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French Connection pics

TODAY'S *Travel Daily* features a full page of photos from this week's French Travel Connection 20th anniversary and brochure launch celebrations in Sydney and Melbourne - see **page eight** plus lots more pictures online at traveldaily.com.au/photos.

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Govt backs SIA-DJ alliance

THE Federal Department of Infrastructure & Transport has come out in support of the proposed alliance between Virgin Australia and Singapore Airlines.

A Transport Dept submission to the ACCC probe into the deal says the gov't's policy settings are "designed to encourage the development of a second Australian international airline capable of competing effectively with other international carriers," and the SQ-DJ deal is "consistent with these objectives".

The department notes that the

proposed pact is similar to the already approved Virgin deals with Delta and Etihad, and is likely to result in lower prices, improvements in service offerings and an increase in the number of city pairs available.

"We do not believe there will be any anti-competitive impact from the proposed alliance," it said.

Tourism NT has also made a submission strongly supporting the alliance, saying it would open up connectivity to "new tourism destinations" for Singapore Airlines such as Uluru and Kakadu as well as supporting DJ domestic feeder traffic growth.

QH marketing mgr

JETSET Travelworld Limited has announced the appointment of Jeff Skinner as the new National Marketing Manager for Qantas Holidays, with his 30 year career including roles with APT, Sydney Attractions Group and Backpacker World Travel.

Six pages of news

Travel Daily today has six pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (**click**)

- AA Appointments
- French Travel Connection

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EK direct to Ireland

EMIRATES has announced its 29th destination in Europe, with the 09 Jan 2012 debut of daily three-class A330-200 services from Dubai to Dublin.

It sees EK once again offering Ireland services after the demise of its previous codeshare flights in partnership with Aer Lingus.

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Agents thriving in US

A SEGMENT which aired on the ABC TV network in the USA this week highlights the changes that the internet has brought to travel agencies, showcasing the survival of Flight Centre's Liberty Travel. The news report also points out the advantages of using travel agents rather than the internet, and is available for viewing online - click on the logo or see youtube.com/watch?v=2vPJoJUlD8o



SIA could take 49% of Tiger

THE current Tiger Airways share rights issue (**TD** 26 Aug) could see Singapore Airlines boost its current 32.8% shareholding in the carrier to 49.1%, according to a letter from SIA to the ACCC.

The rights issue, in which Tiger Airways is seeking to raise S\$155.2m to fund the purchase of new aircraft, is underwritten by Singapore Airlines, meaning that SIA will acquire the shares if other holders don't take them up.

In reference to the proposed alliance with Virgin Australia, SIA emphasised that an increased interest in Tiger "will not create any relationship between any company within the Tiger Group and Virgin Australia."

Tiger will remain an "entirely separate brand from Singapore Airlines," with no management control, codeshare or interline relationship between them, the SIA submission said.

Singapore Airlines also stressed that confidential documentation about the proposed alliance was not available to Tiger Australia, and that SIA-nominated directors to the low-cost carrier are unable to share information about Tiger Group companies with Singapore Airlines "because of the fiduciary duties which are imposed on [them] as a director".

KLM to add Angola

KLM has loaded new twice weekly flights from Amsterdam to Luanda into GDS, with the new route to operate from 14 Nov.

Auckland air attraction

A NEW NZ\$18.5m aircraft exhibition has opened today at Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology. The museum showcases more than 40 civil and military aircraft. See www.motat.org.nz.

Aircalin relocates HQ

THE local operation of Aircalin has moved to a new office at 177 York St Sydney combining the carrier's reservations, ticketing, sales & admin in the one location. A new national 1300 phone number has been introduced, but calls made to the previous local number have an auto re-direct. Effective immediately, the new numbers are 1300 655 737, with admin able to be reached on (02) 9264 3799, or fax (02) 9264 3266.

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For further details and a detailed job outline, please visit our careers website, www.emiratesgroupcareers.com. Only on-line applications will be accepted and applications close on 18th September 2011.

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Airservices prices too high

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission says that price increases proposed by Airservices Australia would see the monopoly provider make a surplus of almost \$10m a year.

On 22 Aug Airservices, which charges airlines for navigation, aviation rescue and fire fighting services in Australia, formally notified the ACCC of a new five year pricing regime.

In a statement issued by the ACCC yesterday, chairman Rod Sims said the Commission's view is that the new arrangements would see Airservices over-recover its costs by \$49 million, with the ACCC taking exception to a "rate of return" parameter in the calculations.

However the judgement is not binding on Airservices, which can proceed to increase its prices from next week, 21 days after its initial notification - or alternatively may also submit a revised pricing proposal.

Intrepid tops Facebook

INTREPID Travel's page on Facebook has been judged the best in the world by US website Social Media Examiner.

The page has garnered over 75,000 "likes" in just nine months and was hailed for its interactions with Facebook users which see 90% of fans active every month.

BNE/PPT connections

AIR Tahiti Nui believes Tahiti will become more accessible over a five month period from 01 Nov due to a new flight connection from Brisbane to Papeete, with one stop in Auckland.

During the period, Qantas flight QF123 and Emirates flight EK434 from Brisbane to Auckland will connect with Air Tahiti Nui's 5-hour flight, TN102, to Papeete on Thu and Sun, until 25 Mar.

It means passengers departing out of Brisbane won't need to fly via Sydney or overnight in Auckland during the period.

The new connections come at a time when Aussie sales revenue to Tahiti is soaring, up 34% year-on-year between Jan and Jun.

"The strong Australian dollar and the introduction of a range of new package holidays in the first half of this year have made Tahiti even more attractive to travelling Australians," said Air Tahiti Nui general manager Australasia, Mark Hutchinson.



Window Seat

MOOVE over Paul the Oracle Octopus - New Zealanders are employing an alternative method to predict the outcome of Rugby World Cup matches.

The *New Zealand Herald* today reports on the activities of "Richie McCow" - a calf who selects between two milk bottles carrying the logos of rival teams to pick the winners.

Richie's prediction for tonight's game is the All Blacks - luckily for him, because in this partisan country he could otherwise end up as some veal steaks.

The report also reveals that McCow backed the New Zealand team in the recent Tri Nations test in which Australia's Wallabies took the victory.

This was a great prediction, the newspaper said - "it was just the result that was wrong".

VIRGIN America has launched a new marketing campaign in Dallas-Fort Worth, encouraging flyers to make the switch to a "younger, hotter airline".

Marketing director Dimitrios Papadogonas said that once passengers try VX, "they often compare their past frequent flyer miles to being trapped in a bad relationship".

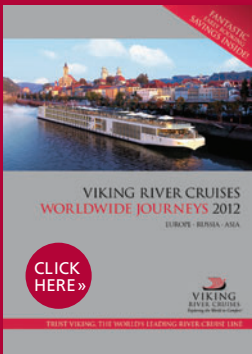
A tongue-in-cheek website at switchtovirginamerica.com offers an online calculator which asks users to estimate how much of their flying life on other carriers with less compelling offerings was wasted on activities such as "almost purchasing a garden gnome from an in-flight catalogue out of sheer boredom".

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Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Auckland, where the 2011 Rugby World Cup will kick off tonight. We're here courtesy of South African Tourism and Air New Zealand.

THE whole of New Zealand is in a frenzy of anticipation today, with rugby-mad kiwis hoping against hope that the All Blacks will win the World Cup for the first time since 1987.

Auckland is making the most of the event, during which it will host 15 matches at Eden Park and North Harbour Stadium.

Hotel rooms and other tourist venues have been fitted out with special RWC city guides, hoping to encourage visitors to look beyond the oval ball and experience some of the city's many attractions and activities.

Kiwis are also embracing the visiting nations, with 34 Auckland suburbs adopting "second teams" and their supporters during the tournament.

Tonight the All Blacks will play Tonga, after the official opening ceremony broadcast to millions from around the globe.

Friday 9th Sep 2011

DFAT Japan update

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade yesterday updated its travel advice for Japan in the aftermath of the Mar earthquake & tsunami, suggesting travellers should now 'Exercise caution' in the coastal areas of northern Honshu.

The govt also reiterated its 'Do not travel' advice to a 30km zone around the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, while its 'Exercise a high degree of caution' advisory covers the area 30km-80km outside the Fukushima plant.

Japan's overall advice remains at the lowest level - 'Be alert to own security'.

HWT brands Passport

HARVEY World Travel has rolled out new co-branded Cash Passport currency cards, available in USD, GBP, EUR, AUD & NZD, utilising chip and PIN technology.

The cards are issued by Access Prepaid Australia on behalf of Heritage Building Society Ltd.

Like other Cash Passports they come with free 24/7 global assistance incl free replacement.

Air New Zealand rugby soiree



ABOVE: Air New Zealand has rugby fever and last night threw a 'Crazy About Rugby' party at its rooftop Sydney office to celebrate the airline's sponsorship of the All Blacks - complete with a Haka performed by Maori entertainers.

Air New Zealand gm Australia, Cam Wallace said rugby is vital to the airline because of its 30 year association with the All Blacks, and given the number of rugby fans that are descending on the country, they hope the next few weeks will be a huge economic lift for the country.

"We're an airline that's crazy about Rugby and we're looking forward to welcoming Aussies across the ditch into Auckland

and Wellington where we plan to give them true Kiwi hospitality in style," Wallace said.

Wallace is pictured above left with former Wallaby Chris Handy; Bruce Parton, Group gm Air NZ Auckland; and former Test Rugby League star, Wayne Pearce.

SYD screening rugby

TRAVELLERS departing Sydney International Airport will have the option to view games from the Rugby World Cup 2011 on two big screens set up at the airport's Central Lounge & at Imbibe Bar.

The airport has also set up an official RWC merchandise kiosk for pax after last minute team kit.



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Sea Cloud MICE group focus

GERMANY-based Sea Cloud Cruises is receiving an increased number of enquiries from Australian Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Event (MICE)



groups to cruise on board its unique vessels.

Speaking at the launch of the company's 2012 'Captivating Yachts' brochure yesterday, local Sea Cloud Cruises md Jackie Foggitt said "MICE groups are looking for something different".

The company's portfolio of yachts includes *River Cloud II* (88 pax) and windjammers *Sea Cloud II* (94 pax) and the recently refurbished *Sea Cloud* (64 pax), which still retains its historic character and charm.

Foggitt said Sea Cloud Cruises' smaller sized vessels gives the company an "edge and uniqueness", allowing them to cater to the requests of special interest groups as well as visit smaller, intriguing ports that larger vessels normally cannot call into.

Amongst the charter groups onboard Sea Cloud's vessels last year was a 60th birthday party and pharmaceutical conference, and "we've got more specialist group enquiries and bookings for next year too", Foggitt told **TD**.

For the first time ever, Sea Cloud Cruises' latest brochure features all three vessels and offers themed cruise itineraries ideal for art, music, garden, golf and cycling enthusiasts (**TD** 17 Aug).

For more details on Sea Cloud's itineraries to the Caribbean; Red Sea, Egypt, Jordan; Transatlantic; Northern & Southern Europe and European Waterways visit www.seacloud.com.

Pictured here at Sydney's Etch Restaurant yesterday is Sea Cloud Cruises Australian bdm Paula Booth and md Jackie Foggitt.

DNSW board extras

DESTINATION NSW has named Patricia Forsythe (exec. director of the Sydney Business Chamber), Rod McGeoch AO (leader of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Bid Team), Wendy Machin (president of the NRMA) and Sandra Chipchase (DNSW ceo) as new appointees to the board of management.

The four high-profile additions join existing board members, John Conde AO, Russell Balding AO, Leslie Cassar AM and Mark Paterson AO.

Lion King 3D tickets

SOUTH African Airways and Kumuka Worldwide will host agents in Brisbane and Sydney to an advance screening of the 3D digitally enhanced *The Lion King*.

The sessions are planned for Event Cinemas Indooroopilly on Wed 14 Sep at 6:45pm and at Event Cinemas George Street Sydney on Mon 19 Sep at 7pm.

See kumuka.com/rsvp.aspx.

DJ Business Class calls

VIRGIN Australia says it is yet to set up a Business Class Priority Number for agents phoning its Guest Contact Centre, however a new Business Class option is now available to choose under the New booking or Change menus.

DJ is additionally advising that a Promo Code for a client's booking in Business Class, made via a GDS, will be required to "ensure contractual point of sale discounts are applied."

Agents with a Private Fare must also use the correct Account Code to ensure discounts are applied.

Regional upgrades

BALLINA Byron Gateway Airport is among a number of regional airports to receive funding from the Federal government to extend and upgrade facilities.

Ballina Byron will receive \$3.5m while Griffith Airport was handed \$1.9m and Port Lincoln Airport will get \$4.5m, said Minister for Infrastructure Anthony Albanese.

The funding is part of the gov't's \$1 billion Regional Development Infrastructure Fund.

MEANWHILE, Albanese has reiterated that the en-route charges rebate to airline tickets that was adopted following the collapse of Ansett in 2001 will conclude on 30 June 2012.

"It was always intended to operate for a limited period," he said yesterday at the Regional Aviation Association of Australia Annual Convention in Queensland.

BNE school touring

BRISBANE Airport has started offering a School Tours Program for age groups from Prep to Year 5 and Years 11 and 12.

The free tour takes students through both the domestic and int'l terminals, the Experience Centre, Kingsford Smith Memorial, aircraft maintenance hangars and an aircraft viewing area.

Bookings can be made online at bne.com.au or call (07) 3406 3192.

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DL companion fares

DELTA Air Lines has Business Elite companion fares to LAX ex SYD/MEL from \$5,587pp, when booking two or more pax together on the same flights.

Companion fares to New York start from \$6,296pp, or to Vancouver from \$5,674pp, while new DL 'Enticing America' LAX economy fares start at \$1344.

Ski '12 Freedom Pass

PERISHER is getting in early for 2012, giving ski and board buffs the chance to book a season pass for 2012, priced from \$699 for adults and \$399 for students.

The Freedom Pass is valid at Perisher's four resort areas from 09 Jun-01 Oct and can be secured with a deposit - bit.ly/tdsnowpass.

Fairmont re-opening

THE Fairmont Resort MGallery in the Blue Mountains will reopen on 15 Oct following a \$10 million make-over (TD 17 Jan).

The property is taking bookings for the Blue Mtns Beer Festival.

Insight crew in Moscow



ABOVE: Insight Vacations had a strong Aussie presence at the brand's recent annual conference held in Moscow, Russia.

Over 50 management, product, operations, sales and marketing Insight staff from around the world attended the 4-day event.

Participants took part in presentations, brand updates and learnt about new additions and upgrades for Insight, plus they had the chance to enjoy some prime sightseeing and a blini or 2.

The event also saw the presentation of the annual Sales

Manager of the Year Award, which was taken out by Insight NSW sales mgr Steve Farrelly.

Pictured here at the Hilton Leningradskaya in Moscow (the hotel used by Insight on select Russian tours) from left back row are the tour operator's Andy Roberts, Sophie Weller, Jen McDermott, David Farrar, Owen Boyce, Maureen Van Metter, Sally Gorringer and Walter Delorie.

Front row: Global ceo John Boulding, Anjali Chandra, Steve Farrelly, Mara Smith, Ray Hands, Lorraine Sharp and Lisa Kirwan.

WIN A LUXURY WEEKEND AT WOLGAN VALLEY



During September, **Travel Daily** is giving travel consultant readers the chance to win a luxury weekend for two at the Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort, courtesy of our friends at **Bunnik Tours**.

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Enjoy two nights in a Heritage Suite including a bottle of sparkling wine on arrival, gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, non-alcoholic beverages, a select range of local wines and beer with meals, two on-site nature based activities per day and two 60-minute spa treatments.

In the first three weeks, **Travel Daily** will be featuring a photo of Bunnik's National Sales Manager Craig Owens ('Captain Craig') enjoying a different Bunnik Tour. In the final week readers will be asked to come up with a caption to match the last photo. The subscriber who correctly answers all weekly questions and comes up with the best caption for the final photo will be the winner of this fantastic prize.

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Week 1:
Captain Craig is enjoying a great value Bunnik tour in Europe. Which tour is he on and what is the price of this tour?

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Hint! Visit www.bunniktours.com.au

Mudgee iPhone App

MUDGEE Region Tourism Inc is claiming to be one of the first areas in the state to develop a free iPhone App, offering search & book functions for accom, retail, restaurants, wineries and maps. It's accessible via iTunes.

Getaway tomorrow

CHANNEL Nine's dedicated travel program *Getaway*, to air at 5:30pm on Sat, is this week featuring stories on Peru, the art trails in Kapunda, South Australia & Queensland Hinterland and the Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif.

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PART TIME -SOUTH PACIFIC SPECIALIST

BRISBANE CBD - SALARY PACKAGE TO \$45K pro rata

Rarely does a part time role pop up such as this. Located in the CBD, this South Pacific Specialist is looking for a part time consultant to join them. Working 3 days a week (Sat/Sun and one weekday), you will enjoy liaising with travel agents and the direct public to book exotic getaways. Earning a strong salary you’ll also be rewarded with top incentives including a great salary, famils and more. Availability to work weekends is a must along with previous wholesale or retail consulting exp.

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