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## New IHG gm

**INTERCONTINENTAL** Sydney Double Bay has appointed Ralf Breugger as its new general manager, joining IHG from his most recent role as group general manager with Escarpment Group. More industry appointments on **page six** of today's **TD**.

## APT adds new Croatia ship

**APT** has announced an expansion of its small ship cruise offering, with the debut of the brand new *Queen Eleganza* on the Croatian coast in 2019.

In partnership with Noble Caledonia, APT will be chartering the locally made "yacht-style" luxury vessel, which offers a total of 18 passenger cabins.

The Croatian-flagged ship will set sail on her maiden voyage with Noble Caledonia later this year, before embarking on a full APT season in 2019.

APT ceo Steve Reynolds said *Queen Eleganza* was "the latest example of our firm commitment to deliver our customers with the

best combination of luxury small ships, destinations and cruising opportunities".

*Queen Eleganza* will be promoted alongside APT's other small ships which include *Island Sky* and *Hebridean Sky*, with the company responding to surging demand for Croatian cruising.

More details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

## NIB teases industry

**NIB** is inviting travel agents to register to be among the first to learn about a new insurance option for their customers.

See the **cover page** for more.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has six pages of news and photos, including a front cover page for **nib** plus full pages from:

- CVFR
- AA Appointments jobs

## QF disruption alert

**QANTAS** is advising customers planning to travel by train on Mon 29 Jan to/from NSW airports to allow extra time due to expected disruptions as a result of rail worker industrial action.

There are five more stars in the sky now.



Lufthansa

## El Al drops 'UP'

**EL AL** Israel Airlines has confirmed the phase-out of its low-cost "UP" brand.

From Oct this year, routes currently served by UP will transfer back to El Al, including services from Tel Aviv to Berlin, Budapest, Kiev, Larnaca & Prague.

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## Hawaiian says g'day

HAWAIIAN Airlines has released "G'day Hawaii" fares to mark Australia Day, on sale from today until 30 Jan.

Return Economy class fares start from \$590 gross from Brisbane or Sydney to Honolulu.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## Star revamps RTW fares

STAR Alliance will open up new itinerary options under its Round the World (RTW) fare products, having cut the minimum stopover requirement from three to two.

The change means agents will be able to create new RTW options based on dual-destination routes, with at least 24 hours' stay required in each point.

"Travel agents will now find it

easier to build bespoke routes for their customers, choosing from the vast offer provided by our 28 member airlines, operating more than 18,400 daily flights, connecting 1,300 destinations in 191 countries," said Janice Antonson, Star Alliance vp of commercial and communications.

Fares can include up to 15 stops, in addition to certain special RTW fares which require a minimum three stopovers and maximums of between five and 12.

Individual itineraries can cover up to 26,000, 29,000, 34,000 or 39,000 miles.

Star Alliance has also created a range of themed RTW journeys, which include Epicurean Adventure, Architecture Hotspots, Nature Trail, Beneath the Sea, Wine Harvests, Romantic Journey, Water World and Global Icons - **CLICK HERE** for details.

For full T&Cs on Star Alliance RTW fares, **CLICK HERE**.

## MH search resumes

A PRIVATE US search team is in position off the West Australian coast as it prepares to resume the search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

The Malaysian Govt has agreed to pay up to US\$70m if the team finds the plane within 90 days.

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## Regent appoints

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has appointed Linda Seiersen as its new business development manager for NSW & ACT.

She previously worked as regional sales manager with Viking Cruises for over six years.

"We're thrilled to welcome Linda on board at such an exciting time for Regent Seven Seas Cruises," said the line's vp sales for Australia and NZ, Lisa Pile.

More appointments on **page 6**.

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## Dale: time to heal

**MAGELLAN** founder Kevin Dale has withdrawn a plan to write an extended response to the group's takeover by Helloworld Travel which was planned for the next issue of *Travel Daily's* sister publication, *travelBulletin*.

Dale, whose open letter to members (**TD Mon**) was a hot topic at the group's national summit held this week, told *Travel Daily* given the promise to double the payout to agents to about two-thirds of the \$32.5 million price tag for the group, he believes it's now time for Magellan to begin to heal.

It's understood the enhanced financial offer will be forwarded to members for their consideration in the coming days (**TD yesterday**).

While it is less than the 85% sought by some Magellan members, Dale said he believes it's a compromise that may allow the transaction to move forward.

The Feb issue will cover the "Magellangate" in further detail.

## Jamaica still open

**JAMAICA'S** Ministry of Tourism has moved to reassure travel partners the destination "remains open for business" despite a state of public emergency being declared by the govt for the parish of St James (**TD Mon**).

The country's Minister of Tourism Edmund Barlett said the implementation "does not require any modification of movement as restrictions in the stated areas should not adversely impact law abiding persons".

"All business activities will function as normal including all airports, cruise ports, hotels and attractions," Barlett added.

## FJ/Jetstar up c'share

**EIGHT** new routes operated by Jetstar in NZ and Jetstar Asia ex Singapore now carry the Fiji Airways designator 'FJ' after the airlines extended their codeshare pact, including the Singapore-Hong Kong route, GDS indicate.

## BNE grows int'l pax

**BRISBANE** Airport has boosted its number of international passengers for 2017, posting a 7% bump on the 12 months previous.

The Queensland airport recorded an additional 372,300 passengers for the year, bringing the total number of int'l arrivals through its gates to 5.8 million.

An upturn in the number of major events hosted by the state has been cited as the major driver of the increase.

## Ritz Madrid upgrade

**MANDARIN** Oriental International has revealed it will be closing the Hotel Ritz, Madrid from 28 Feb in order to undertake a multimillion dollar restoration of the property.

With a projected cost of US\$121 million, the renovations will focus on upgrading all 106 rooms and 47 suites, while maintaining its unique character and style.

Works will be completed by 2019.

Get up to date with all the latest hotel openings in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**  
**travelBulletin**



## Window Seat

**MARRIOTT** International is being sued by the owner of a \$500,000 Ferrari, claiming a hotel valet gave his keys to the wrong customer.

73-year-old lawyer James Fowler parked his yellow 458 Italia Spider outside the Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club in St Petersburg, Florida, leaving it there for more than 12 hours while he attended an event.

It's alleged that a young man trying to impress a lady turned up and demanded the keys, jumping in and driving off with her before a policeman stopped him for driving without taillights.

He admitted taking the car but claims it wasn't theft because the valet gave him the keys.

However he's facing charges of cocaine possession and driving with a suspended licence.





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## Niki Lauda salvages Niki

**FORMER** Formula One motor-racing champion Niki Lauda has taken back control of the airline that bears his name after fending off a rival bid from British Airways owner, IAG.

Lauda's successful offer for Niki comes after the collapse of its parent company, airberlin.

Niki was grounded in Dec after Lufthansa, which had helped keep it afloat, pulled out of the bidding process amid European Union antitrust concerns (**TD** 15 Dec).

The three-time Formula 1 champion said Niki would be merged into his Laudamotion company and continue to offer holiday flights from Austria to Turkey, Greece and Spain.

IAG put in an unsuccessful €20 million bid for the airline.

### STB, Grab MoU

**THE** Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has partnered with ridesharing company Grab to better understand the behaviour of tourists visiting the country.

Under a three-year MoU signed this month, Grabpay, the ride-hailing firm's payment platform, will be rolled out in phases this year to popular tourist spots such as eateries, lifestyle hubs & shopping centres in Singapore.

Both parties will also exchange consumer intelligence data in a bid to improve travel routes and wait times for tourists.

### Rex local fares

**REGIONAL** Express has announced that it will bring its community fare scheme to the Mount Isa - Cairns route.

The \$198 fare will be made available on up to 30% of seats on every direct flight if booked at least 30 days prior to departure.

All unsold seats one day prior to departure will also be discounted.

## Back to basics for ABC



**ON THE** back of a record year, privately owned African-based safari firm African Bush Camps (ABC) will be adding a new safari camp to its portfolio from Nov.

Situated in Mana Pools National Park on the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe, Mahogany will feature 24 beds split between two camps - a family camp with 12 beds, and the remaining accommodation catering to an age-restricted camp, seven years and above.

"We are so excited about this new development because we are going back to basics, back to a very remote tented camp," ceo Beks Ndlovu told **Travel Daily** last night at a sundowners supplier event in Sydney.

Development of the camp will commence in Jun in a wilderness area where traditionally no one

has been able to build.

"Mahogany will be the epitome of the great outdoors offering everything across the spectrum from walking to canoeing to fishing", said Ndlovu.

The new site will join ABC's existing collection of 11 camps across Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, which also includes the recent re-opening of Bumi Hills Safari Lodge (**TD** 12 Apr).

Last year saw Australian visitor numbers double for ABC, with Ndlovu praising its local African wholesalers and rep company Ynot Concepts for its success.

"We have confidence in the Australian market & will continue to build this up," Ndlovu said.

Ndlovu is **pictured** at Café Del Mar with Belinda Kent, Rob Gurr & Jesse Stanger of Ynot Concepts.

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Thursday 25th January 2018

## San Fran Rugby Sevens blitz



**A DELEGATION** of a dozen travel & tourism representatives from San Francisco is down under this week to promote the Rugby World Cup Sevens which is being held in the Californian gateway from 20-22 Jul.

Officials from the city's tourist board, San Francisco Travel, have led the group to Sydney following a stop in Auckland to push the sporting event held every 4 years.

San Francisco Travel president & ceo Joe D'Alessandro told **Travel Daily** the organisation is hoping the world cup will attract a large audience from the rugby loving nations of Australia and NZ.

Games between the 40 nations involved will be held at AT&T Park, renowned for its proximity to San Fran's Embarcadero, Union Square, shopping and hotels.

It will also be the first time women will play concurrently in a Rugby Sevens world cup.

He said the tournament was expected to lure 100,000 visitors over the three days.

Official ticket agents in Australia selling packages to the event are Events Travel and We Love Rugby. See [rwcsevens.com](http://rwcsevens.com) for more.

**MEANWHILE**, D'Alessandro said San Francisco Travel was excited about Qantas' newly announced Melbourne-SFO route which went on sale last week (**TD** Fri).

"We know that when there is a non-stop flight people are going to take it, and even if SFO is not their final destination, often they'll stop there," he said.

"To have one more gateway down here will be great for tourism in both directions."

**Pictured** from left at last night's event in Sydney are Howard Pickett, exec vp & chief marketing officer, San Francisco Travel; Melissa Andretta; San Francisco Int'l Airport and D'Alessandro.

## SFO heralds QF

**QANTAS'** new Melbourne-San Francisco four weekly service is expected to be popular with execs travelling between Australia and the United States, according to an official at San Francisco Airport.

Melissa Andretta, SFO's director of int'l marketing and aviation development described the new four weekly MEL/SFO route as "unique" due to its arrival time of into the Californian gateway.

"It gets in at 7pm which is unusual. Normally you get in much earlier in the day from Australia and you have to force yourself to stay awake all day," Andretta said.

"With QF's flight, travellers can grab something to eat and then get to sleep at a decent time".

Andretta told **Travel Daily** that business travellers bound for the nearby Silicon Valley would love the timing, while the Qantas 787 flight would also link well with red-eye services to the US east-coast.

She said 100+ people daily flew between MEL-SFO via Los Angeles or Sydney, "more than enough to sustain this non-stop service".

## Hamilton mate rates

**AGENTS** and industry partners can take advantage of heavily discounted rates at the Reef View Hotel on Hamilton Island in the Whitsundays for stays up until mid-year, normally only available when booking within 60 days out from arrival.

The offer includes a guaranteed Sea View room at Reef View Hotel, valid for travel 27 Jan-30 Jun.

Prices start from \$278 per night, representing a discount of up to 38%, and include breakfast.

Booking needs to be made by 31 Mar, with industry ID required upon check-in.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

## Merlion disruptions

**THE** Singapore Tourism Board is informing tourists that the main Merlion statue at the Merlion Park will undergo maintenance checks until 09 Feb.

The statue will not be available for photo-taking as scaffolding will be erected around it to facilitate the checks.



## Tourism Ireland

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Screening is by APPLICATION FORM only.

For further details please see [www.tourismireland.com/careers](http://www.tourismireland.com/careers)

CLOSING DATE for receipt of applications is Monday, 29th January 2018.

Salary scale is AUD\$64,000 to AUS\$79,000 per annum (6 point scale).

New entrants generally start on the first point of the salary scale.

Please note that all applicants must be eligible to work in Australia to apply for this position.

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## Industry Appointments

**WELCOME** to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email [appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au).

**Qantas Group** has appointed **Olivia Wirth** as the Chief Executive Officer of Qantas Loyalty. Wirth is currently the Chief Customer Officer at Qantas. She takes over from Jayne Hrdlicka who is joining a2 Milk.

**Joel Gordon** has been named as the General Manager of **Crystalbrook Collection's** first hotel in Cairns, Riley, which is slated to open in Aug. Gordon, who was previously with Doma Group looking after Hotel Realm and the Burbury in the ACT will also act as Crystalbrook's Area Manager, Cairns and oversee the openings of Bailey and Flynn, the group's second and third hotels which will open in 2019 and 2020.

**Simon Burgess** has been promoted to General Manager at the **Adelaide Convention Centre**. For the past five years, Burgess worked as Director - Convention and Exhibition Sales at the ACC. The centre also announced the appointment of **Erryn Dryga** as Senior Sales Manager - Conventions & Exhibitions. Dryga was in a business development position at the ACC.

**Best Western Australasia** will welcome **Nicky Bain** as Sales Manager, New Zealand. Bain will focus on increasing Best Western's corporate business via partnerships with travel management companies.

**ANZCRO** will appoint **Belinda Tari** to take over the reins as the new National Sales Manager, replacing the outgoing Rod Henderson. Tari was most recently in sales, marketing and operations at Kirra Tours.

**Julien Dumont** and **Michael Hardy** will join **Ramada Resort Port Vila** in Vanuatu. Dumont previously worked at Crowne Plaza Vietiane & will be Room Division Manager. Hardy has been appointed as Executive Chef.

Canada's **WestJet** has unveiled **Alfredo Tan** as the airline's Chief Digital and Innovation Officer. In the role he will work to develop and roll out the carrier's digital strategy as part of the airline's transformation.

**NYC & Company** has welcome **Watson Li** to its Convention Development team as Regional Director, International MICE, serving the Asia Pacific, Africa and Middle East regions. Li will report to Jerry Cito, senior vice president of the Convention Development for NYC & Co.

## Helloworld rallies support



**EIGHT** agency partners from the Helloworld Business Travel network recently invited key corporate clients to the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne courtesy of major sponsor Emirates.

The fun day included viewing some quality tennis matches and taking some time out between sets to pursue some business networking opportunities.

The group enjoyed the creature comforts of the Emirates Suite overlooking the Rod Laver Arena before declaring "game, set and match" on the day.

Emirates reps **pictured** with some key members of the group: Steve Hona, Helloworld Business Travel; Josephine DeMuth, Bayview Travel and Raphael Mannays, Emirates.

## Preferred rev surge

**PREFERRED** Hotels & Resorts has delivered a significant increase in revenue for the year ending 2017, the company has revealed.

Reservations revenue on behalf of its member properties globally came in at US\$1.35 billion, a 22% increase on the results delivered in 2016.

The positive gains were driven largely by the success of the company's points-based I Prefer hotel rewards program, last year becoming more personalised through a new mobile app and exclusive member rates.

## Changi pax increase

**SINGAPORE'S** Changi Airport processed a record 62.2m pax for 2017, a 6% increase on 2016.

The airport handled 5.86m pax in Dec alone, recording 373,200 in yearly landings and take-offs.

## Hanoi visitor tours

**VIETNAM'S** capital city Hanoi has made moves to diversify its tourist appeal by piloting a new tour program that visits some of its museums and theatres.

The new art tour initiative was driven by the Vietnamese Government in partnership with the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism and included stops to the Vietnam National Museum of History, the Bach Ma Temple and the Vietnam National Puppetry Theatre.

Hanoi has ambitions to earn US\$3.2 billion from tourism in 2018 with an estimated 25.5 million expected to visit this year.

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