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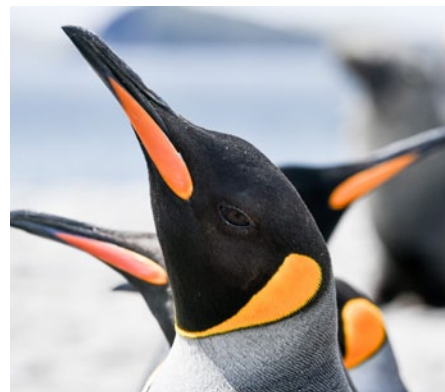
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Cheval's new brand

LONDON and Edinburgh apartment specialists Cheval Collection has today announced the launch of a new global "urban lifestyle accommodation brand" called MY Locanda, with the first property to open in Glasgow.

The company said MY Locanda properties will offer "stylish, design-led, fully equipped apartments in vibrant cities around the world," allowing guests to be immersed in the heart of local communities.

Targeting travellers with an independent, youthful mindset on leisure or business trips, MY Locanda will also cater for solo guests, families and groups of friends looking for a city base.

Typical properties will feature studios, studios + sofa beds and one bedroom apartments with fully equipped kitchens and washing machines, alongside communal areas, gyms and wi-fi - more details on **page four** as well as at mylocanda.com.

Industry still out in cold?

EXCLUSIVE

FRUSTRATION across the travel sector is approaching boiling point today, with further support yet to materialise despite almost 700 days in "economic lockdown".

Industry hopes were raised last Fri when National Party MP Pat Conaghan claimed that a meeting with Tehan had "resulted in an agreement to release \$50 million in a third tranche of COVID funding to eligible agents".

However the update, on Conaghan's official Facebook page, was scant on detail, only saying that "more information would be forthcoming soon".

A statement from AFTA and Tourism Minister Dan Tehan this morning confirms there are "ongoing discussions" about support and that Tehan is "consulting with AFTA and the broader tourism sector about support to ensure Australia's COVID-19 recovery," but makes

no mention of any concrete plan.

Previously AFTA CEO Dean Long has confirmed that there is about \$66 million still outstanding from the COVID-19 Consumer Travel Support Program, and noted that while the industry was grateful that the international borders were finally opening, "these next two quarters will be the toughest for Australia's travel sector yet".

"We will only start seeing revenue benefit flow after international travel normalises," he said, with a recent survey of AFTA members showing business still down 96% in Jan.

AFTA and the wider sector continue to ramp up the pressure for actual support, and will no doubt be disappointed with the Government's platitudes.

Travel Daily readers continue to voice their concern about effectively being left out in the cold, with issues compounded by the ongoing cruise ban.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of all the latest news, a cover page from **Ponant**, and a full page from **Entire Travel Group**.

Sustainable Ponant

PONANT CEO Herve Gastinel has outlined five key commitments to protect the ocean during the recent One Ocean Summit in Brest, France.

The conversion of all ships to ultra low sulphur diesel, the installation of catalytic converters and a 30% CO2 emission target are among Ponant's objectives, along with the elimination of single use plastics, the reuse and traceability of all waste by 2025 and collaboration with scientific research.

MEANWHILE the company is also offering a bonus \$2,500 flight credit per person on Antarctica 2022/23 voyages - for more details see the **cover page**.

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Culinary Cunard

MATT Moran, famed Aussie restaurateur (and the host of Foxtel's *The Great Australian Bake-Off* featuring *TD*'s own Hoda Alzubaidi) has been announced as the headline talent on Cunard's Great Australian Culinary Voyage departing Sydney on 28 Jan 2023.



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ATPI buys Travel Authority

THE acquisition of Sydney and Perth-based The Travel Authority by global TMC network ATPI (*TD* breaking news yesterday) continues the consolidation trend in the travel management sector.

ATPI Australia will expand its footprint by taking over the business founded two decades ago by Peter Hosper and Sarah Bush, with the deal said to strengthen ATPI's position as a "specialist travel management company for corporate travel and the local and global marine and energy industries".

Hosper told *Travel Daily* "we have obviously thought about this very carefully, but we know it is the right decision".

"Joining ATPI made sense... their pedigree, particularly in the marine industry, and their sophisticated global solution for mining and resource companies, was of great interest," he said.

"We are looking forward to

joining the ATPI team and further developing the brand in the Australasia region."

ATPI will take on the team and management of The Travel Authority, and the company is "committed to retaining and growing the number of employees" within the business.

ATPI Regional MD Australasia and Africa, Peter Muller, said the acquisition was an opportunity for ATPI to grow its customer base, "particularly in the corporate heartland of NSW and essential services sector in WA".

"The Travel Authority is a good fit for ATPI and offers significant synergies and respected and experienced management team."

ATPI will retain The Travel Authority's Sydney office, with the move building on its 2014 acquisition of Voyager Travel Corporation and Plan B Travel in 2016, as well as Auckland-based Business World Travel in 2017.

ANA 50% kids offer

ANA has today launched a limited time offer for flights from Australia to Japan, with fares for children aged 2-11 at 50% of adult ticket prices.

The deal is valid for ticketing by 07 Mar in economy, premium economy and business class.



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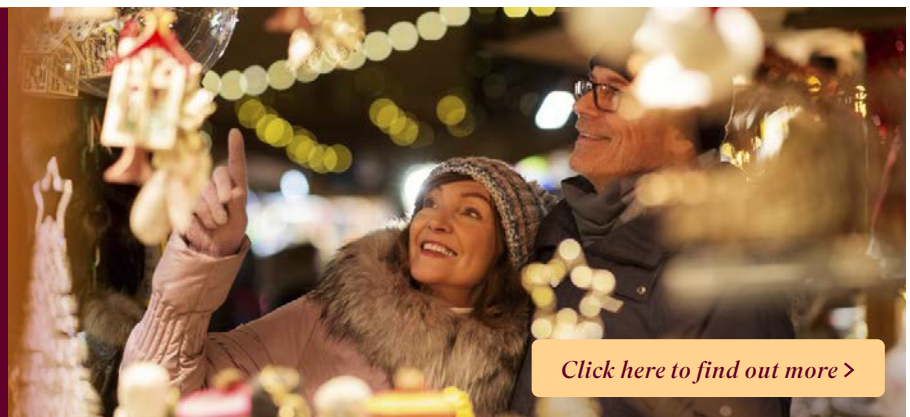
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Window Seat

THE increasingly unpopular Saudi Super Golf League (SGL), which is attempting to disrupt professional golf like rugby's Super League, is hoping for a change in fortunes by teaming up with Donald Trump.

The ex-POTUS began acquiring and constructing golf courses in the 1990s, and with many of the world's great links shutting their greens to the SGL, the Donald is reportedly stepping in to help.

Both Trump National Doral Miami and Trump National Golf Club Bedminster may strike a deal with the SGL, which is led by retired Aussie pro golfer and the ex-Prez's ally, Greg Norman.

Several major tournaments were pulled from Trump courses after his supporters stormed the US Capitol just over a year ago.

1000MTG launches CTM tech pact

CORPORATE Travel Management (CTM) will provide its technology to 1000 Mile Travel Group (1000MTG), in a new partnership announced during the TMC's conference on Hamilton Island last weekend.

1000MTG Director of People & Culture, Nicola Veltman, told *Travel Daily* "CTM can see that we're pretty innovative...they see a really great synergy in the entrepreneurial way that we operate," with the platform including CTM's exclusive Fare Forecaster technology, COVID Hub, carbon emissions offsetting solutions and travel analytics.

The conference also saw 1000MTG CEO Ben Ross confirm that the company had now attracted private equity investment, which will power significant expansion including a push into the USA - more from the conference on [page five](#).

QF adds Business Money

QANTAS today announced the launch of Qantas Business Money, a global payments platform powered by Australian-founded financial technology firm Airwallex.

To debut in the second quarter of the year, the initiative will see the more than 350,000 small and medium sized businesses who are members of the Qantas Business Rewards offered "highly competitive foreign exchange rates that are up to 70% less than the big banks".

The platform will allow SMEs to instantly set up local business accounts in 11 currencies and use virtual Visa Business Debit cards to enable payments.

Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth said the move was "integral to diversifying the Qantas Business Rewards program's financial services offer for members".

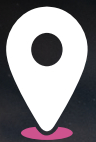
"In partnership with Airwallex, we'll be delivering a digital

cross border payment platform that allows members to access extremely competitive foreign exchange rates and transact in local currencies when doing business offshore, all the while earning points," Wirth said.

Airwallex has regulatory approval to operate across Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region, with the full rollout of the system following a Qantas trial last year involving 170 businesses.

Qantas Business Rewards members will earn up to 25,000 bonus points after signing up and transacting with Qantas Business Money, as well as ongoing points based on their volume of international foreign currency conversions, at a rate of one point for every A\$10 transacted.

Companies which are not Qantas Business Rewards members can join free today via qantas.com/businessmoney.



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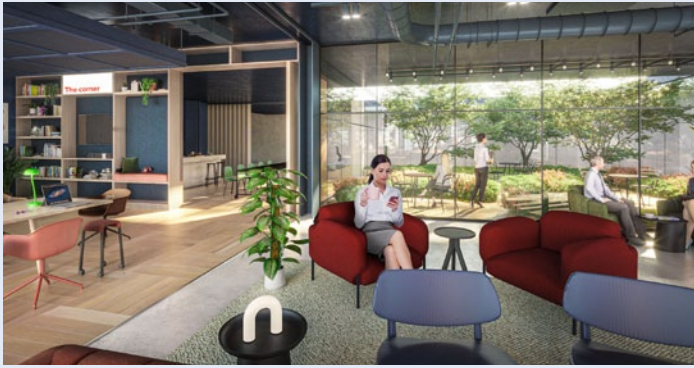


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CHEVAL COLLECTION LAUNCHES NEW URBAN BRAND MY LOCANDA



CHEVAL Collection, the serviced apartment specialist with properties across London and Edinburgh has announced the launch of an exciting new urban lifestyle accommodation brand called **MY Locanda**.

The first property will open in Glasgow, Scotland and is set to appeal to those with an independent, youthful mindset travelling for leisure or business.

The accommodation caters for solo travellers, families or groups of friends keen to find a stylish city base, linked in with the local environment.

MY Locanda properties will feature studios, studios with sofa beds and one-bedroom apartments, ranging in size from 25 & 30sqm studios to the larger 40sqm one-bedroom apartments which also include fully equipped kitchens.

Spacious ground floor communal areas will be ideal for both co-living and co-working spaces with high-speed Wi-Fi, food, drinks and essentials, as well as dedicated spaces for business meetings and calls.

For more details on this new serviced apartment offering please contact Sarah Whitty at The Hotel Connection - sarah@thehotelconnection.com.au.



HOTEL IN FOCUS is our feature showcasing updates and launches from hotel and accommodation providers. If you would like to be featured, email advertising@traveldaily.com.au.

THL takeover booklet out

THE Scheme of Arrangement under which NZ-listed **THL Limited** will take over motorhome specialist **Apollo Tourism & Leisure** (**TD** 10 Dec 2021) has moved to the next stage, with the formal release of the Scheme Booklet to shareholders today.

The deal is being unanimously supported by Apollo's directors, while an independent expert appointed to review the takeover has concluded it is in the best interest of investors.

THL Chairman **Rob Campbell** said the merger of the groups would help the company better manage market uncertainty "through the realisation of the substantial cost synergies we see available today, as well as improved fleet efficiency".

He said if approved the merger

would enable the companies to face a longer than expected recovery period, while the combined group would "operate more globally and establish ourselves as a true global commercial RV rental leader".

The proposal will be voted on at a meeting planned for 20 Apr, while the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is set to hand down the findings of an Informal Merger Review on 07 Apr, which may be a final decision or the release of a Statement of Issues to be addressed.

The scheme booklet is available online by **CLICKING HERE**.

Glezer launches refund business

ADAM Glezer, the consumer activist behind various Facebook groups pushing for more travel industry regulation (**TD** 30 Nov 2020) has established a new "no-win no-fee" business offering to help consumers get back refunds they have been unable to retrieve from travel agents or service providers.

"If I am successful in helping get your money refunded, I charge 20% of the total amount refunded, with a minimum fee of \$500," he posted online today.

Glezer has registered his firm under the name of **Consumer Champion**, with a website at consumerchampion.com.au.

Anantara ups China

ANANTARA Hotels Resorts & Spas has announced the addition of **Anantara Anji Resort** in China's northwestern Zhejiang Province.

Anji County is about three hours' drive from Shanghai and an hour from Hangzhou, with the 162-room property including comprehensive spa and wellness facilities, meeting areas, kids and teen zones and a range of restaurants and dining options.

Anantara Anji will commence construction next month, with completion targeted for the end of 2024.

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AFTA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



WE NOW

have open international borders both for inbound and outbound travellers who are double vaccinated.

In conversations with many of you we hear there's a lift in enquiries and even in bookings.

While many in the media and Government have celebrated this return, we all know it's a very long road to recovery.

This is why we keep making the point to our elected representatives that we need ongoing support.

We are so very grateful for the many MPs who continue to make time to meet with us and speak up on our sector's behalf.

This week we are meeting with key independent cross-benchers with agents detailing that we are still experiencing the

worst trading conditions in the history of flight, and that these two quarters are going to be incredibly tough if the additional funding from the Government is not received.

Encouragingly our messages are being well received, with offers of support to advocate to the Government on our need for support.

I am grateful that these parliamentarians are open to these discussions and are showing a real willingness to listen and advocate for our sector.

We have seen many attend our webinars this year, including more than 200 who joined our recent session with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and we have another 200 registered to attend the Australian Border Force webinar on Wed.

If you haven't registered we still have places available: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/#register/7606034834001014032>

Travel shows back

EXPERTISE Events has announced the launch of The Holiday and Travel Show, with consumer-facing events scheduled for Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne in Oct and Nov.

Entry will be free for visitors, with the initiative aiming to help the industry reconnect and recover - holidayshow.com.au.

RCI's Wonder is here

ROYAL Caribbean International's (RCI) *Wonder of the Seas* arrived in the United States yesterday ahead of her official debut on 04 Mar from Fort Lauderdale.

Wonder will first set sail on a seven-night cruise to the Caribbean, including RCI's private island destination, Perfect Day at CocoCay.



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Going the extra 1000 miles



1000 Mile Travel Group last weekend celebrated its seventh birthday by becoming the first Australian travel company to hold an in-person conference since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The four-day gathering at Hamilton Island saw 40 of the group's travel experts from across the country (and their families) join suppliers and 1000MTG leadership for action-packed sessions reflecting on the roller coaster ride of the last 23 months.

CEO Ben Ross made a number of key announcements, including private equity investment in 1000MTG plus a new technology partnership with Corporate Travel Management (see **page three**).

He also revealed plans to launch the business into the USA in the second half of 2023, as well as details of 1000MTG's ongoing focus on enabling its members to work from anywhere.

The CTM partnership was reinforced by the presence of the listed TMC's Australian CEO Greg McCarthy who spoke about 1000MTG's participation in the CTM Agency Partnership Program.

"We are excited to see what

1000MTG has achieved and look forward to supporting them as they continue their expansion across the globe," he said.

Ross also announced an exclusive fam for the network's five top performers, and confirmed that next year's 1000MTG conference will take place in Las Vegas.

The new investment will see 1000MTG target further growth, driven by the appointment of former Travel Counsellors Australia executive Veronica Curran as the group's new "Travel Acquisition Manager" amid plans to boost numbers by 15 more travel experts in Australia and 10 in the UK this year.

The company will also bring on another BDM to support new corporate businesses into the network and an additional dedicated marketing professional.

Members are **pictured** above celebrating on Sat night at the post-conference dinner, while **below** are Greg McCarthy, CEO CTM Australia; Nicola Veltman, 1000MTG Director People & Culture; Craig Southee, GM CTM Qld; and 1000MTG CEO Ben Ross.



MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.717

THE Australian dollar overnight gave up previous gains, amid rising worries about Ukraine.

The AUDUSD climbed toward one-month highs yesterday, gaining on the news of a potential summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden.

However, those gains later reversed lower when Russia said the meeting would not go ahead, and then inflamed concerns by recognising two Ukrainian regions as independent territories.

Wholesale rates this morning.

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| US | \$0.717 |
| UK | £0.527 |
| NZ | \$1.065 |
| Euro | €0.634 |
| Japan | ¥82.52 |
| Thailand | ฿23.05 |
| China | ¥4.496 |
| South Africa | 10.84 |
| Canada | \$0.910 |
| Crude oil | US\$93.54 |

Plaza twice in HEL

PLAZA Premium Group has opened a second lounge at Helsinki Airport in Finland, with the additional facility located landside in the new Terminal 2.

The lounge features a full wellness centre with a hair salon and beauty treatments, along with private meeting and sleeping pods and a Finnish sauna.

Plaza Premium's new Helsinki lounge caters for VIP guests with a private elevator to the premium security lane.

New 3K PER flight

JETSTAR Asia has been granted approval by the Singaporean Government to operate VTL (Vaccinated Travel Lane) services to Singapore from Perth.

The new VTL route will commence on 11 Mar, with Perth becoming the ninth Jetstar Asia destination under the program alongside Phuket, Manila, Clark, Bangkok, Darwin, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne and Phnom Penh.

Hurti fleet changes

HURTIGRUTEN has kicked off one of Europe's biggest environmental upgrades.

The cruise line is rebuilding its ships with modern technology to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 25% aboard *Kong Harald*, *Nordlys*, and *Richard With*, by converting them into hybrids.

Meanwhile, *Nordnorge*, *Nordkapp*, and *Polarlys* will receive selective catalytic reduction facilities, which will cut nitrogen oxide emissions by as much as 80% - the same process *Vesteralen* recently went through.

When completed next year, the upgrades will also include several other small and large changes, such as new propeller blades, hull optimisation, a new bulbous bow, new gears, new generators, new control systems, and a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, to minimise emissions.

"This will make a real impact in reducing emissions in Norwegian waters...the fact that such an investment also leads to ripple effects in local communities along the coast is something we are very proud of" said Hurtigruten Norway CEO Hedda Felin.

More in today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Resorts World do-up

RESORTS World Sentosa, Singapore's SEA Aquarium and Universal Studios Singapore are set to increase in size, as part of the site's RWS 2.0 expansion plan.

SEA Aquarium's transformation into the Singapore Oceanarium will see it triple in size, with the new facility to have a focus on marine education and environmental protection.

Meanwhile, Universal Studios Singapore will feature a new "Minion Land" themed zone.

"The upgraded attractions will form two key components of RWS 2.0, and are envisioned to become Singapore's new tourism icons and purpose of visits," said Resorts World Sentosa.

The resort's owner, Genting Singapore, also announced plans to refurbish three of its hotels.

CX teams with Sabre

CATHAY Pacific has agreed to a strategic pricing partnership with Sabre for intelligent offers.

CX will implement Sabre's AirVision Fares Manager and Fares Optimizer for end-to-end automation and fares management, incorporating publicly available competitor fare benchmarking, and automating fare rule adjustments to optimise pricing decisions.

"It's essential to be able to mine real time market data to respond dynamically to market conditions while taking into account customer segmentation, demand, willingness to pay and competition," said Cathay Pacific General Manager, Revenue Management Navin Chellaram.

The move will see CX transition to a cloud-based fares solution.

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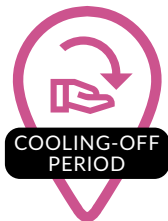
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