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Travel Daily
First with the news

Tuesday 4th February 2014

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Wendy Wu takes SIA Hols

SINGAPORE Airlines has tasked Wendy Wu Tours to broaden the scope of its SIA Holidays program in Australia, effective 01 Apr.

The announcement follows "a competitive tender" process which will see management of the contract shift hands to Wendy Wu Tours from Pinpoint Holidays.

SIA Holidays' current program features hotels and experiences in Asia, Europe and Africa, tied in with Singapore Airlines flights.

Senior manager marketing & alliances for Australia, Dale Woodhouse said the Star Alliance carrier was "excited" to be teaming with Wendy Wu Tours for its long-standing holiday arm.

"The expertise and product offering that Wendy Wu will bring to our holiday program perfectly complements our global network and commercial objectives.

"We look forward to a long lasting partnership," he said.

Wendy Wu Tours md Alan Alcock said the tour operator was thrilled with the opportunity to "further grow what is an already very successful product."

The new range of SIA Holidays products and brochures will be released in the market from Apr.

Pinpoint Holidays Travel Group has been responsible for SIA Holidays for many years.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has eight pages of news, an Amadeus cover page & full pages from:

- AA Appointments jobs
- inPlace Recruitment jobs
- TMS

Amadeus ticket tool

THE Amadeus Ticket Changer initiative has been rolled out to the Australian market, offering time savings and reduced human errors when reissuing air tickets.

Unique to Amadeus, the tool automates ticket exchanges for cabin, class, route or date changes, regardless of whether the ticket is unused, partially used or has been reissued previously.

For details on Amadeus Ticket Changer, see the **cover page**.

Trafalgar appoints

DEBORAH Hanley has been named as the new sales manager for South Australia and the Northern Territory at Trafalgar, with immediate effect.

TMS success rate

TMS Asia-Pacific is reminding trade staff today of its success at finding placements for staff not even looking for a job - see **pg 11**.

Trish Stamp Travel in Mt Eliza Victoria is urgently looking for an Experienced Travel Consultant to join their team.

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The journey to the 2014 Formula 1 World Championship begins with Melbourne hosting Round 1 of the season that will see the last five World Champions battling it out for F1 supremacy. A great range of accommodation and entry ticket packages are still available through Grand Prix Travel® and each agent booking before February 21, 2014 goes into a draw to win a set of Callaway Golf Clubs.

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Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 4th February 2014

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Pier One selects Marriott

ACCOR'S vision to debut its top-end Sofitel So brand to the Australian market has been set back after management of Pier One Sydney Harbour was bestowed to Marriott Int'l, **Travel Daily** can exclusively reveal.

Announced formally yesterday afternoon after rebranding last weekend, the former Sebel Pier One has become the first of Marriott International's Autograph Collection to launch locally.

Now known as Pier One Sydney Harbour | Autograph Collection Hotels, Marriott International was awarded management over Accor following four months of talks.

It joins 56 Autograph Collection properties globally, all recognised as having individual identities.

Although putting less money on the table than Accor, Marriott was selected on the basis of its reward scheme and vision, owner Robert Magid told trade media.

"Despite the fact Accor was being a lot more generous we saw that for our future there was no question that Marriott was the preferred operator."

GM Michael Sheridan told

Travel Daily Magid favoured the prospect of access to 42 million loyalty club members through Marriott Rewards' 19 hotel brands.

The scheme has 4.6m members in Asia/Pacific and over 560,000 in Australia, but penetration in North America was viewed highly - a market where Accor was lagging.

Being the third largest hotel company in the world was also highly regarded.

Magid said he was "astounded" by the level of expertise shown by Marriott since signing the management contract - the likes of which was "incomparable."

Marriott International and Accor were among 14 international hotel groups to make formal bids.

Others included Peninsula, Far East Hospitality, Hilton & Starwood which was mulling the site for the return of its boutique W Hotel & Resorts brand to Australia, Sheridan revealed to **Travel Daily**.

Marriott's multi property vp Australia Neeraj Chadha told **TD** the agreement for Pier One was initially for a 10 year period, with an option to extend a further 10.

More from Marriott on **page 5**.

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Quest sell & leaseback

QUEST Serviced Apartments is believed to be considering the sale and lease-back of its portfolio, with the deal said to be worth as much as \$350 million.

According to the *Australian* the move could create an “unlisted property trust” owned by an institutional investor, or alternatively be part of a share market public offering.

Potential suitors are said to include the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, which last Sep purchased the Tourism Asset Holdings portfolio for \$800m.

CT Connections leisure move

TRAVEL management company CT Connections is expanding its Leisure division after acquiring ex-Jetset Travelworld Network affiliate, The Departure Lounge.

The nine-year old firm has its main office in Kooyong, Victoria and specialises in small business travel and tailored packages.

It will form the backbone of CT Connections’ holiday and leisure arm, with its six staff continuing to service existing clients as well as those of their new owner.

Managing director at CT

Connections Nick Sutherland said the sale would mutually benefit clients of both companies, and represented the next step “as we continue to grow as a full-service travel solutions provider.

“The Departure Lounge furthers our expertise and experience in the Leisure arena, while CT Connections provides The Departure Lounge with the most up-to-date travel management technology, buying power via our supplier relationships, and our unique business proposition of *Every Connection Counts*,” Sutherland commented.

The Departure Lounge is now based at the CT Connections Melbourne and National office, located at Caulfield North, Vic.

A CT Connections spokesperson confirmed to **TD** The Departure Lounge was an affiliate of JTN until Mar 2013 and has been operating independently since.



Window Seat

IT’S great to keep a record of your travels, but this is somewhat ridiculous.

A “selfie” taken by a US man during the Houston Bull Run late last month is being credited as the most dangerous photo ever, with the picture (**below**) snapped as he was being chased by a gigantic stampeding bull.

The image has gone viral, with social media users describing it as a “selfie level 11”.

This year 3,000 thrillseekers took part in the annual event which encourages participants to “grab life by the horns and experience the rush of a lifetime as you sprint down a quarter-mile track with up to 24 1,500 pound bulls hot on your heels”.



Wanted: Best of the Best - Do you aspire?

The Concierge Travel Group operates a number of businesses including Concierge Business Travel, Concierge Traveller, Elegant Resorts and Villas, Swiss & Europe Travel and Freightner Travel.

The business is about to enter into an exciting transformation and is in the process of expanding its operations, coinciding with Concierge Business Travels appointment as the official Travel Manager of the Australian Olympic Team.

We are now seeking to recruit for a number of senior roles across;

Operations, Marketing, Business Development, Account Management and Training.

Travel Advisors-Corporate, Groups, Wholesale, Leisure including home based.

Centrally located in newly expanded and refurbished offices in Sydney’s CBD the group operates 24/7 nationally and is in the process of positioning for its next stage of growth by ensuring that it attracts appropriately talented individuals.

We are looking for people who represent the very best that the Australian travel industry has to offer. Applicants for all positions should be at the top skill level of their particular area of specialisation, and have the enthusiasm, drive and commitment to play a major role in a dynamic growing team.

Successful applicants will have proven track records in the Australian travel industry, be customer focussed, passionate, be self starters with a can do approach, and that can think and work outside the box. In return, The Concierge Travel Group will offer an exciting time in a growth organisation and an opportunity to shape the direction of a business that aspires to be the best.

If you would like to be part of our team indicate your interest to Astute HR Consulting, - via email to Louise Weatherman - lw@astutehrconsulting.com.au, or forward your application to Concierge Recruitment at Astute HR Consulting GPO Box Q186 QVB NSW 1230. Applications close 21 February 2014.

Ponant’s Le Lyrial

COMPAGNIE Du Ponant has revealed it will name its 4th vessel *Le Lyrial*, debuting in Apr 2015.

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TRAVEL INDOCHINA

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JQ 787s on MEL/HKT

JETSTAR today unveiled plans to launch 787 *Dreamliner* flights between Melbourne and Phuket from Sun (09 Feb), subject to govt and regulatory approval.

The move follows JQ's start of 787 services to Phuket out of Sydney yesterday.

Initially, Jetstar plans to offer the *Dreamliner* on one weekly flight before boosting frequency to thrice weekly from 30 Mar.

"We're delighted to be offering this game changing aircraft on services to some of our most popular long haul leisure destinations," Jetstar Australia & NZ ceo David Hall commented.

"Our crew are telling us customers are really impressed by the onboard experience with many commenting on the larger windows & spacious feel."

Hall said four new Jetstar 787 routes have been launched within the first 50 days of the carbon-composite aircraft's operation.

Richard Leonard to Adventure World

RAIL Europe's Australasian head Richard Leonard was today announced as the new Head of Product for Adventure World.

Leonard established the local Rail Europe office here in 2007, and has built the profile of European rail in partnership with the organisation's various GSAs including Rail Plus, Rail Tickets, CIT and Infinity Rail.

His move to Adventure World follows AW's acquisition by The Travel Corporation last year (*TD* 03 Oct), with the organisation's md Fiona Hunt saying Leonard is a "wonderful fit...his strong relationships and reputation within the industry will be a great asset to Adventure World as we continue to enhance our product range to ensure we're bringing agents and their clients the most extraordinary travel experiences".

Leonard will commence the new Sydney-based role later in Feb.



Mantra summertime boon

MANTRA Group has reported a spike in occupancy and RevPAR at all major tourism regions over summer, exceeding expectations.

"Cairns, Palm Cove and Port Douglas are really going strong year round, as is the Gold Coast, and the Sunshine Coast had one of its best seasons," executive director sales, marketing and distribution Kent Davidson said.

In North Queensland, occupancy increased 11% year-on-year while RevPAR was up 14%.

On the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast Revpar jumped 9% and 4% respectively.

Bookings in Tasmania rose 7% as RevPAR spiked 15% while at Mantra Group's six Melbourne-based properties RevPAR gained 9% in Jan alone, driven by demand for sporting events including the Australian Open.

Adelaide and Sydney Revpar was up 14% and 11% apiece.

Meanwhile, analysis of bookings over summer showed women were responsible of household travel arrangements, making 58% of total bookings.

Over one-quarter of bookings were made by guests aged 25 to 34, and reservations made via a smartphone or tablets rose 26%.

FURTHER, it's understood that Mantra's owners are in the process of conducting a roadshow in the lead-up to a public float of the company which was formerly part of the Stella conglomerate.

After the fall-out from the MFS debacle Mantra is now majority owned by private equity groups UBS and CVC Capital Partners.

According to the *Financial Review*, the float is being touted to investors in Hong Kong, Sydney and Melbourne, although as recently as Nov last year ceo Bob East dismissed talk of a float as "a little premature".

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Autograph Collection AU debut



MARRIOTT International has celebrated the induction of the 189-room Pier One Sydney Harbour hotel to its Autograph Collection portfolio (see **page 2**).

Multi property vice president Australia Neerah Chadra yesterday said the group was "very excited & very fortunate" to have secured the long-term deal with property owners Robert & Ruth Magid.

The couple's other hotel ventures include Melbourne's Hotel Lindrum and Pullman Cairns.

Through Pier One's addition, Marriott Int'l has raised its presence in Australia to six hotels, - all on the eastcoast - across the Marriott, Courtyard by Marriott and Autograph Collection brands.

Magid disclosed to **TD** that plans were underway for a refurb of the hotel's reception and lobby area, keeping to heritage standards, which will see the front desk

brought closer to the front door.

Pier One's restaurant will also be revamped with capacity to be increased and an all-day dining menu on the cards.

Guest rooms would not require upgrades, Chadra indicated.

The Brisbane-based executive said once plans were approved the refit would take around four months to carry out, ending Sep/Oct, with hotel guests not impacted by construction work.

Pictured at Pier One Sydney Harbour, Autograph Collection from left are Michael Sheridan, general manager, Ruth & Robert Magid, Pier One Sydney Harbour owners and Neeraj Chadha, Marriott International.

Meanwhile, two further hotels have also joined the Autograph Collection - the Pier South Resort in San Diego, California and Hotel Chicago in Illinois.

Concierge appoints

CONCIERGE Business Travel has named Andrea Ckuj as its new business development manager based in Melbourne following a recent recruitment drive.

Ckuj has 20 years experience in bdm and customer relationship roles of business travel, most of which were previously at QBT.

Her most recent position was as bdm for Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens in Melbourne.

HomeAway NZ push

HOMEAWAY.COM.AU has added 6,000+ rental properties in New Zealand to its listing after activating a new network via a deal with Bookabach (**TD 07 Nov**).

RJ promotion fares

ROYAL Jordanian has released Economy class fares to Europe priced from \$1,597 inclusive of taxes for departures from 01 Mar-30 Jun and 16 Aug-31 Oct. Business Class fares are priced from \$5,097.

Flights are operated out of Australia with **oneworld** partners Qantas, Malaysia Airlines or Cathay Pacific Airways and must be ticketed by 15 Mar 2014. Call 1300 855 057.

Demeure ANZ rep

THE Royal Demeure Hotel Grp has appointed Liz Rodgers as its Australia and NZ representative. The hotelier has properties in Rome, Florence, Siena & Vicenza.

Tales from the Inside

Easy paced travel

Pat Christie, Jetset Midland said: "Although our guided holiday of Italy was only 8-days long, having two nights in each place made all the difference and I especially loved Venice and Florence. Travelling during the cooler months was unexpectedly very pleasant as the weather provided us with warm, sunny days which made for great photo opportunities, and with not so many other travellers around, it made it easier to visit various attractions and explore places."

Pat travelled as a guest of Trafalgar on an agent famill to Italy - November, 2013

TRAFALGAR
see the world from the inside

Three 'Ws' Japan tour

JAPAN Holidays has limited space remaining on its 16-night tour taking in the Japanese Alps, monkeys in hot springs & walking in the footsteps of samurai.

The Wildflower, Walks and Wonders itinerary departs on 02 Jun and is priced at \$4,725ppts - phone (07) 3300 2396 for more.

Closes 28th of Feb. Don't Miss Out!

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MORE INFO

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Helsinki, Finland, courtesy of Finnair.

VISITING Helsinki in winter is a unique experience, with the Finnish capital full of life despite short days and cold weather.

TD was lucky enough to be escorted around the town on a VIP tour last Thu, taking in some of Helsinki's stunning architecture, cultural and design heritage plus vibrant nightlife.

Key highlights included the Tempeliakion Church or "Church in the Rock", uniquely carved into the city landscape.

We visited the Sinebrychoff Art Museum, featuring stunning works from Renaissance painters and an amazing furniture collection, before calling in at the launch of the annual GOOD DESIGN awards which featured intriguing Finnish design works including the collaboration between Finnair and Marimekko.

The tour was rounded off with Chinese New Year celebrations - a unique cultural mix culminating (of course) in a fireworks show.

'Thinking agents tour company'

BUNNIK Tours is gaining greater traction with agents keen to book holiday itineraries which vary from those of "the big guys", says managing director Dennis Bunnik.

Speaking to *TD*, Bunnik said the trade has embraced the South Australia touring company's "European difference" whereby "fundamental inclusions" when touring are included in a tour, not sold as an optional extra.

While not specifying a particular competitor, he said for example, some of the 'majors' have a habit of charging guests extra to see attractions such as the Spanish Steps or Trevi Fountain in Rome.

Bunnik prides itself on offering packages inclusive of flights, accom, transfers and some meals, while capping group numbers at 20-25 passengers, he told *TD*.

He said Bunnik intentionally leaves out some meals so guests can explore cafes and restaurants at their leisure & provides ample free time to explore destinations independently "because part of the fun of a holiday is getting out there doing it yourself."

Tour guides provide guidance on where to go and what to see but don't have an agenda to sell an optional extra, he said.

Bunnik added that some rivals "concentrate purely on the hotels" featured in their program.

"If you go to a city and all you remember is the hotel then you've been on the wrong kind of holiday," he told *Travel Daily*.

"The hotel should be facilitating your enjoyment of the destination and that has been our theory and philosophy of how we operate."

He said Bunnik Tours' hotels are clean, comfortable, conveniently located, have character & range from 3.5-star to 4.5-star, and in some instances 5-star.

"The trade are really embracing our European difference - small groups and all its advantages and away from the cynical mass tourism concept and model of lots of optional extras," he said.

"We're the 'thinking agents touring company.'"

"If you are thinking about giving your client the ultimate holiday experience, maybe give us a go."

Tuesday 4th Feb 2014

CWT predictions

CARLSON Wagonlit Travel is forecasting that Australian travellers will soon be "less digital withdrawn while in the air," with expectations that the recent relaxation of US rules governing the use of electronic devices during takeoff and landing will soon be implemented here too.

CWT today released its 2014 Travel Management Priorities report, which summarises the hot issues from a survey of almost 1000 travel managers globally.

Top priorities for Australian travel managers included exploring innovative solutions to generate additional savings, continuing to drive online adoption and "optimising end-to-end business travel processes."



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE WA/NT CORPORATE / TRAVEL

As a leader in our industry, Hertz Australia has an enviable reputation for quality and service. An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic Business Development Executive to join our Sales team, located at the Hertz Perth Sales Office.

The position will require you to prospect and win new business, service an existing portfolio of corporate and travel accounts, and promote the range of Hertz products and services.

To succeed in this role you will possess previous sales experience, have a focus on providing a high level of customer service and you are results orientated. You will be highly motivated, enthusiastic and have the ability to work in a team remotely. An understanding of B2B relations and experience in the mining, corporate and travel market segments, will be highly regarded.

A high degree of capability with Microsoft Office programs is essential. Knowledge of CRS and on-line booking tools will also be an advantage.

Applications with a cover letter can be forwarded to Martina Jennings, Regional Sales Manager Vic SA WA NT - mjennings@hertz.com

Applications close Friday 14 February 2014

SINGAPORE AIRLINES



Senior Pricing Officer

An exciting opportunity exists for a highly motivated individual to join the Singapore Airlines marketing team in the position of Senior Pricing Officer. Reporting to Pricing Manager, your duties will include but are not limited to:

- Production of fare sheets for market, wholesale, internet and national promotional fares.
- Co-ordination of fare-filing.
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- Updating of PARIS incentive schemes.
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- Knowledge of PALMS system.
- Minimum of five years experience with fares and ticketing.

Starting salary is \$49,539 p.a plus super.

To apply please forward your resume to, Dale Woodhouse Senior Manager Marketing and Alliances Australia, Singapore Airlines either by email to Maria_Bernardo@singaporeair.com.sg or by mail Locked Bag A3008 Sydney South NSW 1235

Applications close Tuesday 11th February 2014

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

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This week, **TD** and **Navman** are giving you the chance to win a Navman MY Escape II GPS, valued at \$349, plus a voucher for a Navman international map.

You won't want to set off on your next trip



without your Navman MY Escape II GPS. It includes the Australian Good Food Guide, Lonely Planet Travel Guides and 4WD tracks.

Navman also has your next off-shore trip covered as it is giving away a voucher for an overseas map.

For your chance to win, email your answer to the question below by Fri 7th Feb to: navman@traveldaily.com.au

What feature of the Navman MY Escape GPS will help you most on your next road trip and why?

Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 4th Feb 2014

New STARS partners

AOT Group has expanded the reach of its STARS Reward Program for travel agents to include Air New Zealand Holidays & Territory Discoveries bookings.

Effective from 03 Feb, the new additions join Sunlover Holidays in the STARS scheme.

Free to join, STARS members earn one point for every one dollar of land product booked.

New features to the program include monthly bonus points partners, redemption for Qantas Frequent Flyer points as well as a Points + Pay option that lets members use a combination of points and cash to select a chosen reward option.

See www.starspoints.com.au.

Arabia's Best Secrets

OMAN Tourism has kicked off a new sales campaign entitled "The Best Kept Secret of Arabia" in which it aims to showcase the "secrets" of the destination.

Capitalising on steadily growing visitor numbers from Australia & New Zealand - up 11% in 2013 compared to the year prior - the new pitch will be rolled out to the trade with new in-store window displays and a refreshed logo.

Holidays give a Hoot

THE leisure wholesaler formerly known as Holiday Specialists has confirmed its name change to Hoot Holidays, as flagged yesterday first by **Travel Daily**.

Taking effect over the weekend, the rebranded firm's executive general manager Mandy Scotney said the new ID aims to use bright colours and spectacular images to pitch its destinations.

"Hoot is short, sharp and fun."

Sydney social boom

NEW South Wales Minister for Tourism George Souris has announced Sydney has become the first Australian city to reach one million fans on both Facebook and Google+ at the same time.

Content on both social media platforms are managed and updated by Destination NSW.

Sheraton Melbourne star search



MORE than 300 eager applicants turned out to the shiny new Sheraton Melbourne Hotel recently to try their hand for 66 available roles at the property, which is due to open next month.

Positions available included Guest Services Agents, F&B staff, Concierge positions and roles in the Rooms and Engineering Departments.

While waiting for interviews with individual department heads, the applicants watched presentations from Starwood recruitment staff, who spoke

about the culture of Sheraton and the wider Starwood group and details on the hotel.

Pictured above from left is the Sheraton recruitment team which consisted of Steven Sutanto, Larelle Fitt, Michael Redfearn, Greta Bolger, Cecile Rolland, Hal Philp, Geecel Tiu, David Kelly, Hareta Stanbridge, Elizabeth Zehender, Andre Jacques, Krungo Velican, Carolyn Smith, Hani Daher, Jake Wilson & Vivki Negle.



Money

WELCOME to *Money Talk*, **TD's** Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US\$0.87

THE Australian dollar is expected to continue around current levels after today's Reserve Bank interest rate decision, which is widely expected to leave the current situation unchanged.

Sitting at around US87c today, overnight volatile trading saw the A\$ fall more than 1% against the Euro after strong manufacturing data from Germany.

Other key factors in play include the performance of the Chinese economy, but there's not expected to be any significant moves in regard to Asian currencies over the next week or so due to the Chinese New Year celebrations..

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.874
UK	£0.536
NZ	\$1.083
Euro	€0.646
Japan	¥88.51
Singapore	\$1.114
China	¥5.299
South Africa	R9.829
Canada	\$0.971
Crude oil	US\$96.43

Ryanair into GDS

IRISH low-cost carrier has confirmed that it's in "active negotiations" with GDS suppliers to have its low-cost airline content available to travel agents across the globe.

The move is a major backflip from the carrier which has long touted its decidedly unfriendly direct-to-consumer model.

The carrier made the announcement as part of its third quarter financial results, saying that if talks are successful its content will "appear in one or more GDS channels by mid-year."

Other initiatives in the works include a mobile app and a new "business travel product."

Casa Angelina e/bird

THE Amalfi Coast's 5-star Casa Angelina retreat is offering a 10% discount for stays between 16 May and 27 Oct when booked before 31 Mar 2014.

Available across six rooms and suite categories, including the Grand De Luxe Sea View, the deal is based on a minimum of four nights and extends to dinner at Un Piano Nel Cielo Restaurant.

The seasonal property opens this year from 02 Apr.

NSW regional routes

REGIONAL Express subsidiary Air Link has received authorisation from Transport NSW to operate services from Sydney to Cobar and Mudgee until 21 Mar to cover for Brindabella Airlines' collapse.

Despite getting the green light, Air Link has decided not to launch flights on the routes until more long-term approvals are granted.

Management at the carrier said they remain in discussions with the Shire Councils of both towns about whether to apply for air transport licenses in the future.

New OTA destination

BALI has become the latest destination added to the range of travel packages on Wotif.com, the online travel firm has announced.

Package holidays made up of flights & hotels were added to the OTA's site last year (**TD** 15 Nov).

Wotif executive general manager Helen Demetriou said adding Bali was a "natural progression", with no signs evident of the love affair between Australians and Bali letting up.



TOP brass from Insight Vacations were in attendance at the top operator's first Travel Showcase events (**TD** 24 Jan), which took place at Sydney's Grace Hotel.

More than 300 attendees packed the first three events, eagerly asking questions, learning about the company's premium touring style, taking advantage of special discounts and going into the draw to win a number of prizes.

Insight representatives visited Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, Launceston, Hobart and Perth as part of the national tour, with a final stop in Brisbane tonight.

Pictured above is the Insight team of Nigel Huffin, Joost Timmer, Maureen Van Metter, Daniele Nannetti & David Farrar.

Vanuatu Take Two

THE Vanuatu Tourism Office and Air Vanuatu have launched a new phase of their "It Takes Two" campaign, with entries in a consumer competition sought through until 24 Feb 2014.

A special campaign microsite is online at www.ittakestwo.travel which features Vanuatu travel information and special packages from the newly rebranded Hoot Holidays - formerly Holiday Specialists (**TD** yesterday).

Entries consist of just two words - one describing how consumers feel before their Vanuatu escape, and the other how they expect to feel afterwards.

India air downgrade

UNITED Airlines has suspended its codeshare with Indian-based carrier Jet Airways after the US FAA issued a downgrade to India's aviation safety rating.

The cut comes after India was unable to meet minimum criteria on the number of aviation safety officials working in the country.

Under the ruling, Indian carriers cannot establish new services to the US but can maintain existing operations, although heightened maintenance checks will be carried out while at US airports.

The FAA says it will work with India to help it regain its status.

Oriental not Orchard

MANDARIN Oriental's new Bali development (**TD** Fri), due to open in 2016, is not linked to the Meritus Hotel Group.

US A319 in AA colours

US AIRWAYS has operated its first flight with an aircraft branded in the colours of new merger partner American Airlines.

The repainted Airbus A319 was one of four operated by US which also featured Star Alliance branding - the airline group US will officially exit next month in favour of American's participation in the oneworld alliance.

US Flight 2060 took off from Charlotte late last week and landed in LaGuardia, New York.

THAI 787s to Perth

THAI Airways International has proposed plans to launch its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft to Perth from 01 Jul, according to OAG's latest Schedule Analyser.

Currently TG operates Airbus A330 aircraft on its Perth route from Bangkok.

The Star Alliance member has also flagged the launch of 787s to Tokyo Haneda, starting 01 Aug.

WA campaign launch

TOURISM Western Australia has kicked off a new promotional campaign dubbed "Be wooed by Western Australia", in conjunction with hotel site lastminute.com.au.

A range of special travel deals to the state will feature in the promo.

Acclaim for Best jobs

QUEENSLAND'S "Best Jobs in the World" winner Elisa Detrez will today conclude her six-month assignment as the state's Park Ranger and tourism ambassador.

Tourism Minister Jann Stuckey said Detrez has served the state well and boosted int'l exposure.

"During her time in Queensland, Elisa has travelled to more than 65 destinations throughout the state, posting more than 1,000 images and videos," Stuckey said.

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This month **Travel Daily** is giving one reader and their friend the chance to win a 10 day Thailand tour, courtesy of **On The Go Tours**.

The prize consists of:

- Return economy flights from BNE, PER, SYD or MEL
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer on day 10
- Breakfast daily and one dinner
- 8 nights accommodation in a 4 star hotel and 1 night accommodation on a floating jungle lodge
- Escorted by English speaking local guides.

Throughout February **Travel Daily** will ask 20 questions. The subscriber with the most correct entries and the most creative response to the final question will win this amazing Thailand holiday.

Email all your answers by COB Fri 28 Feb to:
Onthegotours@traveldaily.com.au

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