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Departs Dublin

Sample the best seafood, explore ancient ruins and admire the rocky shores of the Atlantic on this introductory tour of the south east.

### Value inclusions:

- 2 nights accommodation in your choice of hotels or B&Bs
- 2 breakfasts
- Services of a driver/guide
- Transportation by mini coach
- Sightseeing program, including visits to Cahir Castle, the Blarney Woollen Mills & Sally Gap

## West Coast Explorer

3 days

from **\$560\*** per person (B&Bs)  
from **\$607\*** per person (hotels)

Departs Dublin

Explore the highlights of Ireland's striking west, from sea cliffs and mountains to ancient monasteries and castles.

### Value inclusions:

- 2 nights accommodation in your choice of hotels or B&Bs
- 2 breakfasts
- Services of a driver/guide
- Transportation by mini coach
- Sightseeing program, including visits to Connemara National Park, the Cliffs of Moher & Kylemore Abbey

## Escape to the West

5 days

from **\$966\*** per person (B&Bs)  
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Spend five days travelling through some of Ireland's most attractive landscapes and stay in the authentic heart of the south west.

### Value inclusions:

- 4 nights accommodation in your choice of hotels or B&Bs
- 4 breakfasts
- Services of a driver/guide
- Transportation by mini coach
- Sightseeing program, including visits to the Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Peninsula & the Ring of Kerry

\*Conditions apply. Prices are per person, based on twin share accommodation. Prices are accurate as at 17 Oct 14. Seasonal surcharges and blackout dates apply depending on date of travel. Deals and offers are subject to availability and may change without notice prior to reservation confirmation and due to currency fluctuations. All airfares are excluded. Offers valid for new bookings only and not combinable with any other offers. **West Coast Explorer (3D/2N)** is valid for sale until 28 Sep 14 and travel on 27 Apr, 11 & 25 May, 08 & 22 Jun, 06 & 20 Jul, 03, 17 & 31 Aug, 14 & 28 Sep 15. **Kilkenny, West Cork & Kinsale - South East Ireland (3D/2N)** is valid for sale until 01 Oct 15 and travel Thu (07 May – 01 Oct 15). **Escape to the West (5D/4N)** is valid for sale until 04 Oct 15 and travel Sun (19 Apr – 04 Oct 15) and selected Wed (06 May – 23 Sep 15). Visit [www.tempoholidays.com](http://www.tempoholidays.com) for our full terms and conditions. Tempo Holidays Pty Ltd ABN 51007331213

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 22nd October 2014

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## NZCC hiccup for Expedia

**EXPEDIA'S** takeover of Wotif does not appear to be a *fait accompli* with "continuing investigations" into the deal by the New Zealand Commerce Commission confirmed today.

Although the move has been rubber-stamped by the ACCC after an "informal merger review" (TD 02 Oct) the NZCC has now issued a "letter of unresolved issues" to Expedia.

The Scheme of Arrangement implementing the deal was originally set to become effective a week ago, but officials in NZ have now indicated they will not be in a position to provide a decision on the takeover until Wed 05 Nov.

The NZCC probe focuses on the "competitive constraints on and between online travel agencies, including from domestic and international OTAs, bricks and mortar travel agents, metasearch sites and other evolving online business models, and from distribution channels including hotel direct bookings".

Wotif said it would work with the NZCC to resolve any issues.

### Movember is back!

**AMADEUS** is challenging the Australian travel industry to join the Movember challenge.

Gentlemen, grow some luscious facial hair next month and you could be in the running to win - as well as having your efforts showcased in **TD!** See **page six**.

### Tempo Ireland saving

**TEMPO** Holidays is offering a 10% saving on small group tours in Ireland, with trips starting at just \$545 per person.

A range of 3-5 day tours are on offer including accommodation, breakfasts, sightseeing and the services of a driver/guide - for details see the **front full page** of today's **Travel Daily**.

### Nine pages of news

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news, a front cover page for **Tempo Holidays**, plus full pages from: (**click**):

- AA Appointments jobs
- Consolidated/SQ promo
- AIME 2015

## SCENIC REWARDS

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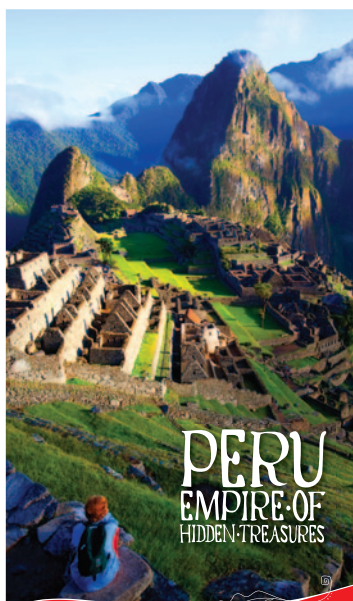
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## DFAT travel insurance guide

"IF YOU'RE going overseas, it's just as important to get travel insurance as it is to bring your passport," according to a new CHOICE report commissioned by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The "Travel Insurance Buying Guide," to be formally launched tomorrow by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, provides a comprehensive overview of the travel insurance landscape, covering options such as credit card insurance, online sellers, insurance via suppliers including airlines, as well as travel agents.

CHOICE raises a host of issues, including the wide variety of coverage available, cover for activities such as skiing or motorbikes, coverage of valuables and pre-existing conditions.

In 2012-13 more than 200,000 insurance claims were paid in Australia, while about 20,000 were denied due to a "misunderstanding of the policy by the person who bought it".

Case studies highlight a range of issues such as claims denied due to intoxication, while there's

also a "pop quiz" on insolvency which says that of 29 providers reviewed, only seven currently provide coverage for the failure of a supplier such as an airline.

The report highlights some of the pitfalls of credit card travel insurance, saying it's "essential you check the small print".

It also gives guidance as to how to make a complaint if an insurer refuses to pay a claim.

The guide also urges consumers to haggle on insurance prices with travel agents, saying "high commissions leave plenty of room to negotiate".

**CLICK HERE** to view the guide.

### How Kewell is this!

HELLOWORLD has secured soccer superstar Harry Kewell as the keynote speaker for its upcoming Frontliners conference.

Front line consultants at the event will also hear from solo sailor Jessica Watson as well as a full program of expert speakers, networking and workshops.

The conference takes place at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 28-30 Nov.

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Wednesday 22nd October 2014



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## Mantra board top shareholders

**THE** public listing of Mantra group earlier this year (**TD** 20 Jun) has seen some of the group's directors - including ceo Bob East and Helloworld ceo Elizabeth Gaines - emerge among the 20 largest shareholders in the firm.

The Mantra annual report released this morning, details options held by board members which were converted into shares upon the float.

East, whose total remuneration

for the year was \$1.36 million, also exercised options which see him hold 2.3m shares now worth \$5.32 million.

Gaines, who resigned from the Mantra board last month (**TD** 30 Sep) citing "other executive commitments," received \$160,000 in extra income from Mantra in 2013/14 in her non-executive director role.

That included 100,000 options under a Management Equity Plan; she also exercised options which saw her receive 1.16m Mantra shares, now worth \$2.66 million.

Mantra's cfo Steven Becker and sales chief Kent Davidson are also in the firm's top 20 shareholders.

It was a busy year for Mantra, with Gaines attending 27 board and committee meetings.

Gaines is also a non-executive director of Fortescue Metals.

## EK brings Gigi to Cup

**NEW** York socialite and fashion model Gigi Hadid will attend the Emirates Melbourne Cup as a special guest of the Dubai carrier and the Victoria Racing Club.

Hadid will mingle with guests at the Germany-themed Emirates marquee in the Birdcage & watch the race at the Chairman's Suite.

## JNTO comp winner

**JETSTAR** has announced the winner of the Japan National Tourism Organisation Sydney's incentive to win two airfares to Tokyo (**TD** 01 Sep) as Emma Chapman from helloworld Corio.

Emma was one of the agents to qualify after completing JNTO's online training course on Japan at [www.yourworkshops.com.au](http://www.yourworkshops.com.au).

## Business Suite routes

**QANTAS'** newly launched A330 Business Suite (**TD** yesterday) will take to the skies for the first time from Dec and will fly routes both within Australia, Asia & Pacific.

Largely appearing on aircraft based in Sydney, routes within Australia will include Melbourne, Brisbane & Perth, while Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila, Shanghai and Honolulu will also offer the new product.

"The design was based on a real understanding of what Qantas customers needed on longer domestic flights and overnight international flights from Asia," QF designer Marc Newson said.

## Jumeirah earlybirds

**SAVINGS** of between 20%-40% are on sale now at eight Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and the Maldives including industry rates - ph 1800 269 388.

## Outrigger GTA tie-up

**GLOBAL** inventory of Outrigger Resorts has today gone live on GTA travel industry distribution platforms for agents to book via XML feeds or hotel wholesalers.



## Window Seat

**TRAVELLERS** love taking selfies while on holiday, and apparently so does Contiki.

The youth tour operator has plastered hundreds of uploaded selfies, submitted by travellers over the last six months, all over one of its coaches in what it calls the #ContikiSelfieCoach.

Currently touring Europe on a 19-day European Inspiration itinerary, the coach (pictured below) is turning heads and inspiring conversations and more photos wherever it goes.

Travellers can upload their selfie with the hashtag #EuropeSelfie, as more coaches with new photos are set to pop up in coming months in various locations around the world.



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## Daily from Australia to Across Africa

Australia to: ✈ South Africa from **\$1,375\***

✈ Kenya from **\$1,711\***

✈ Zambia from **\$1,784\***

✈ Zimbabwe from **\$1,796\***

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\* Offer ends 19 November 2014 for departures between 01 March 2015 to 31 March 2015, 24 April 2015 to 19 June 2015 and 06 July 2015 to 31 August 2015. Advertised airfares are inclusive of taxes and surcharges and are correct as at 16 October 2014. Valid for international flight departures between Australia and the Republic of South Africa in Economy Class during low season. Seats subject to availability. Amendment fees and cancellation penalties apply. SA7251 to SA7269 on Australian domestic services operated by Virgin Australia. Contact the SAA Sales team or Reservations on 1300 435 972 for more information.

Today's issue of TD comes to you from Salzburg, courtesy of Austrian National Tourist Office.

**MORE** than 20 Australian agents and 38 from the US put their singing skills to the test overnight on a Sound of Music tour around Salzburg.

Following on from the Austria Destination Summit, which wrapped up yesterday evening, almost 60 agents re-lived the story of the Von Trapp family as they visited iconic sights from the classic 1960's film.

Starting at the Mirabell Gardens and Nonnberg Abbey, agents saw where the opening scenes of the movie were filmed, listened to the original soundtrack and sung along to their favourite tunes.

They also set foot in the church of Mondsee and took a city tour through the Old Town of Salzburg to learn the finer details about the city's musical heritage, famously known as the home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

To top off the evening, consultants were spoiled to a celebration at the luxurious Schloss Fuschl, built in 1461.

More from Austria on **page 8**.

## Reef tourism advisors

**THE** first meeting of the newly formed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Advisory Committee has taken place in Townsville.

The 15-person committee has been tasked with working closely alongside reef tour operators and resorts to highlight the fragility of the reef and to push sustainable use by all tourism entities.

It will also provide a vehicle for the industry itself to provide input into strategic management plans & operational best practice.

Among the 15 committee members is QTIC chief executive Daniel Gschwind, Mike Drake from Carnival Australia and Tony Charters of Ecotourism Australia.

## Hangzhou visa-free

**CITIES** across China are rapidly moving to adopt the 72-hour visa-free entrance policy to boost the tourism appeal, with the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou now the latest to implement the scheme.

Hangzhou is located in Zhejiang Province and is the tenth city to offer 72-hour visa-free admission.

## Future industry leaders endorsed



**EIGHTEEN** years since its inception, the prestigious Avis Travel Agent Scholarship remains true to its core philosophy in that it recognises the best in customer service over outright sales figures.

The newest member of the Avis Honour Roll was named last night as Jodie Gonzales from American Express Global Business Travel.

Gonzales has been in the travel industry for around 12 years and is based on the Gold Coast.

Announced at a gala dinner at Sydney's Four Seasons Hotel, Gonzales' win saw her claim the accolade and a pool of travel and educational prizes totalling close to \$50,000 provided by a range of generous benefactors.

Over the next year, Gonzales will travel to New York City in

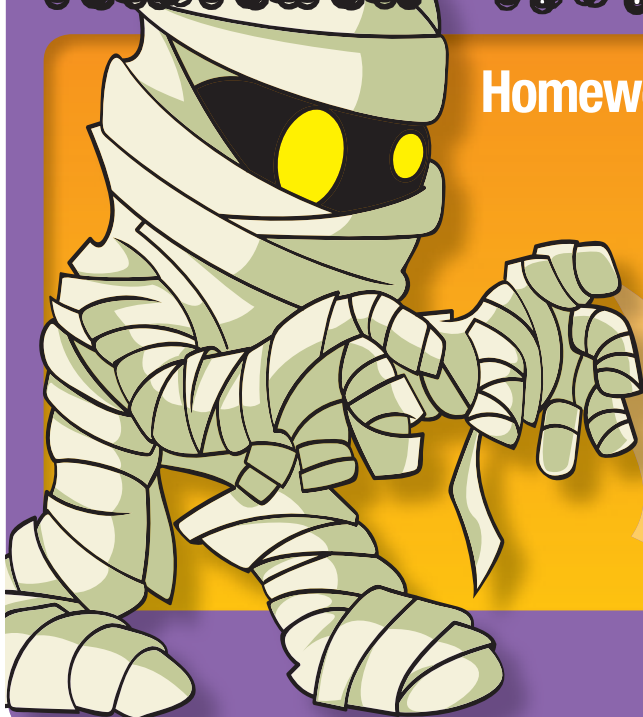
Business class courtesy of Qantas, meet with Avis heavyweights at the company's global head office during a six-night Manhattan stay in a luxury hotel and enjoy seven days Avis car hire to see the sights.

Further, she will receive one year of personal and professional coaching as part of a 12-month package by Polonious Resources.

Also awarded is a scholarship from Southern Cross University to study any degree, with financial support up to \$8,000 contributed.

Gonzales is **pictured** above second from left with Russell Butler from Avis (right) and her three fellow nominees in Melanie Whyte, TravelManagers; Paul Mirabito, Corporate Travel Management and Meagan McLeod, Escape Travel Wagga.

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# Cathay celebrates 40 years



**CATHAY** Pacific yesterday had a very special birthday, with the carrier commemorating exactly 40 years since its first passenger flight between Hong Kong and Sydney on 21 Oct 1974.

Since then the airline has carried more than 10 million travellers and a million tonnes of cargo between the cities, and moved from three Australian flights per week to 74.

Sydney has long been a key market for Cathay, and the airline now operates four daily flights and will later this year further boost capacity with the deployment of a 777-300ER on the overnight departure ex SYD, adding 98 seats per day.

CX marked the moment by recreating an iconic commercial

in Sydney's Martin Place, with Aussie Hal Dyball - now retired, but CX First Officer on the inaugural service to the NSW capital - reprising his starring role from 40 years ago (below), along with six flight attendants dressed in CX uniforms through the decades.

**Pictured** above from left are Captain Hal Dyball; Cathay's new gm south west Pacific, Nelson Chin; the airline's director corporate development James Barrington and CX director of sales and marketing, Dane Cheng.



## China Airlines (CI) 3 weekly Sydney – Christchurch Flights



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Wednesday 22nd Oct 2014

## DriveAway 15/16 out

**DRIVEAWAY** Holidays has released its new 2015/16 Worldwide Car & Motorhome Rentals brochure.

The program includes a new "Top 5 Drives" section featuring itineraries in Australia, NZ, UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, the USA and Canada.

Worldwide car rental in more than 8,000 locations across 130 countries is included alongside European Peugeot Leasing, motorhomes in the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and NZ.

There is also USA motorcycle rentals and prestige car hire services, all backed up with a "beat rate policy".

Copies via TIFS [www.tifs.com.au](http://www.tifs.com.au).

## Alitalia Rome special

**ALITALIA** has released new fares from Australia to Italy, leading in at \$1,056 gross plus taxes and fuel surcharges.

The services operate on Etihad Airways metal between Australia and Abu Dhabi and then on Alitalia planes onward to Rome and other ports in Europe.

Some blackout dates apply and there are also Business class fare levels from \$5,705 + taxes ex MEL.

## RoadTrip 2014 success

**CONTIKI** is reporting a 44% jump in booking enquiries for its trips through Spain, France and Italy which were promoted on YouTube during its 2014 RoadTrip.

The third RoadTrip to date was bigger than ever before with 13 high profile YouTubers creating 90 pieces of original content while on the 10 day Mediterranean Highlights itinerary.

More than 2.9 million fans have viewed the coverage along with a daily video series hosted on the Contiki YouTube channel.

## Art Series enters Qld

**ASIAN** Pacific Group's Art Series Hotel Group has been identified as the likely operator of a new 5-star boutique hotel for Brisbane.

Plans revealed last week for the proposed Howard Smith Wharves redevelopment on the Brisbane River include a six-storey 150-room hotel, to be positioned beneath the Story Bridge (**below**).

The project, to be spearheaded by the HSW Consortium, will also include a dining, retail and tourism centre along with a 1,500sqm exhibition space.



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Share the Experience





**MOVEMBER** will see multitudes of males growing mo's to raise funds for the Movember Foundation's programs and to encourage community awareness and support around men's health.

Amadeus IT Pacific men are putting out the challenge to the travel industry to raise funds for the cause. The person who raises the most money will win a **Shaving Brush Travel Kit**.

If you are game, **register at [au.movember.com](http://au.movember.com)** (add your company name after your name and choose to join the **Amadeus IT Pacific team**) by the end of October.

Email your before and after pics and progress updates to [mocomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:mocomp@traveldaily.com.au) and we will showcase them on **Facebook** and in **Travel Daily**.

Get involved as an Amadeus Mo Bro! Click **HERE** to learn more about the program.

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## St Regis Rome sold

**SUBSIDIARIES** of Constellation Hotels Holding Limited have purchased the St Regis, Rome hotel from Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide for the price of €110m (AU\$160m).

The hotel will remain branded as a St Regis under a long-term agreement with Starwood.

## South Africa open for business



**SOUTH** African Tourism and South African Airways hosted 250 industry guests at the Australian Technology Park last night for the Sydney leg of its national roadshows.

Emceed by *A Taste of Travel TV* host Scott McRae, the showcase gave agents the opportunity to 'Meet South Africa' and network with South African operators and province representatives as well as locally based wholesalers.

SAT country manager Lalie Ngozi assured attendees that "South Africa is open for business", following some uncertainty about travel as a result of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

"South Africa is concerned about Ebola and we are doing what we can to support countries affected by Ebola", she said.

Ngozi advised the nation has been active in putting necessary measures in place to keep South Africa safe including stopping

flights from countries affected by Ebola arriving into the country.

"Our job is to sell dreams, so let's continue doing it", Ngozi said as she thanked the trade for their continued support to promote South Africa.

The South African Road Show will conclude in Perth tomorrow and follows a series of successful events in Brisbane, Melbourne and Auckland.

**Pictured** at the event are the SAT team of Jessica Kulakowski; Yana Shvarts; newly appointed trade relations manager Melyne Nercessian and Lalie Ngozi.

**Travel Daily**  
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## Delta retirement plan

**DELTA** Air Lines plans to retire its entire fleet of Boeing 747 jets progressively over the next three years, its ceo has announced.

Speaking to shareholders as part of the carrier's Q3 financial conference call, Richard Anderson said the faster retirement plan comes as part of a restructure of Pacific operations.

Retirement of the jumbos will occur as the carrier takes delivery of new A330 aircraft, with plans to move capacity from the transatlantic to Asian routes.

## Hilton Burma debuts

**HILTON** Worldwide has made its debut in Myanmar (Burma) following the opening of the 202-room Hilton Nay Pyi Taw in the country's capital.

The property is well placed to handle meetings and conference traffic, located near Myanmar's event venue Ruby Hall, and featuring five function spaces.

## After Hours Corporate Travel Consultant Weekend and Evening Work

We have a new position available for an experienced travel consultant who has thorough knowledge in fares and ticketing. This is a great role which services all enquiries out of business hours. It has great flexibility and is based on a rotational roster. Great for an experienced corporate travel consultant looking to return to work. Must have corporate travel consulting experience to apply.

### Afterhours Corporate Consultant Role:

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## AAT Melb day tours

**A NEW** day tour of Mornington Peninsula that takes in Seawinds and the Enchanted Adventure Gardens, coupled with a foodie tour of Green Olive at Red Hill has been introduced to AAT Kings' Melbourne Day Tours program.

The just released 2014/15 guide features a collection of 10 half & full day tours to Phillip Island, the Twelve Apostles and other sites.



## 2015 MEDITERRANEAN GRAND VOYAGES ON SALE

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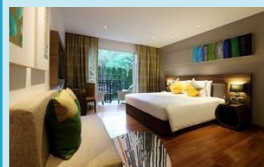
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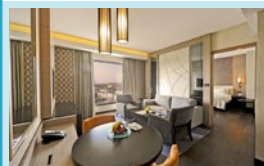
## Accommodation Updates

**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).



Located on Karon Beach, Novotel has opened its newest Thailand property in the **Novotel Phuket Karon Beach Resort & Spa**. The 224-room newbuild resort overlooks the Andaman Sea and offers a variety of room categories including Plunge Pool Suites & Family Rooms.

Other facilities include three pools, one of which is suited especially for kids, multiple dining options including one poolside, Kids & Teen Clubs.



The newest luxury address in the sparkling Omani landscape has recently opened in the form of the **Hormuz Grand Hotel** in Muscat. Situated a short drive from the airport, the property aims to deliver authentic Omani culture and hospitality across 231 rooms and 25 suites. Rooms are space-abundant, offer copious amounts of natural light and are built around a central courtyard reminiscent of an oasis.



With the intention of becoming one of Queensland's premium dining destinations, the new **Homage Restaurant at Spicers Hidden Vale** will be headed up by acclaimed regional chef Ash Martin. Menus are inspired by local Lockyer Valley producers, farmers markets and within the property itself. Eighty garden beds and a nearby orchard also supply the restaurant with fruits, vegetables, herbs & honey.

## An infinity of Paris possibilities

### INFINITY

Holidays hosted this group of ten Flight Centre consultants on a trip to Paris and Lyon last month.

They took in the classic sights such as the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and more, while a half day tour to Versaille was a highlight.

Heading by train to

Lyon, they also sampled some fabulous regional cuisine, and are **pictured** above: Olenka Palac, Renee Gibb, Benjamin Mitchell, Andrew Oakley, Vanessa Tredrea, Paige Fraser, Brooke Hall, Corina Bonello, Cherae Smith and Andrew Reid.

Such was their thankfulness for taking part in the trip that some even performed a "gratitude dance" on the steps of the Sacre Couer Basilica - check out the moves by clicking on the logo or at [traveldaily.com.au/videos](http://traveldaily.com.au/videos).



### Pan Pac conf rewards

**CONFERENCE** organisers are incentivised to book events at Pan Pacific Singapore with a suite of privileges on offer to 28 Feb.

Pan Pacific Rewards include a 5% saving on meeting packages, welcome coffee break, free late check-out, complimentary use of an LCD projector and more.

Two privileges are awarded for groups of 20-50 room nights, three for 51-80, four for 81-100, five for 111-160 and seven for 161 or more room nights.

Quote 'MP2015' when booking.

### Qantas OTP king

**QANTAS** has topped the latest on time performance (OTP) report card for major domestic airlines during the month of Sep, with close to nine out of every 10 departing and arriving flights operating as scheduled.

Rival Virgin Australia trailed QF in both instances, followed by Jetstar and Tigerair, data from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport & Regional Economics released today shows.

Regional Express led regional airlines for on time departures at 90.4% while in the same category, Virgin Australia Regional Airlines achieved the highest on time arrivals at 88.2%.

The government data also identified Virgin Australia as having the highest percentage of flight cancellations at 1.7%.

### China Law hits arrivals

**NEW** Zealand recorded its highest ever inbound visitor tally for Sep, according to new figures from Statistics New Zealand, however arrivals from China fell.

The total of 193,300 arrivals trailed only that of the 219,900 tally from Sep two years earlier when visitors for the Rugby World Cup were coming in droves.

Imposition of the controversial China Law last year to crack down on illegitimate tour operators has also impacted arrivals, the report said, due to prices going up.

Total Chinese arrivals totalled 186,768 for the month.

Visitors from Australia increased by 1,000 to 102,976, making up the overwhelming majority of visitors from the Oceania region.

Arrivals for the first nine months of the year closed at 2.8 million - a 5% year-on-year increase.

### Tahoe transformation

**MORE** than US\$100 million has been spent on a renaissance of the Lake Tahoe South region, with new features including the first Hard Rock Hotel & Casino set to open early next year.

Formerly The Horizon Resort Casino, the redevelopment will offer 539 hotel rooms and multiple new restaurants.

Further investments in the area include a \$24 million remodelling of the MontBlue Resort Casino & Spa, \$3 million at the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel and \$15 million on the Château shopping centre.

## Win tickets to RUPERT

Every day this week, *Travel Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a double pass to see David Williamson's RUPERT at the Theatre Royal in Sydney.

RUPERT is an unconventional, revue-style exposition of the life and times of Keith Rupert Murdoch - the most powerful media magnate in modern history. Watch as Rupert tap dances his way to the top. But what happens when the man behind the news becomes the news?

For your chance to win, simply be the first person to email the correct answer to the question below to:

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



When is the Opening night for RUPERT in Sydney?

### Lufthansa LCC reveal

**LUFTHANSA** ceo Carsten

Spohr has told reporters at the Association of European Airlines in Istanbul the carrier expects to reveal details of its new long-haul low-cost offshoot in Dec.

The planned subsidiary is a joint venture with Star Alliance partner Turkish Airlines (*TD* 11 Jul), with Spohr commenting that the partnership is "progressing nicely", *Bloomberg* reported.

It's understood the new airline will be dubbed Wings, complementing Lufthansa's budget sister carrier Germanwings, and be based on TK's LCC offshoot, SunExpress.

### VA Cooks renewal

**THE** International Air Services Commission has renewed Virgin Australia's allocation of 180 seats per week on the Cook Islands route for a period of five years, effective 13 Oct 2015.

The IASC said no other carriers sought the Cook Islands capacity.



## Four Seasons dropout

**CHANGES** of management at the Four Seasons Hotel Dublin will see the property leave the upmarket chain by year's end. Four Seasons said a new five star brand will take over next year.

## Social media gorging

**TOURISM** Australia will next month welcome more than 80 food and wine bloggers, writers, critics & broadcasters to sample Aussie gastronomy as part of the Restaurant Australia campaign. Participants will disperse across the nation, trying local delicacies and offerings and sharing their findings with audiences at home. All visitors will then gather at MONA in Tassie on 14 Nov for a gourmet showcase (**TD** 07 May).



We are looking for two dynamic people to join our Virgin Australia Holidays team in Brisbane:

### Online Product Specialist

- Responsible for the development of online holiday package product for internal and external stakeholders, including marketing, websites, call centre and external partnership opportunities.
- Responsible for the delivery of online holiday package product, includes management of suppliers, pricing, inventory, product details, and conditions for all product being promoted.
- Be an e-commerce savvy, data driven holiday packaging subject matter expert for online holiday package product and its travel components.

#### Requirements:

- At least 5 years of professional industry experience, preferably in travel product, product marketing and/or product development.
- Deep understanding of online business models and/or ecommerce, consumer oriented businesses.
- Proven product delivery in the online space, preferably in the travel industry.
- Excellent negotiation and analytical skills pertaining to contractual, financial and technical issues.
- Strong team player with outstanding ability to multi-task and thrive in fast paced environment.
- Excellent written, presentation and verbal communication skills.
- Proficient with MS Office suite.
- Proactively collaborate with team members to continuously improve service delivery.

### Supplier Operations Coordinator

- Provide post sales administration and fulfillment functions related to all new and changed bookings with suppliers and customers, including reservation requests, confirmations, cancellations and booking changes and related vouchers.
- Maintain event ticketing with external suppliers including sporting, exhibition and theatre events.
- Provide back of house administration support to the Guest Contact Centre, Product, Finance and Technology divisions

#### Requirements:

- Minimum 1-2 years travel industry experience in a similar travel agent or travel administration role.
- Full knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel, strong typing skills and computer literacy.
- Knowledge of travel industry tour operator system, mid office system or GDS preferred.
- Previous experience dealing with suppliers such as hotels, car, tour and airlines desired.
- Strong communication skills with attention to detail.
- Takes ownership and follow up with internal and external customers.
- Proactively collaborate with team members to continuously improve service delivery.
- Ability to be flexible and work independently and efficiently in a fast pace and changing environment.

If this sounds like you and you want to be part of Virgin Australia Holidays exciting growth plans, please forward your letter of interest and resume to [jobs@virginaustraliaholidays.com](mailto:jobs@virginaustraliaholidays.com)

Applications close 28 Oct 2014. No agencies please. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

## Austria Summit heads for Vienna



**ALMOST** 60 agents from Australia and the US are headed to Vienna today to take part in tailored famils across Austria.

Starting with a private river cruise on the Danube, they will continue on to the wine village of Langenlois before travelling to Vienna to learn more about its vibrant arts scene.

The famil will also showcase Vienna's café culture and give agents the chance to learn how to waltz like a pro.

The famil follows the conclusion of the Austria. Destination Summit which wrapped up in Salzburg overnight with a farewell dinner at Schloss Fuschl.

Agents told **TD** the program was

"valuable and informative" and provided them with the skills they need to confidently sell Austria to clients back home.

The group are **pictured** above at the Leopoldskron Palace.

## New product lures Aussies to Austria

**TOURISM** representatives outlined a range of new product at the Austria. Destination Summit yesterday as they appealed to Aussie agents to recommend Austria as a cultural destination to clients.

Speaking at the ADS yesterday, head of product development for the Austrian National Tourist Office in New York Gabriele Wolf said product innovation had come "a long way" over the years and now represents an attractive offering for Aussies.

The DomQuartier museum in Salzburg is new to the offering as of May this year, featuring a series of baroque art spanning some 1300 years.

The Dirndl to Go experience is another recent addition that also allows travellers to dress in traditional Austrian attire in the Haustadt region, while a number of culinary experiences are also available in Graz and Innsbruck.

Wolf said the product had been well received by Australian travellers, adding that Aussies are lured by traditional experiences they can't source back home.

"Australians are looking to experience old culture in a very modern way and we now have many products that achieve that."

**MEANWHILE**, the new Vienna Central Train Station opened last week, providing high speed connections from Vienna to Salzburg within 2.5 hours.

A new hotel and shops will also open when completed in 2015.

## Eurovision deals in the pipeline

**THE** Austrian National Tourist Office is working alongside key industry partners to roll out packages for Eurovision 2015, to be held in Vienna on 23 May.

Speaking with **TD** in Salzburg overnight, ANTO Australia director Astrid Mulholland-Licht confirmed the organisation was in the process of developing programs for the event following a number of agent enquiries.

While details are yet to be confirmed, ANTO is "discussing" a promotion with Austrian Airlines and plans to roll out an incentive for agents.

It is also "in talks" with SBS about how to organise a series of events from 12-23 May next year, Mulholland-Licht said.

"We have had a lot of interest for Eurovision 2015 and are now working on programs for the Australia market," she said.

"It's also great news for Vienna because it will shed some more light on the region and Austria as a whole."



# Jean-Michel lathers up agents



**BOTTLES** of sweet smelling coconut oil left in the hands of more than 130 Sydney agents last night as luxury Fijian eco-resort Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort said thanks for ongoing trade support.

The property's general manager Mark Slimmer is in town this week hosting trade events in Sydney and Melbourne, with 130 in attendance last night and 160 more in Melbourne tomorrow.

Agents specially invited to the events have all booked clients to stay at the resort in recent years.

Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort's Victoria-based director of sales and marketing Christine McCann told **Travel Daily** word of mouth recommendation continues to play a major part in the resort's image in the Australian market.

Such endorsements has seen forward bookings for the resort up 7% for 2015, with the entire Jun school holiday period all but sold out and inventory for Sep also disappearing very quickly.

McCann added that the resort's current mission was to educate the luxury travel agent sector to "explore outside the square" when it comes to selling Fiji and to consider islands outside Viti Levu such as Vanua Levu.

The property is also the number one resort worldwide booked by the Travel Associates group.

Coming months will see Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort complete major renovations, with the latest upgrades seeing a new bar and lounge constructed, with new furniture added to dining areas.

Activity programs have been refreshed for kids and teenagers, with independent rainforest walks, river tubing and billy go-cart building among options.

**Pictured** above at last night's event from left is Matt Symonds, Tourism Fiji; Mark Slimmer and Christine McCann, Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort and Luisa Finiasi from Tourism Fiji.

## Hard Rock growth

**MUSIC** entertainment resort operator Hard Rock International has announced Dallas-Fort Worth will be the group's newest site.

Construction of a 300-room resort in The Grand Alps Village in Grand Prairie, Texas will begin in Jan 2015 with an estimated opening date three years later.

The US\$400m property will also include an indoor snow facility, with 86 hotel rooms overlooking the indoor ski terrain.

## Porsche Macarthur

**SELF-DRIVE** Porsche tours are now available in the Macarthur region of NSW through local business Sports Car on Hire.

The company provides sports car enthusiasts with the option to get behind the wheel of Porsche Boxster S convertibles for local touring, priced at \$850 per car.

Included in the cost for the full day experience is lunch, fuel and car insurance - (0434) 777 986.

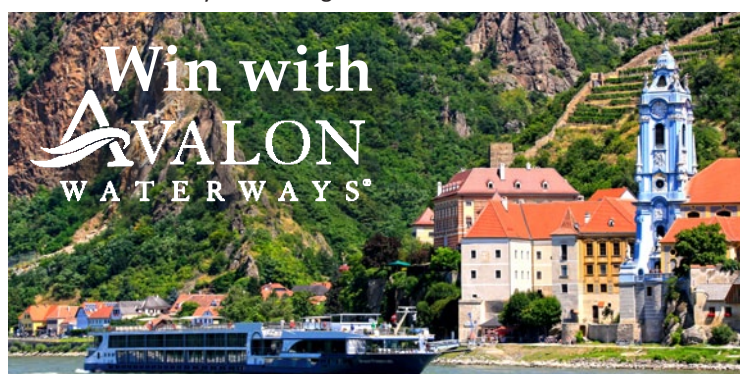
## SiteMinder kudos

**ACCOM** online distribution platform SiteMinder has been ranked among the nation's most successful technology companies after it was named as a Deloitte Technology Fast 50 Australia winner for the 4th year running.

## Galactic re-ignited

**VIRGIN** Galactic is expected to begin new powered test flights of its space aircraft SpaceShipTwo shortly following a string of on ground qualification tests for a new solid fuel used in the hybrid rocket motor, *Space.com* said.

The last rocket-powered test flight of the craft took place on 02 Jan, with Virgin Galactic saying in May it was adjusting its fuel due to engine instabilities in the former product and should allow SpaceShipTwo to fly even higher.



Throughout the month of October, **TD** is giving readers the chance to win a luxurious French prize pack, courtesy of **Avalon Waterways**.

The prize includes his and hers Louis Vuitton weekend bags, three nights in a Junior Suite at the Sofitel Sydney, a bottle of Dom Perignon Champagne, gift voucher for L'Occitane products, and a dinner voucher to Felix fine dining French restaurant, valued at over \$5,500.

Every week this month **TD** will ask a different question about Avalon. The subscriber with the best answer to all of the questions will win this fabulous prize pack.

Email your answer for this week by COB 24th Oct to: [avalonwaterways@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:avalonwaterways@traveldaily.com.au)

Avalon offers many 'themed' river cruises in France including Art & Impressionist, Culinary, Jazz, and Wine Appreciation.

In 25 words or less tell us which you would recommend for your clients and why.

Hint: see pages 26 & 27 of the 2015 Avalon Waterways River Cruises brochure



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WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS**

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If you are in between jobs or want some additional income why not register as a travel temp consultant? With a wide range of roles across QLD, in retail, corporate, product and wholesale this could also be your chance to trial something new. Working as a temp you can choose when and where you want to work, giving you the freedom a full-time position doesn't allow whilst still earning top dollar. Min 2 yrs recent consulting experience including a GDS is required. Contact us today and start working tomorrow ...

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Between 06 October – 02 November 2014, Consolidated Travel & Singapore Airlines are giving the five best agents a \$5000 travel voucher for the highest sales. Issue your tickets with Consolidated Travel to get \$30 for every \$2000 in ticketed sales, includes Early Bird bookings.



A \$30 voucher will be awarded for every \$2000 in ticketed sales on Singapore Airlines

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Quiktravel



CONDITIONS: Valid for tickets issued by Consolidated Travel or via Quikticket between 06 October – 02 November 2014 on 100% SQ/MI itineraries ex Australia plated to SQ (618). Child, Infant, Group sales, Wholesale and Cancelled or Refunded tickets are not eligible. \*States are defined as (VIC/TAS, NSW/ACT, QLD, SA/NT, WA). The agents with the highest International SQ/MI sales (minimum \$30,000.00 applies to qualify ) and an increase of 30% compared to the previous year will win the major prize. The Major prizes are valid on SQ/MI services only. Bonus Prizes will be calculated on the airfare only, excluding taxes and surcharges. Vouchers are capped at \$50,000.00 and all claims are to be emailed to [promotions@consolidatedtravel.com.au](mailto:promotions@consolidatedtravel.com.au) by COB 7 November 2014. All winners must be an international travel consultant and full time employee of the agency in Australia. Consolidated Travel and Singapore Airlines reserve the right to withdraw or change the conditions of the promotion at any time. Receipt of a prize may have Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) implications. To the extent that there is any FBT liability, this will be paid for by the employer of the recipient. The grossed-up value of a prize and any other Fringe Benefits the recipient receives during the course of the FBT year may be reported on the recipient's annual PAYG Payment Summary as required by taxation law. Consolidated Travel Group ABN 60 004 692 791. Date of issue 03 October 2014



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