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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 17th December 2012

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## Fiji flights cancelled

AIR Pacific, Virgin Australia and Jetstar have all suspended operations to and from Fiji today due to Tropical Cyclone Evan (**TD** breaking news), with the storm approaching the west coast of Viti Levu this morning.

According to the ABC it's the strongest cyclone to threaten Fiji in two decades, with the 480km wide storm causing wind gusts of up to 230km an hour.

Tourists have been evacuated from outer islands, while South Sea Cruises has also suspended operations of its day trips, ferry operations and Blue Lagoon Cruises until it's safe again.

Virgin Australia said it would schedule extra flights on Wed to assist affected guests, while Jetstar is offering pax on the cancelled JQ119/120 between Sydney and Nadi a full refund or vouchers to the value of their booking.

Air Pacific has cancelled or rescheduled all services (including Pacific Sun domestic flights) in and out of Nadi and Suva today, and said it doesn't expect operations to resume until late tomorrow morning at the earliest.

## MU wants more Aust ports

CHINA Eastern Airlines is the latest carrier to set its sights on Australia, with the rapidly growing airline wanting to boost its current offering of nine weekly services ex Sydney, daily flights ex MEL and three weekly ex CNS.

MU gm Oceania, Kathy Zhang, told **TD** the airline wants to add more Australian cities to its network as it continues to expand worldwide.

"Stay tuned," she said.

And the growth is also coming from within China, with MU next weekend set to launch new thrice weekly non-stop A330-200 services to Sydney from Nanjing.

On board Sat's inaugural, alongside **TD**, will be a 40-strong high level Chinese government and tourism delegation wanting to forge closer ties with Australia.

"We are seeing strong growth on our 19 flights a week from Australia to China with over 90% load factors this month, and over 80% capacity in the next three months," Zhang said.

"Our new Nanjing services are already more than 70% full, dropping to 40% in Jan/Feb, but

sales have only been in the GDS for one month so we are very satisfied with the response so far," she added.

Zhang said Nanjing is one of the wealthiest regions in China with a population of 7 million, "many of whom want to travel to western countries like Australia."

Nanjing is about three hours drive from Shanghai, with the new MU739 service beginning in Beijing and stopping briefly in Nanjing before continuing to SYD.

A big welcome is planned for the inaugural when it touches down at 9.30am on Sat, with full details in next Mon's **Travel Daily**.

## Extra TG commission

ROYAL Orchid Holidays is offering 10% commission on certain Thai Airways International airfares as part of an earlybird special offer on packages booked and deposited by 31 Jan.

The land component also attracts 13% commission - for details, see the **front page**.

## Celebrity interview

TODAY'S packed issue of **Travel Daily** includes our latest Celebrity Interview - this time with Aussie chef Matt Moran.

There's also an opportunity to win a pair of movie tickets, so be quick to check out **page six**.

## Seven pages of news

**Travel Daily** today has seven pages of news & photos, including a front full page for **Royal Orchard Holidays** plus a full page of jobs from

- AA Appointments

## QHV Christmas hours

QANTAS Holidays & Viva! Holidays have confirmed their operating hours over Christmas-New Year to assist agents with their bookings.

The wholesalers will maintain current business hours until Sat 22 Dec, then close on 23, 24 & 25 Dec before reopening on 26 Dec.

On Boxing Day, the JTG brands will operate from 9am to 5pm, then from 8am to 8pm thru until New Year's Eve, closing only for the NY's Day public holiday.

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## Travel Daily on location in Shanghai, China

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Shanghai, courtesy of China Eastern Airlines.

**CHINA** Eastern Airlines is going all out to lure the high-yield business market by launching new Airbus A330-200 non-stop flights from Sydney to Shanghai with total lie-flat Skybeds in Business Class.

*TD* was on the first flight on Sat, MU736, to report on the updated product and found that the cabin and service more than lived up to expectations - in fact it was more like something you'd expect to find in First Class on major Asian and western airlines.

Meals include Chinese and western options with a range of top Aussie and French wines.

The 36 Business Class seats reclined to a comfortable 180 degrees, but what really impressed *TD* were the eager-to-please cabin attendants who handed out beautiful sets of Chinese-style cotton pyjamas, a warm duvet for the 10-hour trip, slippers and an amenities kit containing Salvatore Ferragamo skin products, eye mask, razor and toothbrush.

The in-flight entertainment system had something for everyone with current Hollywood movie hits and classics, as well as TV series, games & e-books.

At the start and end of the flight, the crew stood in the aisle and thanked and bowed to their pax for choosing to fly China Eastern. Nice touch.

## Airlines line up for QF gap

**ETIHAD** Airways has become the latest carrier to put its foot into the Tourism Australia gap left by the withdrawal of Qantas, with EY this morning confirming a \$6m Memorandum of Understanding with TA to assist with promoting Australia (*TD* breaking news).

TA and Etihad will each invest \$1m annually over three years into a range of promotional programs targeting more visitors from EY's core Middle-East hub as well as Australia's traditional markets of the UK and Europe.

The announcement follows Virgin Australia's announcement last week of the doubling of its TA partnership to \$12m over the next three years (*TD* Thu).

Leveraging off the expansive network operated by Etihad, Tourism Australia managing director Andrew McEvoy referred to EY's expanded Brisbane operation (*TD* 16 Aug) as further proof of the carrier's commitment to the Australian market.

"Etihad Airways is feeding

increasing numbers of passengers onto Australia-bound flights through its Abu Dhabi hub, particularly from Australia's traditional high volume markets of the UK & Europe," McEvoy said.

Etihad Airways ceo James Hogan praised Tourism Australia's continued determination to maintain strong inbound pax flows from continental Europe.

"There is a great natural synergy between the MoU with Tourism Australia and our airline partnerships, particularly the one with Virgin Australia," Hogan said.

"In fact, Etihad Airways and Tourism Australia have already started planning a major campaign for the first half of 2013."

Hogan added that under the arrangement, Etihad was planning to seek the involvement of Australia's states and territories as part of future campaigns.

It's understood that Air New Zealand is also close to signing an expanded agreement with TA.

## Air NZ fuel case deal

**AIR** New Zealand has reached a settlement in the long-running fuel surcharge case, with an agreement to pay a total of just \$37,141 including GST.

The deal comes without any admission of guilt, with the money to then be distributed to travel agents who register claims.

Law firm Slater & Gordon will this week request details from agents who wish to participate.

The case relates to commission payable on the fuel surcharge component of Air NZ international published fares sold in Australia.

## QF group fare changes

**QANTAS** has today introduced new group fare options for the domestic market.

Changes see group fares and conditions for regional routes brought into line with domestic mainline routes, while group pax will be offered "attractive deposit, naming and payment conditions."

Special "flexi-group" fares will also be made available for clients wanting greater flexibility.

All new Qantas group domestic bookings that are deposited will have a fare guarantee, protecting customers from future price increases prior to ticketing.

## EK premium shuttles

**EMIRATES** has introduced new luxury aircraft-to-terminal (and vv) shuttles for First & Business class passengers arriving and departing at Dubai International Airport.

The custom-built art shuttles aim to extend EK's inflight comfort to the ground transport used to ferry pax to the terminal.

The AED 73m (AU\$19m) project includes 41 transfer shuttles - 15 vehicles dedicated to First class and 26 for Business class.



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## Virgin streamlines API process

**VIRGIN** Australia's switch-over from two reservation platforms to SabreSonic Customer Sales and Services in early Jan (**TD** Fri) will also see an improved Application Programming Interface (API).

In a trade update, VA is advising the new API won't require agents

to perform ticketing operations.

Instead, the API uses a 'create reservation XML request' based on agent instructions for flights & services required, then processes and tickets a booking once payment has been processed.

During the implementation to SabreSonic all bookings with a 'DJ' carrier code will migrate to a 'VA' flight code, which will require ticketed bookings to be reissued unless the plating carrier has actioned on an agent's behalf.

More at [www.bit.ly/DJtoVA](http://www.bit.ly/DJtoVA).

## Accor rejigs US rep

**ACCOR** has announced effective 21 Feb 2013 Michael Smith from Southern Hemisphere Representation will no longer represent Accor Asia Pacific (formerly Mirvac Hotels & Resorts) in North America.

The move follows a review of ops after Accor's Mirvac acquisition, with the company instead opting to service North America from Australia, with increased visits to the market by senior Accor sales staff incl Matt Borger and Neale Herridge, and continued participation in key trade events.

## Tiger ups Sydney fleet

**TIGER** Airways Australia has propped up its fleet of Sydney-based aircraft with the arrival of a fourth A320 aircraft last weekend.

The budget carrier will use the new jet to serve its growing Sydney hub, which includes new flights to Mackay (from today) & Coffs Harbour flights from 15 Feb.

## Viking into Bordeaux

**VIKING** River Cruises has added a new eight-day itinerary sailing through France's Bordeaux wine region aboard *Viking Forseti*.

The Chateaux, Rivers & Wine cruise will explore the Dordogne, Garonne and Gironde Rivers.

The positioning of the 95-stateroom *Forseti* to France in 2014 marks the first deployment of a Viking Longship to France.

## Creative Dubai deals

**CREATIVE** Holidays has released new 'Try Dubai' packages which are only on offer until 31 Dec.

The deals include a four night Shopping & Spa holiday at the Pullman Dubai Mall including a room upgrade, 20% spa discount and airport transfers from \$439.

A luxury four night break at the Sofitel Dubai Jumeirah Beach starts at \$419pppts, while a family holiday at the Ascot Hotel Apartments starts at \$235 per adult and \$49 per child - 13 12 22.



## Window Seat

**MALAYSIA** has launched a "Boot Camp" for cab drivers following nearly 2,500 complaints about bad behaviour, fare gouging and failure to properly use meters.

More than 4,000 taxi drivers and limousine chauffeurs, who have been nominated by their companies were forced to attend the etiquette program.

**Survivors** graduates of the program say they are now more willing to point out attractions to tourists and be more helpful.

**EVERY** Christmas needs a Grinch, and this year it is looking like being Cathay Pacific, who late last week threatened to deliver their service without a smile as part of ongoing wage disputes.

The impending threat is set to cause chaos among CX schedules over the Christmas period.

# Virgin Australia will soon have a new reservation system.

Virgin Australia is transitioning to the SabreSonic CSS reservation system over 12 and 13 January 2013. With this new system, Virgin Australia will become a fully ticketed airline with a single designator - VA.

There will be some important changes for you as a travel agent and for your customers. To find out what you need to know, [click here](#).

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### Citalia pre-Jan sales

**ITALIAN** specialist wholesaler Citalia has launched its January Sale early, with savings of up to 35% along with free upgrades, free nights, early booking savings and three night city stays priced from €189 (AU\$236).

For details, see [www.citalia.com](http://www.citalia.com).

### MacKenzie exits JTG

**THE** Jetset Travelworld Group has advised shareholders of the resignation of Director of the Board Adrian MacKenzie, who will "pursue other interests."

MacKenzie will leave the JTG board effective 31 Dec 2012.

### UA/OZ grow c'share

**UNITED** Airlines is seeking to expand its codeshare alliance with Asiana Airlines to enable the 'UA' code on the Korean carrier's services from Seoul to both Siem Reap & Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Star Alliance partners plan to launch the new codeshare route on or after 15 Jan 2013.

### Trafalgar CZ Euro fare

**CHINA** Southern Airlines and Trafalgar have teamed up to offer fares to London flying via Guangzhou priced from \$1,069.

To take advantage of the fare, clients need to book any 2013 Trafalgar Europe & Britain guided holiday valued at a minimum of \$965ppts before 05 Jan 2013.

CZ fares to Paris are priced from \$1,095 or \$1,245 to Amsterdam.

### IHG German deal

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Hotels Group has inked a new franchise deal with Arcadia Hotelbetriebs in Germany to develop five Holiday Inn Express-branded hotels within Germany and Austria.

The first property under the agreement with Arcadia will be the new build 152-room Holiday Inn Express, Osnabruck in Germany, scheduled to open in the first half of 2014.

### Latin ATR72 order

**AVIANCA-TACA** Holding has inked a new deal with ATR for up to 30 ATR 72-600 turbo-props to replace its ageing Fokker 50s and ATR 42s currently in operation.

The US\$700 million agreement is for 15 firm orders & 15 options, with the first aircraft to be handed over from Jun 2013.

## A Universal welcome to LA



**ACTION** is a word synonymous with Los Angeles, and that is what was delivered for this group of 10 agents who enjoyed a whirlwind five-day experience in the city.

The packed itinerary was hosted by the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board, with Korean Air flying everybody from MEL to LA via Seoul in Prestige Class, and staying at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Studio City and the LUXE City Centre in Downtown LA.

While on board with KE on their A380, the group enjoyed time at the carrier's Absolut Vodka bar.

Jumping to the front of the line at Universal Studios with the namesake passes was just one of the attractions visited, joining a

Starline Hop-On Hop-Off tour, the Grammy Museum, a bike tour of Santa Monica and Venice Beach & a visit to Malibu Family Wines.

The group also had multiple opportunities for some shopping.

**Pictured** at Universal Studios from left is Alex Fernando, Travelscene The Glen; Dennis Vuong, Friendly Travel; Young Kim, OK Asia Tours; Jenny Kwon, Korean Air; Adrian Prokopiec, Webjet; Xiao Pei Song, AC Media Group; Soo Kang Korea, Melbourne Travel; Craig Gibbons, Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board; Rafaella Giandinoto, Navigator Travel Management; Michelle McCracken, APT & Leah Harrington, Emma Whiting Travel.


# Welcome Warsaw from February

Emirates launches our daily service to Warsaw from 6th February 2013, taking our European network to 33 one-stop destinations. With our special launch fares, your clients can say hello to one of central Europe's most vibrant and surprising cities. Offer ends 28th December 2012.

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## Boss of LOT sacked

LOT Polish Airlines has fired its ceo Marcin Pirog, citing an impending govt financial bailout as reasons behind his dismissal.

## Ramsay Vegas options

CELEBRITY chef Gordon Ramsay is set to open two new restaurants on the Las Vegas Strip at Planet Hollywood and Caesars Palace.

Monday 17th Dec 2012

## Ryanair open new base

EUROPEAN low-cost carrier Ryanair will open its second Polish base in Krakow as part of a \$140m investment in the hub.

## GBTA unveil conf info

GLOBAL Business Travel Association (GBTA) has announced its 2013 conference will take place at Melbourne's Olympic Park precinct, with former Aussie test cricketer and media personality Max Walker as a keynote speaker.

Walker will open the conference by headlining a discussion on the potential opportunities of Sports Travel Management to the industry and Australia as a whole.



## Brochures of the Week

**WELCOME** to *Brochures of the Week*, *Travel Daily's* Mon feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



### Trafalgar - Costsaver Europe & Britain 2013

Aimed at heightening value without heightening the price tag, Trafalgar's new Costsaver program offers five new itineraries taking in Italy, Germany, England, Spain & Portugal as part of a total range of 34 tours. Starting from \$121 per day, holidays in this guide work out up to 30% cheaper than travelling independently. The program has been enhanced for 2013, offering more included meals, extra guided sightseeing tours and quality hotels.



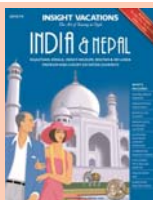
### Omniche Holidays - Norfolk Island 2013

Boasting pleasant climates year-round, Norfolk Island is a region largely untapped, with pristine beaches in front of picturesque mountain ranges. The latest guide to the island from Omniche Holidays offers a wide range of holiday accom ranging from lodges to cottage style. For a small island, it boasts a huge range of tours available to see its historical riches, cultural tours, themed shows, cooking adventures, bush walks and clifftop breakfasts.



### Cosmos - Asia 2013

Spreading its wings further into Asia, Cosmos has brochured an even larger variety of experiences into its 2013, from new destinations to new sightseeing tours. For the first time, Myanmar has been included, with a ten-day itinerary taking in Yangon, Mandalay & more. Overall, the guide details a selection of 15 tours visiting Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan, India, China and Thailand, with authentic on-the-ground cultural and historical experiences rich in value.



### Insight Vacations - India & Nepal 2013

Comprehensively covering India and its regions, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, Insight's program, in its second year, has been expanded, with two Gold itineraries, three Premium escorted journeys and eight mini-tours. Indian states of Rajasthan and Kerala are covered, along with a special tour highlighting the wildlife of the subcontinent. Itineraries have been shaped based on feedback from its debut year to shape the program to tailor to the tastes of its passengers.



### Singapore Airlines Holidays - Maldives & Sri Lanka

The idyllic destination of the Maldives is displayed in all its irresistible glory, with 29 luxurious resorts on offer with full descriptions as well as important info on how to get to each. An abundance of glossy photos have the ability to transport the mindset of any reader to imagine themselves swimming in the clear lagoons. Sri Lanka is a very different, but no less intriguing destination, with a wide selection of hotels & touring covered in detail.



### Travelmarvel - Western Australia 2013

APT's value brand boasts a wine and seafood flavour for 2013, with wine tasting experiences in Pemberton, fresh seafood dinners in Monkey Mia and home-style dining at the El Questro ranch highlight its new guide. Tours ranging in length from 7-18 days feature, with itineraries covering the Pilbara, Kimberley, Broome & scenic south-west all included. Journeys offer plenty of free time, many meals, high-quality accom and airport transfers.



### Eastern Eurotours - Europe & Mediterranean 2013

Celebrating its 21st anniversary next year, the new 88-page guide from Eastern Eurotours & Mediterranean Holidays offers a wide range of packages consisting of escorted coach tours, river cruising and city accom ranging from budget to luxury. New tours have been added in Romania, Spain, Morocco, Turkey, Britain and Ireland along with Anzac packages visiting the Gallipoli peninsula. Island hopping in Croatia & Greece is also included.



### Scenic Tours - Egypt & Jordan 2013

Fresh to the Scenic range from Sep next year is the Sofitel Legend Old Cataract in Aswan, which groups to Jordan will enjoy while in town. Scenic's *Enrich* program has been expanded to allow guests to enhance their experience with cultural activities, such as the Rose Red City in Petra and ancient Bedouin storytelling. For a side-trip, guests can also enjoy an enhanced Oman extension to visit the Sultanate, Nizwa and the Hajar mountain ranges.



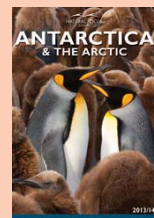
### Topdeck - Africa 2013

Near overwhelming demand has seen Topdeck bring the launch of its 2013 Africa program forward, with the guide featuring itineraries from seven to a massive 58 days and taking in all corners of the African continent. From safari drives in the Masai Mara, to climbing tall sand dunes in Namibia, relaxing on the beach in Zanzibar and exploring Ugandan jungles in search of gorillas, accom styles range from two-person tents to hotels & hostels.



### Beyond Travel - Eastern Europe and Beyond 2013

The new guide to Eastern Europe by Beyond Travel has been expanded for 2013 to capitalise on growing interest levels in the Baltic region, Poland, in addition to the more established Prague, Vienna and Budapest. A focus of the new guide are regional destinations, which when combined with the big cities, give a more thorough and in-depth look at a country, its history and landscapes. More small group departures feature in the 2013 guide.



### Natural Focus Safaris - Antarctica & The Arctic 2013

Covering the frozen regions at the top and bottom of the earth, some of the furthest points possible can be reached and enjoyed in comfort and luxury. From the Falklands in South America, to South Georgia, Ross Sea, Far-East Russia, Canadian High-Arctic, Greenland, Iceland and Spitsbergen, these points and more are available aboard a range of ships with an expert crew, with onboard historians, geologists and naturalists also adding value.



### Bunnik Tours - Solo Travellers 2013

One of the few operators to offer a range of itineraries designed especially for people wanting to see the world & meet new people along the way has released a brochure dedicated to such a range. Contained within is a specialist range of journeys varying in length from 13-24 days, and to some of Bunnik's most popular destinations incl Asia, India and the Middle East, with travellers having the choice of their own room or to share with another.

## Westaway to Orica

**TOURISM** Australia's general manager Corporate Affairs and Strategy Simon Westaway has announced his departure from the tourism authority effective 18 Dec, after taking a position at Orica Limited, from 14 Jan 2013.

## Skal GC book launch

**THE** Gold Coast Skal Club is being celebrated in the release of a new book which recognises the significant contribution of 15 of its members over the last 30 years to the development of the region as a tourism powerhouse.

"Leadership Legends - Lessons for the Past Today" has been jointly written by Professor Elizabeth Roberts of Southern Cross University along with former Dusit VP sales & marketing, Jennifer Cronin.

## Bahrain expansion

**BAHRAIN** International Airport will expand the capacity of the facility's main terminal from the current 9 million to 13.5 million per year, its owners have said.

## Kelsie's singing the SCDL tune

**HOLIDAYING** on the Sunshine Coast now has a theme song, courtesy of Kelsie Rimmer, who was the winner of a song writing competition conducted by Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd.

Funded by SCDL and a number of local tourism & entertainment businesses, Rimmer won a \$10,000 recording and promotion package for her tune "We've got the Sunshine".

The song describes highlights of the region and will be used in an upcoming television campaign to promote tourism.

Kelsie is **pictured** above centre with Sunshine Coast Community Programs Councillor Jenny McKay (left) and SCDL marketing and brand director Veronica Rainbird.

**MEANWHILE**, SCDL has released a hardcover and electronic guide



## 2012 Agent of Future

**TRAVELPORT** this morning announced that Rajina Almeida from Bankstown TAFE in NSW is the 2012 Agent of the Future.

Almeida has been recognised as Australasia's most outstanding travel and tourism student, chosen from among the more than 60 tertiary institutions in Australia and NZ which offer Galileo GDS courses.

Travelport Pacific gm Alex Fitzpatrick said judging was difficult from among the 26 nominees, adding "it is great to see the depth of talent among today's students and their passion for the travel industry".

Travelport also named Paula Howard from Vic's William Angliss Institute as Instructor of the Year, with both winners to receive a Hamilton Island holiday.

## TG fined \$7.5 million

**THAI** Airways was today ordered by the Federal Court in Sydney to pay \$7.5m plus \$500,000 in costs, as part of the ACCC's long-running cargo cartel investigation (**TD** breaking news).

TG is the 13th carrier to be fined over the matter, with total penalties now amounting to almost \$100 million.

The ACCC is continuing to pursue cases against Air New Zealand and Garuda Indonesia.

to the range of golfing attractions in the region, with the launch coinciding with the conclusion of the Australian PGA tournament at Coolool yesterday.

"Golf is a key activity for visitors to the Sunshine Coast & accounts for 24 percent of the Queensland overnight domestic golf market," SCDL ceo Steve Cooper said.

## Celebrity Interview with Matt Moran



**Travel Daily** caught up with Aussie celebrity chef Matt Moran, renowned for his culinary exploits including eateries such as Aria in Sydney and Brisbane, as well as appearances on TV ratings juggernaut Masterchef.

He's also well known to the travel industry, having been on the International Culinary Panel for Singapore Airlines since 2003, and

has also represented Australia promoting food and wine in Asia.

Moran is a keen advocate for Australian tourism, and recently experienced some of the country's many highlights during Tourism Australia's T-QUAL Tick tour.

**What is the highlight of your career?**  
It hasn't happened yet.

**What is your favourite holiday spot?**  
I've visited so many special places on the T-QUAL Tick tour - Litchfield National Park, Cable Beach, Sinclair's Gully - and there are lots more too.

**What is one of the most exotic destinations you have travelled to?**  
I think the place I want to take my kids back to is Broome.

**What is the one thing you cannot leave home without?**  
My phone charger.

**What is the most common item you leave behind when travelling?**  
My phone charger!

**Do you have an embarrassing travel story you could share with us?**  
I travel so much that I sometimes get distracted. The other day I left my carry-on bag on a Qantas flight and it took me a few hours before I realised. Luckily I had some business cards inside and the Qantas people followed up and delivered it to me.

**Do you have a travel tip you can provide our readers with?**  
Always carry on your luggage if you can manage it!

**What features do you look for when choosing a hotel?**  
I'm not too demanding - as long as it has a bed and nice pillows.

**What is your favourite piece of luggage?**

Unfortunately I tend to go through bags so quickly that I don't have time to fall in love with them.

**Who is someone you wish you could sit next to on a plane?**

During the T-QUAL Tick tour I was lucky enough to meet Jack Thompson - an amazing Australian and a most adorable man.

**What is one food you would like to see added to an airline menu?**

When it comes to food on a plane there are a lot of limitations in the way it's cooked. I'd really love it if it was possible to have an open flame - that would really change what you could do with airline meals.

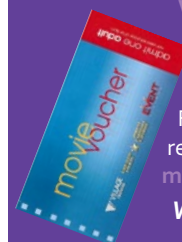
**Do you have a favourite childhood travel memory?**

We didn't tour around much when I was a kid, but I have a great memory of a family holiday where we stayed in a houseboat on Sydney's Hawkesbury River - it was a bloody lot of fun.

**Where are you planning on travelling to next?**

I've just taken part in the Gourmet Escape at Margaret River where I cooked alongside some amazing chefs such as Rene Redzepi. I had a great time and would really love to return to the region to spend some more time among the vines.

## Win a pair of movie tickets!



**Travel Daily** is today giving away two movie passes in conjunction with our Matt Moran interview.

For your chance to win this great prize, be the first reader to email the correct answer to this question to - [mattmorancomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:mattmorancomp@traveldaily.com.au).

**What is the name of Matt Moran's restaurant in the Sydney suburb of Woollahra?**

## Le Club on Passbook

ACCOR Group's loyalty program Le Club Accorhotels has rolled out mobile cardholder apps for members using mobile systems on Apple's Passbook and FidMe.

## SAA mulling Safari route to UK

**SOUTH** African Airways Australasian manager Tim-Clyde Smith says he has investigated the marketability of tapping into the lucrative Australia-London market, for travel via Johannesburg.

Clyde-Smith said there was a market for a slightly indirect route to the UK capital, with a 14-hour SYD-JNB sector preceded by a 10-hour journey to London Heathrow, comparing it as similar to flying to London via Tokyo or Hong Kong.

"If passengers are willing to go north [first], they're willing to go south," Clyde-Smith told **TD**.

"[The market] is there and there

is a lot of people travelling between here & there vice-versa, so it could be done" he added.

Pursual of any growth into the UK routing from Australia would not be without a challenge.

"There's a lot of battling with head office to go ahead and grow that market," he said.

"Then you've got the QF/EK alliance proposed for April, and we know that will make it even tougher for me to go ahead and grow a UK market".

SAA's Australasian boss said he still needed to see what he could do for UK-bound travellers.

## QF top sellers sizzle in Phuket



**CENTARA** Grand West Sands Resort in Phuket recently threw a poolside BBQ event as thanks for the support and efforts of Qantas' Global Achievers for 2012.

Entertainment was also on hand for the group to enjoy, from live music, numerous games to play

and an exciting demonstration of Muay Thai kickboxing put on by a pair of local fighters.

**Pictured** enjoying the festivities, from left, is Ronae Jennings, National Account Manager; Rowena Coutts, Jetset Rowville and Lee Haase, Jetset Ballarat.

## WIN TWO NIGHTS IN AT FRASER PLACE MELBOURNE!

Travel Daily's popular Christmas photo competition is back!



Fraser Place has arrived in Melbourne with the launch of the brand new studio suite accommodation in a quintessential Melbourne city laneway.

Our good friends at **Fraser Place Melbourne** want to celebrate the festive season with the travel industry, and are asking you to send in your work Christmas party photos throughout December.

At the end of the month, the judges will select their favourite photo and the person who submitted this will win two nights accommodation for two guests in a brand new Studio Deluxe Suite, buffet breakfast for two on both mornings, complimentary internet and midday check-out.

Bonus points will be awarded for photos that include a copy of the Travel Daily issue.

So get into the spirit and start snapping, then email your festive photos (including names of the people pictured) to:

[xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:xmasphotos@traveldaily.com.au).

Travelport held a Mystic Masquerade Christmas Party this year. Pictured right are Vampire Tan Man (Peter Tan) & Mrs Mysterious EV (Erica Virgo).



## New hotel review site

**AUTHENTICATED** hotel reviews checked against hotel records will be available in a new review site entitled "HotelMe", to be launched by the *USA Today* Travel Media Group, which is aimed at quelling fake reviews deterring guests.

## Year end Mantra deals

**SAVINGS** of up to 30% are available as part of a GDS promo at up to 40 of the Mantra Group's properties (Peppers, Mantra and BreakFree) across Australia.

The 'MP = More Possibilities' promotion offer 10% commission, are only available through the MP code on GDS and are valid for booking & travel to 08 Feb 2013.

## Airberlin subsidiary

**GERMAN** carrier airberlin will set up a regional carrier as part of restructuring plans, with a fleet of 10 Bombardier Dash-8 Q400's and seven Embraer E-190 aircraft.

The regional offshoot carrier is expected as part of a plan to compete with Lufthansa's new Germanwings, which is set to debut from next month.

**Supplier Updates**

**WELCOME** to *Supplier Updates*, *Travel Daily's* new regular feature. Agents can now access the latest special deals and promotions being offered by suppliers, simply by **CLICKING HERE**.

Supplier enquiries for notices: [advertising@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)

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This senior role will see you leading a team to deliver the overall commercial performance of this product to meet market requirements. You will be liaising with key stakeholders and third party developers to ensure the market requirements are met. You will have a strong technical background preferably from the corporate travel space, have a strong commercial acumen and leadership skills.

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This sought after TMC have a vacancy within their sales and marketing team looking after key suppliers and building strong relationships. You will be the primary contact for suppliers working with them to ensure contract benefits are maximized. You will have a strong travel background with excellent excel skills and a strong commercial understanding. Great opportunity to start 2013 with something different.

### HANDS OFF LEADERSHIP IN BRISBANE

**CORPORATE TRAVEL TEAM LEADER  
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Take the lead role within a brilliant travel operation, bringing your corporate knowledge and leadership skills. We're looking for someone who can manage workflows, statistics, KPI's and staff appraisals. You'll be a flexible 'can do' leader who is able to lead by example. This is a hands off consulting role. Your positive approach and knowledge will bring a breath of fresh air in to the team and secure your future.

### WORK CLOSE TO HOME – EASTERN SUBURBS

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This newly created role will see you leading this established team of domestic and international consultants to greater success. You will be in charge of any client queries, ensure work flow is distributed evenly and is taken care of within set KPI times, daily meetings and training. You will also have the ability to put your consulting hat on when needed. We need someone with at least 5-10 years corporate exp at a TL level.

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Love being on the road with this product in your hand! Agents will welcome you and want to learn more from your fun loving personality. You will enjoy being out and about and know how to put the hard yards in when it counts. Be rewarded here with superb famil trips for you to enjoy and bonus schemes. Everyone loves this brand which is growing bigger & better every year.

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You will have the skills and knowledge to drive solutions for your clients improving expenditure and creating a lasting impression which will retain clients for the future. As a master of building relationships you will know how to develop those key connections and gain their trust in your ability to do the best for them. Be rewarded with a great salary and stable work company that see growth year on year.

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