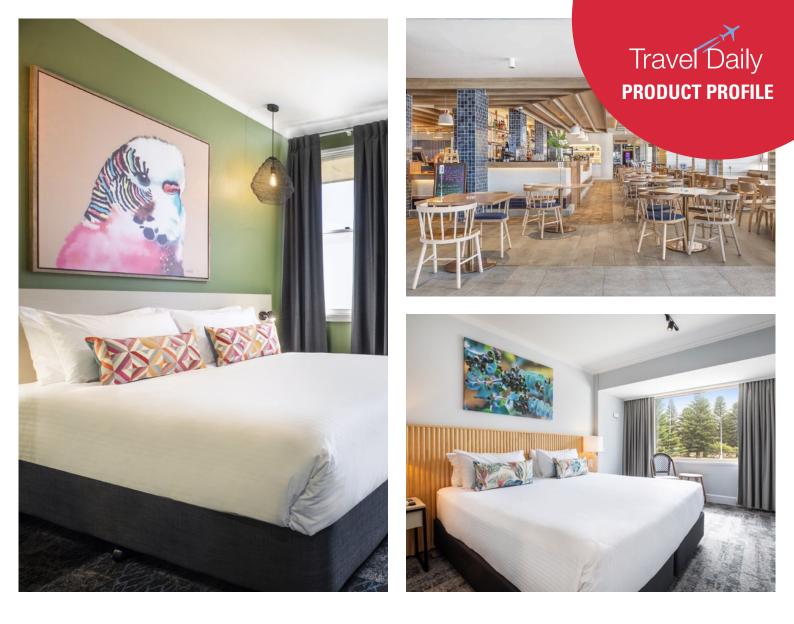


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# Nightcap Hotels: 75 hotel milestone

Nightcap Hotels (owned and operated by ALH Hotels, the hospitality arm of Endeavour Group), has just reached a major milestone, with the recent openings of three new hotels: Nightcap at Pritchard's Hotel (NSW), Nightcap at Atherton Hotel (QLD) and Nightcap at Hotel Victor (SA) taking the hotel chain to 75 properties nation-wide.

With modern and welcoming rooms, central locations and bespoke design elements, *Nightcap Hotels* puts their guests at the centre of all they do, which has led to their continued success.

With functional rooms designed by travellers, for travellers, thousands of reviews have inspired and informed

the convenient pre-check-in, signature King Koil beds, abundant USB charging points and Nightcap rain showers, with unique interior designs tailored to each hotel and destination. On top of this, everyday value and inclusions continue to surprise and drive loyalty, such as offering a complimentary welcome drink per person, free bottled water, 10% off dining during your stay and fast and free WiFi.

"Nightcap Hotels' continued expansion across Australia reflects our goal to grow well beyond 100 locations, giving the Nightcap traveller what they want – a considered and memorable experience where they can eat, drink, play and stay, all in the best locations around the country," said ALH Hotels' Head of Accommodation, Brett Salter.

"We're so proud to reach our 75th property milestone this year and look forward to welcoming guests at our three newest hotels."

#### **NEED MORE INFO?**

For more information about Nightcap Hotels, please get in touch with the Business Development & Partnerships Team: Andrew St Ledger and Sofie Dugdale.



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