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Tuesday 3rd January 2017

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Royal New Year sale

ROYAL Caribbean International has marked the start of a new year with a massive sale, offering three perks when booking a local voyage departing between 03 Jan & 22 Apr 2018 - see **cover wrap**.

The promotion offers discounts of up to 30%, in addition to up to US\$400 onboard credit and 50% deposits (when booking outside 70 days prior to departure, or 90 days for holiday sailings).

Eligible cruises are aboard either *Ovation of the Seas*, *Explorer of the Seas*, *Voyager of the Seas* or *Radiance of the Seas*.

Book before 27 Feb.

HLO board changes

MIKE Ferraro and Andrew Finch have been appointed to the board of Helloworld, effective 01 Jan.

Ferraro is currently a director of Alumina Limited while Finch is general counsel and company secretary at Qantas Airways Ltd.

Meanwhile, former Helloworld chairman Rob Marcolina who steered the company through the merger of HLO with the AOT Group, from Feb to Oct last year, has retired from the board.

CEO/MD Andrew Burnes lauded Marcolina for his "expertise and contribution" to the business.

Botanica seminars

BOTANICA World Discoveries will hold a series of seminars around the country to promote its 2017 and 2018 destinations, itineraries and touring options.

Among topics to be discussed will be Botanica's 12 new trips in the 2018 program, including themed cruising on Spain's Douro.

Events will be conducted in Melbourne on 03 Feb, Sydney (07 Feb), Canberra (08 Feb), Melbourne (21 Feb), Brisbane (22 Feb), Mornington Peninsula (20 Mar) and Adelaide (22 Mar).

Each session will commence at 10:30am daily.

For locations and to pre-register clients, call 1300 305 202 or see botanica.travel/infosessions.

Queen's Wharf handover

WORK on the development of the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane world-class integrated resort has commenced after Destination Brisbane Consortium took possession of the site.

The joint venture between The Star Entertainment Group and Hong Kong-based Chow Tai Fook Enterprises & Far East Consortium will work over the next several years to transform the historic site into a vibrant tourism and entertainment destination.

On Sun, Star Entertainment Group ceo and md Matt Bekier said the occasion "marks a new year, new changes to our CBD streets and a new facelift for Brisbane as the city begins its long-anticipated transformation".

The site spans from the current Treasury Casino building to Alice Street and from the Brisbane River's edge to George Street.

The huge project will include adding 1,000 extra new premium hotel rooms to the Brisbane CBD, across five properties - Ritz Carlton Brisbane, a Dorsett, a Rosewood and two 'Star' branded five- and six-star hotels.

It will also feature 50 new bars and restaurants, retail space, restored and repurposed heritage

buildings, 12 football field sized public spaces, 2,000 apartments and a free Sky Deck 100 metres above William Street.

"With an expected opening in 2022, this development will put Brisbane on the map as a tourism, leisure & entertainment destination, attracting an extra 1.39 million visitors to the city each year," Bekier said.

Demolition of three non-heritage buildings within the site is earmarked to take around 12 months to complete, ahead of the slated start of main construction works in late 2018/early 2019.

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel element and a high end retail area at the site of the Treasury Hotel & Casino are flagged to open in 2024.

Negus to VA board

WARWICK Negus has been named as non-executive director of Virgin Australia Group, as the nominated rep of Virgin Group.

Negus replaces JP Moorhead who stepped down from the role.

Rocky celebration

ROCKY Mountaineer has rolled out a new 'Stay and Play' promo to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary this year.

New package bookings of seven nights or more on select travel dates, made between now and 03 Mar, will receive up to \$600 per couple in added value.

Delays for 12 EK A380s

AIRBUS has postponed the delivery of a dozen A380 aircraft to Emirates, with six of the jets to now be delivered from 2017 to 2018 and another six between 2018 and 2019.

The strategy aims to see Airbus scale back production of the A380 to 12 aircraft per year from 2018, as slated back in Jul.

"Further fixed cost reduction initiatives will be accelerated so the impact on break-even in 2017 is minimal," Airbus said.

Last year, Emirates took delivery of 20 superjumbos from Airbus, the highest number of A380s the Dubai-based carrier accepted in a calendar year, and flew 55 million passengers globally.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has three pages of news and photos including a front cover wrap for **Royal Caribbean Cruises**.

TD's Year in Review

FOR readers of *Travel Daily* who may have got a headstart on Christmas 2016 celebrations and missed seeing our Year in Review feature on 23 Dec, it can now be viewed online by **CLICKING HERE**.

The feature recaps some of the major stories **TD** covered over the last 12 months, including plenty of exclusive articles that appeared within the pages of *Travel Daily*, *Cruise Weekly*, *BEN* and *travelBulletin*.

Qantas Dubai hiccup

QANTAS passengers stranded in Dubai due to an operational issue of an Airbus A380 flight QF2 from Dubai to Sydney on New Year's Eve have returned home.

QF initially said the 480 delayed pax were expected to be put on alternative services to Australia within 24 hours of the hiccup.

"The ability to put passengers on other services has been complicated by the time of year, because most flights are already full with holiday travellers," QF said in a media statement.

The Aussie carrier apologised for the extended delay for some passengers, saying "the aircraft will not fly until we are confident it is safe to return to service".



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Amway to Sydney

SYDNEY will welcome more than 8,000 delegates to its new International Convention Centre (ICC Sydney) later this year after being chosen as the host city for the 2017 Amway China Leadership Seminar.

Business Events Sydney (BESydney) today said it would be the third time the city had hosted groups from Amway China.

See *Business Events News* on Thu for more details.

CX/AC expand c'share

CATHAY Pacific and Air Canada have announced an expanded partnership involving codeshare services and reciprocal frequent flyer arrangements.

Cathay services to Vancouver and Toronto will connect with Air Canada flights to major cities including Winnipeg, Victoria, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec.

Air Canada flights from Vancouver and Toronto to Hong Kong will connect with Cathay services to Asian cities including Manila, Kuala Lumpur & Bangkok.

Tickets will go on sale 12 Jan for travel from 19 Jan.

Crown Sydney win

JAMES Packer's \$2 billion Crown Sydney can proceed after clearing a final legal challenge from local community groups.

The NSW Land and Environment Court dismissed an appeal from the Millers Point Fund Incorporated which had claimed the casino's planning approvals were invalid.

Construction can now begin on the 275m casino, hotel and apartment tower at Barangaroo.

JQ axes MEL-WLG route

JETSTAR will abandon its direct Melbourne to Wellington route from Mar, citing a lack of demand for the direct flights.

The carrier's passengers will need to travel via Auckland or Christchurch after next month, although Qantas and Air New Zealand continue to operate direct services from Melbourne.

Jetstar's Wellington flights have operated four times a week aboard Airbus A320 aircraft.

"We launched our direct Melbourne-Wellington service nearly two years ago, however, despite continued efforts by Jetstar and local partners to promote the flights, we haven't seen the passenger demand we'd hoped for," a Jetstar

spokesperson told the *New Zealand Herald*, which reported that the cancellation was a blow to Wellington Airport as it struggled to gain airline backing for its planned runway extension.

The last service will operate from Melbourne to Wellington on 27 Feb, with refunds or alternative services offered to passengers with bookings beyond that date.

Jetstar continues to offer three weekly flights between Wellington and the Gold Coast.

APT 90 years sale

APT has kicked off its 90th anniversary year with a 'Celebration Sale', offering a choice of free flights, cabin upgrades, complimentary stopovers and air credits.

The company was launched by mechanic Bill McGeary who began transporting commuters aboard a converted truck during a Melbourne tram strike.

Son and current owner Geoff McGeary joined in 1961 and by the mid 1960s the company was offering tours to the outback.

The APT Celebration Sale will run until Mar 15.

CLICK HERE for full details.

Hyatt Hainan villas

PARK Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay Resort on China's Hainan island has introduced 17 new Park Villas.

Designed by Belgian architect Jean-Michel Gathy, the 185m² villas overlook the resort's tropical gardens or the South China Sea from their position at the southern tip of the island.



Window Seat

IF THE price of coffee is starting to seem a little steep, perhaps steer clear of the Armani Hotel Dubai where a brew can now cost almost \$30.

From its lobby lounge in the Burj Khalifa tower, the hotel is offering a cappuccino sprinkled with 23 carat gold flakes and served with dark chocolate.

The coffee is priced at AED75, or about AU\$28, and joins a growing list of gold-embellished food and drinks served in Dubai including tea, fruit juice, cupcakes and whipped cream.



Turkey, India DFAT

TRAVEL warnings for Turkey have been updated after the weekend's shooting attack in Istanbul which killed 39 people.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade says police operations are ongoing and travellers should avoid the area.

It continues to advise Australians to reconsider the need to travel to Istanbul and Ankara and exercise a high degree of caution elsewhere.

MEANWHILE, DFAT says the US and UK have warned of possible terrorist threats to areas of India frequented by foreigners.

Its overall advice for India has not changed.



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*Conditions Apply.

[CLICK HERE for further details](#)

Santa solves travel dilemma



Japan wi-fi mission

JAPAN will be adding 30,000 free wi-fi hotspots for tourists before the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The project, which is already underway, will provide free public wi-fi access at key locations across the country including many museums and national parks.

Hilton Hanoi 2020

HILTON has inked an agreement with BRG Group to manage a 610-room, dual-branded hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam. Scheduled to open in 2020, the Hilton Hanoi West Lake with feature 240 rooms/suites and 50 serviced residences, adjoining the 320-key DoubleTree by Hilton Hanoi West Lake. Together the properties will add close to 3,000m² of meeting space to the capital city.

QR LATAM stake nod

QATAR Airways has acquired 10% of total shares in LATAM Airlines Group. The preemptive rights offering of 61,316,424 new shares, at a price per share of US\$10 (AU \$13), ended on 23 Dec.

DID you know Santa Claus moonlights as a travel consultant? He had all the latest knowledge about Air Canada's flight paths when Brielle Glanz from italktravel Hillarys visited him (pictured in her entry for *TD's* Air Canada photo comp in Dec). He easily solved her problem of wanting a picture-perfect white Christmas in Canada and an epic New York New Year's Eve.

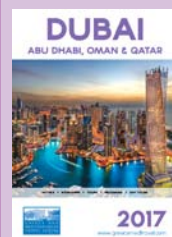
While entries are now closed, we received an influx of creative memes and pictures over the Christmas-New Year period. It's going to be a hard choice to pick the winner, but Air Canada is now in the process of weighing up who will score the flights.

Gatwick terminal rejig

LONDON Gatwick Airport's major carriers will change terminals this month with British Airways moving to the South Terminal, Virgin Atlantic switching to the North Terminal and easyJet consolidating all operations to the North Terminal. The moves are part of Gatwick's biggest project to date which is creating new spaces in and around the terminals, from check-in areas to crew briefing rooms.

Brochures

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



Greece Med Travel – Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman & Qatar 2017
This new Arabian peninsula brochure is packed with recommendations on hotels, tours, tickets to major attractions as well as new special packages combining transfers, accommodation and select tours. There is also a section dedicated to Oman itineraries and another on Qatar which details stopover packages.



Qantas Holidays 2017 UK & Europe
The Qantas Holidays UK & Europe brochure has a new look for 2017 and is jam packed with accommodation and tours options. New for 2017 is a wide selection of stopover suggestions including Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and USA. Poland also makes an appearance in the program this year, along with mini stay options in Russia. Consult the brochure for walking and cycling tours in Europe and self drive tours in France, Italy and Spain.

Britain tips big year

VISITBRITAIN is expecting 2017 to be another record year for inbound tourism to the UK. This year's overseas visitor spend is tipped to increase 8% on 2016 to a whopping £24.1 billion, thanks to the 38.1 million overseas visitor arrivals expected by the end of 2017.

VisitBritain ceo Sally Balcombe said the organisation's strategic partnerships and global marketing campaigns were "converting aspiration to visit into bookings, ensuring that the economic benefits of tourism are spread across all of Britain's nations and regions". She said such campaigns had generated an extra £800 million across Britain during the last year.

Delta cans 17 787s

DELTA Air Lines has cancelled its order for 18 Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. DL adopted the order in 2008 when it amalgamated with Northwest Airlines.

Tianjin, Hainan begin Auckland routes

TIANJIN Airlines (GS) & Hainan Airlines (HU) both launched new routes to Auckland, NZ in Dec. On 21 Dec GS commenced a new flight from Tianjin to Auckland via Chongqing while on 29 Dec HU started flying direct from Shenzhen to Auckland. Both routes will operate three times a week on board Airbus A330 aircraft.

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