

## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including our **Luxury page**, plus a full page from **The Travel Junction**.

## LA calls on celebrity

LOS Angeles Tourism is inviting agents to learn about the city's iconic experiences in its new Hollywood and Celebrity travel trade webinar.

The on-demand webinar covers the best spots for celebrity sightings, notable movie and TV filming locations, celebrity guided tours, and the key attractions on Hollywood Boulevard.

The video also includes an exclusive tour of the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, which opened in 2021 - to watch, [CLICK HERE](#).

## AFTA summit program

### EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has unveiled the program for the Women in Travel Summit, the first function in its 2023 event calendar.

Held at Swissôtel Sydney on Mon 13 Mar, the all-day event will include three sessions and a choice of two interactive breakout sessions.

Session one will explore ways the industry can support women in the workplace, while session two will cover opportunities for career progression and challenges for women in the workplace.

The third session will see keynote speaker Chelsea Pottenger, Founder and Director of mental health and wellbeing business EQ Minds, highlight strategies for

professional development.

Attendees will then be able to choose between two interactive breakout sessions, including 'Alpha Confidence', which focuses on enhancing personal branding and speaking with confidence.

The 'Goal Setting and Visualisation' session will teach strategies to assist in achieving personal and work goals, and develop a toolkit to help manage stress and pressure.

"AFTA have selected highly engaging speakers that will inspire all our guests at the first ever Women in Travel Summit in both a professional and personal capacity," CEO Dean Long said.

"Women represent the bulk of the travel sector workforce, so it's essential we capture the detail we need from these sessions in the form of first-hand feedback from our members on the front lines of post-pandemic travel."

Insights on how to continue supporting women in travel will be gathered from the Summit and used in AFTA's annual Workforce Report, which will detail goals the industry can work towards to better meet the needs of the majority of its workforce.

## Singapore update

SINGAPORE has removed its COVID-19 entry requirements, meaning travellers no longer need to provide their vaccination status or wear masks on public transport.

## Win a London trip!

THE Travel Junction is inviting agents to earn up to 15% commission on selected accommodation bookings in Great Britain, with the chance to win a three-night London City Break Package.

For details, see the **back page**.



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## Window Seat

**TOURISM** authorities in Perth have been very active over the last 12 months in a bid to restore its tourism sector, and this week the Western Australian capital received a sparkling endorsement from the world's most popular podcaster, Joe Rogan.

The state has invested heavily in luring sporting events to Perth, including hosting UFC fights, with the WA Government revealing this week a recent 284 Double Championship UFC event attracted nearly 9,000 out-of-state ticketholders to WA.

Watching the event from Texas live on his show, *The Joe Rogan Experience*, the US commentator and former taekwondo champion heaped praise on Perth, even contemplating a move to live there permanently.

"Goddamn, Perth is beautiful...look how beautiful Perth is, listen, if the s\*#t hits the fan in America, let's all move to Perth," he gushed.



## CTM notches record result

THE latest financial update from Corporate Travel Management (CTM) shows the company has managed to double its TTV for the first half of the 2023 financial year when compared to the previous corresponding period (**TD** breaking news).

The business recorded a TTV of \$4.19 billion for the first six months, a significant jump on the \$2.08 billion posted in the first half of the 2022 financial year.

Underlying EBITDA also rose by 182% to \$51.3 million, while importantly the Underlying Net Profit After Tax moved in to the black from a \$400,000 loss to a \$22.1 million surplus.

Revenue also grew from \$163 million to \$291.9 million during the period, representing a 79% increase, allowing CTM to forecast a healthy Underlying EBITDA FY23 range of between \$160-180 million, which if realised will be another record result for the company.

MD Jamie Pherous was upbeat this morning upon the release of the latest figures, numbers he said were impacted by much-needed investment to right the ship moving forward.

"It was pleasing to deliver a record TTV and revenue result in the 1H23, noting this half included an additional \$8.4 million charge for excess staff capacity held to be ready for a further expected 2H23 recovery," Pherous said.

"This is a one-off investment thankfully, and we are seeing strong momentum into 2H23 through significant new clients transacting and activity recovery.

Locally, CTM performed exceptionally well, as the market moved from lockdowns to free travel conditions.

As a result, TTV jumped by 457% to \$1.32 billion, revenue spiked by 283% to 80.7 million and Underlying EBITDA shot up from \$900,000 to \$23.5 million during the period.

## Stay curious!

**TOPDECK** has launched a Be Your Curious Self promotion, with a saving of up to \$500 available.

The company's mission is to "help curious adventure seekers unleash their real selves", with those who book a Deep Dive trip before 15 Mar able to receive the discount.

The offer is available on departures between Apr 2023 and Mar 2024, and it can be applied with another loyalty discount - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

"We are hoping this promotion will stop travellers putting off taking the plunge and get the best price possible," General Manager Sales David Gendle said.

"We want to guide our Topdeckers to satisfy their curiosity and uncover the unexpected."

## Travel Daily on location in Hobart

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Oceania Cruises, aboard *Regatta* on her current trans-Tasman sailing.

**AFTER** a delightful day at sea this morning, *Regatta* arrived in Hobart, with guests having had their anticipation titillated yesterday with an onboard talk about the various "devils" of the Tasmanian capital.

Passengers are enjoying a variety of excursions, taking in the city itself or heading off into the countryside to experience some of the local wildlife and cuisine - such as the popular Oysters & Wine tour.

Tomorrow we set to sea again, crossing the Tasman to New Zealand's South Island for spectacular views of the country's stunning fiords.

## Air NZ update

Air New Zealand's operations are back up and running, with flights resuming to all ports.

New Plymouth, Napier, and Gisborne have been some of the most heavily impacted regions, with a special assistance flight to the latter town carrying communication support and emergency supplies.

In total, 11 additional Air NZ services have been added.

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## Qatar transit tours

**DISCOVER** Qatar has unveiled new Transit Tours, including a World Cup stadium excursion.

Transit passengers can now embark on a tour which takes them across five of Qatar's state-of-the-art World Cup stadiums.

Passengers will visit Al Thumama Stadium, Education City Stadium, Khalifa International Stadium, Lusail Stadium, and Stadium 974.

The new additions to Discover Qatar's series of Transit Tours highlight the country's position as a principal destination for sports.

## Travel drives house

**TRAVEL** is driving an increase in household spending, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Household spending rose 11.2% in Dec compared to the same time last year, with strong growth seen particularly in both air travel and hotel bookings.

## ANA Amadeus

**ALL** Nippon Airways (ANA) is set to "transform and maximise" its operational efficiency through its global Amadeus partnership.

The latest agreement will see ANA migrate its domestic flight operations onto the Amadeus Altea Passenger Service System, joining its international flight operations on the one platform.

ANA will also implement new digital, pricing, and payment capabilities.

## IMAX Syd to open

**EVT** will be the new operator of IMAX Sydney, which is due to open later this year.

Closed in 2016, the new theatre will feature multiple ways to experience IMAX with premium seating options, such as full recliners, couples lounges, and private pods.

IMAX Sydney will feature a 693m<sup>2</sup> screen, developed from the ground-up.

## TA promotes biz events

**TOURISM** Australia (TA) has signed a new three-year marketing agreement with Singapore Airlines (SIA) to promote business events travel to Australia.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, Tourism Australia and SIA will collaborate on marketing and promotional trade activities within Asia and the United Kingdom to showcase Australia as the ideal business events destination, highlighting its unique landscapes, venues, experiences and people.

"Singapore Airlines is one of our longest standing airline partners and I am thrilled we are working together once again to promote why there's nothing like Australia for business events," Tourism Australia's Executive General Manager of Eastern Markets and Aviation, Andrew Hogg, said.

"Business events are incredibly valuable to Australia's visitor economy and strategic

partnerships such as this, help to secure future business for Australia."

Before COVID-19, Australia attracted 1.4 million international business travellers, generating a spend of \$4.5 billion for the 2019 full year.

The partnership will also complement recent Tourism Australia initiatives in the business events sector, including the new 'There's Nothing Like Australia for Business Events' campaign, which was rolled out in Greater China.

Tourism Australia is also hosting Business Events Australia Asia Mega Famil Showcase in Apr alongside host city partner BESydney, as well as Dreamtime, an incentive showcase in Nov, with host city partner Business Events Adelaide.

SIA currently operates 111 weekly flights between Singapore and seven Australian destinations.

## Career opportunities



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## Qantas memorabilia under the hammer

**AVIATION** enthusiasts recently had the chance to snatch up Qantas memorabilia during a charity auction at an open house in Qantas' Hangar 96 at Sydney Airport.

Attendees had the opportunity to bid on a piece of Qantas history, with a number of items from an Airbus A330 passenger aircraft going under the hammer, including life jackets, jump seats, a bar cart, exit signs and a bathroom vanity and mirror.

The auction raised \$16,300 for Qantas Pathfinders, a group of current and past Qantas staff which raises funds for NextSense (previously Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children).

The plane, 'VH-EBE Kangaroo Valley', will head to Dresden, Germany shortly to be converted into a dedicated freighter, before returning to Australia as part of the Qantas Freight Fleet.

## TRA investment monitor

**AUSTRALIA** invested in 244 tourism projects with a value of \$44.3 billion during the 2021-22 financial year, which is \$1.5 billion and 19 projects up from the previous year, Tourism Research Australia's new *Tourism Investment Monitor* revealed.

The accommodation sector showed the most improvement generating 152 projects valued at \$11.5 billion for FY22 - \$1 billion more plus an increase of 2,900 rooms from the previous year.

In 2021-22, there were 40 accommodation developments in regional Australia, with over half of these in regional Queensland, valued at over \$12.3 billion with the capacity to add 10,300 rooms.

The value of the aviation sector remained unchanged from the previous year, with seven projects worth \$9.2 billion located in capital cities and a further seven projects worth \$7.6 billion

located in regional areas.

Queensland had the largest share of arts, recreation, and business services projects, with the overall sector up by \$400 million for the year.

The majority of projects in the 2021-22 pipeline were in the planning phase (128 projects at \$15.7 billion), followed by 82 projects at \$16.1 billion in the under-construction phase, and 34 projects at \$12.6 billion in the proposed phase.

NSW contributed 32% or \$14.1 billion of Australia's overall tourism investment, the largest of all the states and territories, followed by Victoria (\$12.8 billion), Queensland (\$7 billion) and South Australia (\$3.2 billion).

Notably, South Australia's regional investment was three times up from the previous year, while its capital city investment was down by \$400 million.

## Ellis Beach sold

**FAR** North Hotels has acquired Ellis Beach Holiday Park, located close to the Palm Cove region in North Queensland, and is seeking approval to undertake further development of the site.

The resort has 28 bungalows and cabins, 46 powered caravan sites, 25 camping sites, a beach bar and grill, a swimming pool, and a kiosk.

## US vote to end jab

**THE** United States Government said it will review the requirement for adult travellers to the US to be vaccinated against COVID-19, before it ends the COVID public health emergency on 11 May.

The announcement comes after the US House of Representatives voted yesterday to end the restriction, with the US Travel Association highlighting that the US is the only country that has maintained such a policy.

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### TA digital investment

**FLIGHT** Centre's Travel Associates brand is on the precipice of developing and launching a new digital client ecosystem, billed by Global Brand & Marketing Leader - Premium Leisure Anna Burgdorf as "one of the most exciting developments in the history" of the network.

Part of the plan is to create a new website, as well as integrate new technology to create a more seamless and intuitive client experience.

"We have a great website but we want much more than that to showcase our incredible product, service and people," Burgdorf said.

The wheels of development are already in motion, with initial scoping being carried out and funding allocated to determine all tech needs.

## VIRTUOSO GROWS LEADERSHIP TEAM

**VIRTUOSO** has expanded its global leadership team with the addition of three new executives, who will support the network's international growth strategy as well as its commitment to sustainable tourism.

Javier Arredondo will take on the role of Vice President, Sustainability, where he will help develop and implement programs and services specifically addressing sustainability.

Arredondo was the founder and CEO of Travesias Media prior to joining Virtuoso two years ago as General Manager, Latin America & The Caribbean - a role which will be filled by Maria Bea Sajon.

Sajon will draw on her experience in the Latin markets

to manage teams in Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Mexico City.

Additionally, Virtuoso has appointed Hanna Hinz to the newly created role of General Manager, Continental Europe from 20 Feb.

Bringing extensive luxury travel experience within Europe, including a stint at a Virtuoso travel agency, Hinz will create a distinct business focus that is separate from the United Kingdom, Middle East and Africa.

Sajon and Hinz will both report to Senior Vice President of Global Operations Michael Londregan, who believes the new appointments will "bring Virtuoso the insights on each market that ensure we understand & respond

to the incredible opportunity we are seeing emerge in the luxury leisure travel sector".

**MEANWHILE**, luxury travel agencies in the Virtuoso Network located in the US have revealed a healthy optimism for sales and revenue for the year ahead.

New figures shared by Executive Vice President David Kolner at Virtuoso revealed 40% of the network's agencies believe sales will be 11-20% higher than last year, with a similar-sized cohort also suggesting revenue will increase by the same range.

Around 12% of agencies were in the very optimistic bucket, predicting a greater than 50% surge in sales this year compared to last year.

### Romazzino, Belmond

**HOTEL** Romazzino in Porto Cervo, Sardinia will undergo a name change, reopening in 2024 as Romazzino, A Belmond Hotel, as Belmond takes on management of the property.

The luxury Italian offering is located on the white beach of Spiaggia Del Romazzino and embodies a "sixties retro-allure", offering wellness facilities, artisanal experiences, two swimming pools, and a stretch of private beach.

### Four Seasons Taipei

**FOUR** Seasons Hotel Taipei is currently under construction opposite one of the city's top tourist attractions and tallest skyscraper, Taipei 101.

The hotel will feature approximately 260 rooms across 31 storeys, with city and mountain views.

Guests will also be able to enjoy a high-end Chinese restaurant, destination bar, pool bar and lobby lounge.

The hotel is expected to reach completion in a few years' time.

### Hotel Belles Rives updates Melbourne agents



**TRAVEL** advisors from Gannon & Turner Travel Associates and Connelly & Turner Travel Associates were recently treated to a product update from luxury French

resort Hotel Belles Rives at the Frederic bistro in Melbourne.

Built in the 1920s, the Art Deco-style hotel sits on the Mediterranean in the town of Cap d'Antibe.

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## 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](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



**The Motley**, a boutique lifestyle hotel, has opened this week on the historic Bridge Road in Richmond, Victoria. Managed by La Vie Hotels & Resorts, the eight-level, 80-key property pays homage to the building's former occupant, popular local seamstress and costumier, Ms Mary Parker. The hotel features an eclectic design, offers three 'extravagant' themed rooms and houses several dining destinations, including ground-floor fine dining restaurant, Ms Parker.



**The Ritz-Carlton, Melbourne** has unveiled new signature dining and bar experiences which will open next month, including signature restaurant, Atria. Featuring a double-vaulted ceiling and windows spanning the entire level offering views

across the cityscape, the venue's design is inspired by the Victorian art deco luxe of the 1920s. Guests can also enjoy the adjacent cocktail bar, Cameo, which serves exceptional spirits and rare vintages.



**The Westin Resort Nusa Dua, Bali** has reopened its onsite dining destination, Ikan, after it underwent a complete revitalisation. The open-air restaurant and bar features a thatched roof, tactile furniture and a design inspired by the local surrounds, and offers fresh seafood and Indonesian-inspired cuisine. As well as the main dining area, Ikan offers beachside seating near the bar, an air-conditioned private dining room, and a semi-private dining area.

## \$5.6m NT walk makes headway



**THE** Northern Territory is set to increase its appeal to visitors with the creation of a \$5.6 million walking track in the Watarrka National Park, located 330km south west of Alice Springs.

After eight months of negotiations, Central Land Council and Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife have signed the Project Facilitation Agreement following meetings with the Watarrka Traditional Owners.

According to the agreement, all parties will work together to develop the track and maximise the benefit for the Territory's economy, as well as provide economic and social benefits to the Traditional Owners.

The Queensland-based Australian Walking Company was initially given the green light by the NT Government to design, develop and operate the multi-day walking track in Jun 2022.

**MEANWHILE**, in further efforts to encourage more visitors to NT, the Territory Labor government has also launched two national tourism marketing campaigns, 'Seek Different' and 'Road Trip Differently'.

The \$2 million campaigns will roll out across cinema, television and print advertising as well as social and digital platforms until May, targeting Aussie adults and families who are interested in road trips and adventures.

## Fair Work webinar

**THERE** have been significant changes to workplace law due to the recent passing of the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Act 2022*.

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) will host a webinar outlining the major changes and their implications for the tourism industry.

The event will be live on Thu 09 Mar at 12pm, with QTIC members offered free registration and \$25 to non-members - **CLICK HERE**.

## Go solo and save!

**EXPLORE** Worldwide has launched its 'Go Solo and Save' sale, offering a free single room upgrade on hundreds of departures in 2023, with potential savings of up to \$1,720pp.

Travellers can choose from Itineraries in over 100 countries, including the 13-day Spain to Morocco Rail Adventure and the 16-day The Best of Georgia and Armenia journey.

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Travel Daily **On Board: Oceania Regatta**



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Located on deck five, this luxe, brightly lit lounging area connects the Grand Dining Room and Baristas coffee shop with *Regatta's* upmarket retail outlets and then the popular Martini's Bar.

It's the perfect spot to sit back in comfort and enjoy the passing parade, read a book or even do some puzzles. Groups will also find it an ideal location to rendezvous before heading for a drink or dinner.



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