Travel Daily First with the news

Friday 2nd Aug 2024

Ponant's Kimberley

COMBINE return airfares and one night accommodation with your 10-night Ponant expedition in the Kimberley with the line's new Fly, Stay & Cruise packages available from all capital cities.

Packages start from \$14,180 per person twin share in a Deluxe Stateroom with Balcony - find out more on page 10.

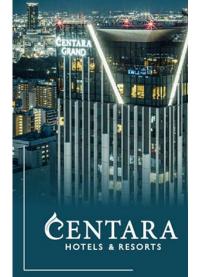
APT wants your vote

KEEP the winning feeling going for APT by considering the company worthy of your vote in the 2024 NTIAs.

The company is nominated for four categories this year and is praising its strong relationships with agents across the country as key to its success - learn how you can cast your vote on page 11.

THE **PLACE** TO BE **IN OSAKA**

Centara Grand Hotel Osaka



JB ramps up sales force JOURNEY Bevond's first inmarket dedicated sales presence in New Zealand signifies a major step forward for ongoing growth, the company said.

Under the tutelage of Executive General Manager - Sales and Partnerships, Alicia Triggs, the tourist rail and experience operator has bolstered its sales force with five new faces.

As part of the expanded sales force, 21-year Journey Beyond veteran Renee Cornelissen has moved into a newly-created leadership role as Group Manager for International Sales.

Journey Beyond has entrusted its market growth in New Zealand to Thomas Gentz as its new Business Development Manager.

Engage with Britain

TRAVEL agents, product managers and buyers can now register to meet with up to 35 leading British suppliers during VisitBritain's upcoming trade mission to Australia (TD 29 Jul).

Running from 09-13 Sep, events will take place at the Sofitel Wentworth in Sydney, W Hotel Melbourne and Hilton Brisbane, with registration open to 23 Aug.

Events will include dedicated product manager workshops with one-on-one appointments and an evening showcase where agents can mingle with exhibitors. Agents can REGISTER HERE. Buyers can **REGISTER HERE**.

Gentz joins the company with an experienced sales pedigree, including time with Air New Zealand, Back-Roads Touring and most recently Hurtigruten.

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Back in Australia, the new faces include Cara Toovey as Group Manager - National Sales, who joins from RAA Travel.

Toovey is joined by Josh Basir as **Business Development Manager** - ITOs and the Americas, who comes across from Minor Hotels; and Leia Marras as Business Development Coordinator, who has been promoted internally.

Speaking of the recruitment, Triggs said she was excited to roll out the expanded team.

"These appointments are centred around Journey Beyond's manifesto and guest promise, 'we go further, to take you beyond' and represent our commitment to building our trade partnerships on a global scale," Triggs said.

Further new in-market sales positions in China and Japan are expected to follow in the coming months, heralding an expanded focus on Asia. ML

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of the latest news including a photo page from Entire Travel Group, our Corporate Update, plus full pages from:

• Ponant

APT Travel





14 AUG 2024

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Inspiring Japan fam

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INSPIRING Vacations has launched a new competition for travel advisors, with ten places up for grabs on an exciting famil to Japan, departing in Nov.

The prize includes return flights and a spot on a trade-only departure of Inspiring Vacations' 'Best of Japan' tour, which visits Tokyo's Golden Palace, the Dotonbori precinct in Osaka, Nagoya Castle and Mt Fuji along with four-star accommodation.

Agents can be in with a chance to win by booking any Inspiring Vacations tour product in Aug, with each passenger earning one entry into the draw.

A bonus entry on the adventure can also be earned by attending an Inspiring Vacations webinar taking place on 19 Aug at 2pm AEST - CLICK HERE.

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NATIONAL TRAVEL

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France sets sights on unmatched sustainability

EXCLUSIVE

FRANCE may be the number one visited country in the world, but its destination marketing organisation wants it to become the top-rated market for sustainable tourism as well.

Atout France's aim is to see the country become the most in-demand destination for sustainable travellers by 2030, according to the DMO's new Director for Australia, Dominique Maulin-Diabira (**pictured**).

She told *Travel Daily* France has already begun to develop this brand image around Europe, and it is her task to ensure this is portrayed to the Aussie market.

Maulin-Diabira explained that France now has more sustainable products and offers, and is currently working deeply to achieve the appropriate certifications needed.

"It means that you can have a [five-star] hotel in Paris and you



don't have to worry about your impact on the environment, because the hotel is already qualified," she added.

"You can go to a really nice restaurant and also enjoy the same, because the restaurant is already certified and the product is from the region."

Maulin-Diabira highlighted the 2024 Summer Olympics currently taking place in France as a great opportunity to develop the country's sustainable tourism sector, particularly in the capital. "We added a direct Metro line between Orly (Airport) and Paris, which started a month ago.

"The new city of Bordeaux has been completely renovated, there is a new tramway, accessible cycling," she added.

"This is not only marketing, this is a deep concern in France to have product fit in with the requirements of sustainable tourism," Maulin-Diabira said.

Atout France plans to use its France Connaisseur program to spread the word of these offerings to the Australian travel industry, as well as its yearly events, such as Rendez-Vous, and the upcoming Destination Montaigne in Jan.

"[This will] show not only the mountains during the winter, but during the summer," she said.

"The mountains have to reinvent themselves, because we have less and less snow, so we have to propose more activities during the summer". MS

Explora I turns one

EXPLORA Journeys is celebrating the one-year anniversary of *Explora I*, its first of six luxury ships.

The vessel has spent the past year sailing from the scenic landscapes of Northern Europe and the vibrant cultures of the Americas and the Caribbean, visiting 119 ports in 45 countries.

Explora has launched a special offer for its guests to celebrate the anniversary, with those who make a reservation in Aug to receive a Journeys Experience Credit of €365 per suite on all sailings from 23 Aug.

"One year ago, we proudly welcomed *Explora I*, the inaugural gem in our fleet of six luxurious ships, setting out to revolutionise luxury ocean travel," Chief Commercial Officer Achille Staiano enthused.

"We have received incredibly high levels of satisfaction from the guests that have sailed with us so far."



Vote for Qatar Airways

We have been nominated for the **Most Popular Airline - Online** category at the prestigious National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA). We would appreciate your vote, which will help us continue to set new standards of excellence in the aviation industry.

Please vote here by 9 August 2024.





NCL and TTC hit the road

Adelphi to be sold

PROPERTY developer Virtical has revealed plans to "reluctantly" sell the Adelphi Hotel at Flinders Lane in Melbourne, stating it will look to focus investments instead on its Sydney CBD properties.

The hotel has been partly refurbished over the last 12 months and is experiencing "solid trading numbers", according to Vertical, adding that any prospective buyer looking to open a new hospitality venue would be in a great location.

Vertical also revealed it will abandon its planned property developments at Southport in Queensland and Newcastle in NSW, instead sinking the redirected funds into refurbishments of the four-storey Republic Hotel on Pitt St, and the Metropolitan Hotel on George St, which is reopening in Feb 2025.

The Republic Hotel will have 14 storeys added, equating to 98 additional rooms.

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) and The Travel Corporation (TTC) have partnered to launch a land and ocean trade event series called 'European Rendezvous'.

Travellers and trade partners are invited to engage with industry experts to discover the two companies' immersive experiences on land and sea, showcasing top-selling tours in Europe next year.

The events will take place from 22 Aug to 13 Nov in nearly 100 locations across Australia, with close to 50 dedicated events for trade partners, providing the opportunity to hear from the Sales Managers of NCL, Contiki, Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Costsaver, and Luxury Gold.

The consumer events are also designed to work in conjunction with trade partners, who are encouraged to attend and bring their clients along to inspire future travel plans.



All events will feature exclusive offers, with spaces strictly limited. "NCL is thrilled to partner with The Travel Corporation to bring the magic of European travel to life," Director of Sales Strategy &

Operations Damian Borg said. "As brands we are both committed to delivering unforgettable experiences for our guests...these events provide a fantastic opportunity for trade partners to invite their clients to an informative event, where they can discover the wonders of Europe," he added.

Agents are encouraged to register for their nearest trade event **HERE**.

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VIEW DEAL

SOUTHERN Cross Travel Insurance (SCTI) has reported a spike in claims relating to the recent Crowdstrike failure which hit airline systems globally.

The insurer said it had received \$27,520 in claims so far, with the majority being for unexpected itinerary changes, along with lost and damaged luggage and extra days for travellers to keep their pets in kennels and catteries.

"The majority of claims were made for costs incurred in the USA and New Zealand," said SCTI Chief Executive, Jo McCauley.

The company said it had 12,000 policyholders from Australia moving around the world in the ten days following Crowdstrike's failure, during which time it had a dedicated team on standby.







The Chat Travel Dailv A conversation with Kylee Kay with PROUDLY SPONSORED Jenny Regent

Airlines win latest battle in junk fees war

AN APPEALS court in the US has issued a temporary block on the Department of Transportation's forthcoming rule on 'junk fees' requiring airlines to disclose all extra fees at the time of booking.

Industry lobby group Airlines for America, which represents Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, United Airlines, Alaska Airlines, and some others, launched legal action (TD 23 May) to block the rule, arguing price transparency would only "confuse customers".

The three-judge panel voted to temporarily block the rule from taking effect on 24 Oct and to expedite a review.

US President Joe Biden has taken aim at airlines for charging "junk fees" for ancillary services including carry-on bags, often only disclosing the impost at the final stage of booking.

US Transport Secretary, Pete Buttigieg, said despite the court's ruling, DOT will continue to



defend consumers' rights to know about surprise fees that increase the price of air travel.

"Nothing in the Court's decision prevents airlines from voluntarily complying with this common sense rule that simply requires them to keep their customers fully informed when buying a plane ticket," Buttigieg said. **MEANWHILE**, Secretary Buttigieg has written to US airline

bosses reminding them of their refund obligations following a flight cancellation or major delay.

The letter makes clear airlines are required to proactively inform passengers of their right to a cash refund if a domestic flight is cancelled or delayed more than three hours or six hours for int'l.

In addition, airlines must make it easy for passengers to rebook their seats and provide free meals, hotels and transportation during controlled disruptions.

If a passenger opts for a refund, it must be provided in cash as a first option, followed by credit vouchers valid for five years.

"We are concerned by reports of some airlines not following through on their commitments or making passengers jump through hoops to get these accommodations," the letter says.

"Front line staff should be trained on when and how to distribute benefits." ML

Rex trading while insolvent claims

REGIONAL Express was "months" behind on payments to airports and suppliers before it went into administration, according to Dubbo Regional Council CEO, Murray Wood.

Speaking to the AFR yesterday, Wood claimed Rex's administrators, EY, will only pay airports from the date of their appointment on 30 Jul.

"Anything up to then is not going to be paid, they've been trading insolvent, effectively," Wood alleged.

The major western NSW council's chief also claimed that Rex had a history of only paying its airport bills at the last minute, and currently has an outstanding owing of around \$500,000 with Dubbo Airport alone.

"That's their standard operating procedure, they leave their debts outstanding for up to 90 days," Wood said.

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Fiji says 'bula' to the trade



MORE than 100 agents and suppliers turned out in force in Melbourne, Sydney and the Gold Coast this week for the 2024 Tourism Fiji Showcase.

The booked-out events reflected strong interest levels in Fiji among the industry and the ongoing popularity of the destination among their clients.

Attendees were entertained at each event by traditional Fijian warriors and dancers (pictured inset) as they learned more about the latest products and experiences in Fiji through engaging supplier presentations.

One of the suppliers on show was Cloud 9, Fiji's unique twolevel floating restaurant and bar which is always a hit with travellers of all ages.

Fiji Airways was a major sponsor of each event, welcoming agents to a special VIP lounge area where a number of exciting prize



draws were conducted. ML Tourism Fiji Executive Head of Regions, Robert Thompson, is pictured second from right with Grant Seylhouwer, Royal Davui Island Resort; Samantha Musprat, Ahura Resorts and Jennifer Grayson, Nanuku Island Resort.

Venezuela warning

THE Federal Government has this week reminded Australian travellers that it is unsafe to book trips to Venezuela amid ongoing violence after a recent election.

Some protests have turned violent as thousands vent their frustration at what they perceive to be dubious vote counting.

Travel Dailv SHARPEN YOUR **KNOWLEDGE ON TAIWAN & EVA AIR** Travel Daily Training Academy

TA unpacks Boxall

ANDREW Boxall has commenced in his new role as Regional General Manager UK/ Northern Europe for Tourism Australia, based in London.

Boxall replaces Sally Cope, who departed in Jun after six years, during which time she oversaw the training of 3,000 UK agents in the organisation's Aussie Specialist Program.

TA's new regional head previously spent 12 years leading FCM Travel in India and Germany.

Golden Triangle not the reason: Sims

FORMER Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Rod Sims, has rubbished claims that Rex's recent collapse is related to a poor decision to compete with QF and VA on the Golden Triangle.

Sims believes that added players are needed on the country's busiest routes, but public policy failures on issues such as airport slot reform has meant challengers are destined to fail.

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To enter please let us know via info@traveldaily.com.au who you are most looking forward to hearing from and why, in 30 words or less...

*Travel24 takes place on Thursday 8 August at the Sofitel Darling Harbour. Winners must be able to attend both the breakfast and conference



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NOTES:

History Bouillabaisse

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Friday 2nd Aug 2024

Stayz host campaign

EXPEDIA Group's serviced accommodation brand, Stayz, has launched new host-centred marketing assets as part of its latest 'Relax, you booked a Stayz' brand campaign.

Developed in partnership with PR agency Wieden+Kennedy, the two films highlight Stayz' 24/7 support, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring hosts have the tools to offer a trustworthy alternative for booking their next trip.

The 30-second films will run globally on broadcast, online, digital streaming platforms and shown in theatres, as well as across social platforms.

Vietjet profits up

VIETJET has announced record revenue growth, recording an uptick of 15% in the first half of 2024, while profits are also up 21% on its annual target.

The Vietnam-based budget airline flew a total of 13.1 million passengers in the first six months of 2024, achieving a consolidated revenue of VN\$34.016 trillion (A\$2.1 billion) and consolidated pre-tax profit of VN\$1.311 trillion (A\$80 million), growing by 23% and 683% respectively, YOY.

The airline's strong financial performance comes as it continues to ramp up its network Down Under, now operating 58 flights per week between Vietnam and Australia.

The carrier flagged more Aussie ports are in its blue print for expansion in Australia.

Prince Hotels on a royal mission



HAWAII is acutely aware of the value of Australian visitors, especially as a poor US exchange rate hits the number of Aussies choosing Hawaii for their holiday. Alongside Hawaii Tourism, Prince Hotels is looking to reverse

this slide, last night inviting valued Sydney agents to rekindle their love for the Hawaiian islands. The event was hosted by Prince

Hotels Hawaii Leisure Sales Director, Jennifer Carvalho, with the help of Hawaii Tourism and Hawaiian Airlines.

Prince Hotels Hawaii's network consists of three properties, one opposite the Ala Moana shopping centre in Waikiki and two on the 'Big Island' of Hawai'i, one of which operates as a Westin.

Carvalho told *Travel Daily* the hotel is not eager to sit still while Aussie visitor numbers are hampered by economic woes.

"So basically we reduced our rates across the board because it has been challenging, not just in this market but in general. "Since the Maui fires, it has really affected all the islands because there's a lot of confusion in the market [with travellers] thinking they're taking resources...but it was only a small part of the island," Carvalho said.

To help combat this, travellers can enjoy reduced rates across the Prince network via a summer promotion valid for check-in until 30 Sep, with a different autumn deal set to take over thereafter.

Over on the Big Island, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel is in the throes of a monumental US\$180 million (A\$277m) propertywide renovation helmed by the development of a brand new spa.

Beyond that, a complete redesign "down to the floor" of each room is being undertaken, which will see new bathrooms and furniture, refreshed colours and new-look public spaces.

Work is expected to be complete by the middle of 2025.

Carvalho is **pictured** above right at last night's event with Claire Bradley, Hawaiian Airlines and Anna Riedel, Hawaii Tourism. *ML*



THERE'S one lucky dad from Missouri who will never need to worry about losing his luggage again.

In a prank that went viral on TikTok, Mike Bone's wife and kids stuck a huge photo of his face onto his checked bag (**pictured** below), making it impossible to miss while coming down the carousel.

The genius idea came from Bone's 29-year-old daughter, Kelsey Thorne, who explained that her father is colour-blind, which can sometimes make it tricky to find his belongings.

The hilarious prank was pulled while the family was travelling to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.





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ANY event celebrating luxury train travel demands a certain style...and that's precisely what Entire Travel Group delivered this week at the unveiling of its inaugural 2024/25 Entire Rail Journeys brochure.

Presented in the elegant surrounds of The Tea Room in Sydney's Queen Victoria Building, the new 80-page publication offers more than 65 independent rail packages on revered voyages across Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Addressing more than 120 guests celebrating the launch, Entire Travel Group's Brad McDonnell said the Entire Rail Journeys program was the creation of some of the travel industry's most experienced rail experts.

"It is an extraordinary collection

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GREG McCallum, Entire Travel Group; Manish Rathod, Belmond; Sean Lane, VIA Rail; Megan Bardsley, Golden Eagle Luxury Trains; Tony Soden, Rocky Mountaineer; Sandra Babey, Switzerland Tourism; and Brad McDonnell, Entire Travel Group.

that will elevate the profile of the world's great rail journeys and firmly establish Entire Travel Group as the standard bearer in Australia for truly epic rail adventures," he added. For more information on Entire Rail Journeys, visit entiretravel.

com.au or call 02 9094 3322.



JEFFREY Riley, FCL First & Business; Clarissa Turnbull, Tailored Travel; Caleb van Schmal, Travel Partners; and Katrina Kapnopoulos, FCL First & Business.

ADRIANA Sardelis and Emily Kadinski from itravel Carlingford; Christina Musgrove, Christina Musgrove Travel; Greg McCallum, Entire Travel Group; and Dee Jaswal, itravel.



ZLATA Savic, Air Travel Services and Louise Leatherbarrow, Travel Advantage.





MATTHEW Chisholm, Flight Centre Camden; Michelle Walsh, Cruise & Rail Travel; and Lauren Whelan, Flight Centre Camden.



TINA Paschalidis and Melissah Missio from Chris Watson Travel.



BHAVINI Aggarwal, Virtuoso and Vanitha Sinnathamby, Out and About Travel.



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Travel Daily

CORPORATE UPDATE Changing face of meetings

A CORPORATE Traveller survey has revealed more than half of businesses are increasing off-site events to support flexible work, as employers find new ways to ensure their teams are cohesive.

With more than eight in 10 (81%) employees continuing in flexible or fully remote arrangements, companies are prioritising in-person meetups held outside traditional offices.

Fifty-five percent are meeting in-person more often, in social, team-building, or strategy days, with more than three-quarters of these (78%) held outside of the office, or even outside of the city.

The findings come from a survey of an independent, nationally representative panel of 1,001 Australians, commissioned by Corporate Traveller, the flagship SME business of Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG).

Among those in flexible working arrangements coming together more often, 17% are meeting for social events, including afternoon drinks and trivia nights.

Businesses in Victoria are more likely (50%) than those in any other state to increase in-person meet-ups, compared to 46% in NSW, and 35% in Queensland.

"Employers are driving the movement back to the office and they will get more strategic and creative in the 2025 financial year to achieve their objective to get teams working better," Corporate Traveller Managing Director Tom Walley said.

"There is a real desire among businesses for more human interaction, and while there are benefits to flexible arrangements, there are some things you simply can't achieve remotely or online.

"Employers are doing their best to balance the two demands by offering flexible working arrangements as well as regular, fun opportunities that bring workers together in-person and build a solid team."

MEANWHILE, the 'golden triangle' of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane saw a notable uptick in corporate travel bookings, according to new data from FCTG's FCM Travel and Corporate Traveller.

The volume of flight bookings between the three major airports rose by 12% in the first half of 2024 versus the first half of 2023, with Melbourne close to overtaking Sydney as the most popular business destination, attracting 38% of arrivals - just a smidge shy of Sydney's 39%. MS

Merger concerns

THE \$570 million merger of Global Business Travel Group and CWT Holdings (TD 26 Mar) could have "competition concerns", the United Kingdom's Competition and Markets Authority believes.

Fears are the merger could lead to worsened quality of service, higher prices, and reduced innovation efforts for global business travel customers.



'Try before you fly' with VA



ADELAIDE Airport and Virgin Australia joined forces recently to launch a pilot accessibility program designed to give travellers with disabilities the chance to trial the flying process prior to booking and departing.

The 'Try before you fly' pilot is aimed at tackling the mental barriers to travel for those who may find flying overly stressful or intimidating, such as those both with physical disabilities and nonvisible conditions such as anxiety and autism.

The two organisations conducted a run-through of the program last weekend, inviting 30 guests along with their family members, companions, carers and support workers to take part.

Guests were able to experience many elements of the flight experience, such as arriving at the airport, checking-in, passing through security, boarding the

plane and buckling their seatbelt. At this stage, the program was a once-off, however may be run again in the future. ML

Virgin opens doors

VIRGIN Hotels London-Shoreditch is open for business, situated in the beating heart of one of the city's most important entertainment centres.

The 120-room hotel, formerly the Mondrian London Shoreditch. features a sleek rooftop bar. a pool, restaurant, a private members club, and treatment rooms by Ibiza's Blue Marlin.

BiBo, an existing Spanish restaurant on the property, will remain open in association with world-famous chef, Dani Garcia.

The hotel's lobby lounge and cafe will become a pop-up Commons Club, Virgin Hotels' flagship F&B concept.



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In celebration of its 26th birthday, **Webjet** is offering up to 26% off flights to six of its most in-demand destinations, including Tokyo, Rome, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Shanghai, and Delhi. The deal will end 11.59pm AEST Sun 04 Aug, with maximum savings of \$260 per booking. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Oman Air has announced upcoming savings on economy class fares across its ME, AF and EU network, for travel between 15 Sep-30 Nov 2024 and 15 Jan-30 Jun 2025. For more information, reach out to sydney@omanair.com.

Travellers planning a visit to Wellington in New Zealand can take advantage of **TFE Hotels**' new Travelodge Wellington Escape offer to save 15% on their stay and receive a complimentary continental breakfast for two, plus a 12pm late check-out. The offer is available until 31 Dec 2024 - more info **HERE**. The hotel group has also announced Vibe Melbourne's Urban Escape offer, which advertises one night's accommodation from \$239 along with complimentary breakfast for two, and a midday checkout - book your stay **HERE** before 31 Sep 2024.

Now is the time to book your dream Tahitian holiday with **Entire Travel Group**, which is highlighting its French Polynesia holiday packages. Your clients can save \$250 on the seven-night 'Manava Beach Resort Moorea' package, which includes flights, accommodation, daily buffet breakfasts, and transport from \$3,802 per person twin share. There's also the eight-day 'Sofitel Kia Ora Moorea Beach Resort & Spa' package, now priced from \$4,066 per person twin share, and the seven-night 'Le Bora Bora by Pearl Resorts' package, priced at the discounted rate of \$6,792 per person twin share. Act now and book **HERE**.

Palladium Hotel Group, which boasts luxury properties across Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica, is spotlighting its latest sale. Holidaymakers can score savings of up to 45% plus \$600 resort credit at Palladium's adults-only TRS Hotel-branded properties, and up to 52% off plus \$600 resort credit at its Grand Palladium resorts. Book before og Aug to take advantage of the offer - more details **HERE**.

Celebrating its partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria, **Sofitel Melbourne on Collins** has released a range of deals inspired by the gallery's Pharaoh exhibition. From \$999, guests can indulge in a new package which includes overnight accommodation in the Egyptianthemed Ambassador Suite, access to Club Sofitel for two, luxury Balmain amenities, two tickets to the Pharaoh exhibition (on until o6 Oct), a Pharaoh catalogue, and much more. Find out more **HERE**.

Cairns Harbourside Hotel has unveiled a new 'Stay In' package, which includes a night's accommodation, a grazing board for two and a bottle of wine. The special is available **HERE** from \$290 for two people.

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An encore to Encore



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line will upgrade its fourth Breakawayclass ship, *Norwegian Encore*, with the expansion of two of the brand's most popular eateries to elevate the guest experience.

Following a two-week dry dock from 18 Nov to 02 Dec, the ship godmothered by singer Kelly Clarkson will emerge with a much larger Cagney's Steakhouse and Teppanyaki ready to delight guests with flavour.

The restaurants will take over the space previously occupied by the Los Lobos Mexican restaurant on deck eight and the Coco's milkshake bar on deck six.

The result will be greater capacity for Cagney's Steakhouse and Teppanyaki to ensure more guests have the chance to savour the experience while on board.

In addition, the Ocean Blue seafood restaurant will be converted into the Mediterranean inspired Palomar.

Norwegian Cruise Line President, David J Herrera, said the needs and wants of guests are at the forefront of every decision the line makes, with the changes exemplifying this.

"From more space for adults to relax, to more opportunities to enjoy their favourite dining options and beyond, we are dedicated to providing our guests with an elevated onboard experience as part of their dream vacation," Herrera said.

Outside of dining, guests 18 years and over will also have a new Spice H20 retreat (render **pictured**) to relax to the side of the main pool deck.

The lounge will feature a new design by combining the popular amenities found on the larger Breakaway-Plus class with the Infinity Beach concept found on the line's newest ships *Norwegian Prima* and *Norwegian Viva*.

Elsewhere on the ship, the dry dock refurbishment will see 24 new balcony staterooms added and redesigned suites in The Haven, including a change from two bedrooms to three in the Premier Owner's Suite. *ML*

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