

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Tuesday 12 April 2016

Issue 3285



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TAANZ Delighted By NTIA Momentum

The nominations for the 2016 TAANZ National Travel Industry awards (NTIAs) are out, and tickets have gone on sale for the Sep event—and TAANZ boss Andrew Olsen says he's delighted the momentum the event is generating. This year's Sep awards ceremony will be the third under the TAANZ NTIA format and Olsen says the organisers have listened to the trade feedback and will continue to make tweaks to ensure the 'industry celebration and night of nights is here to stay'. While some of the retail rebranding

may have initially stalled nominations, Olsen says this year's event has generated more interest and more nomination. "It's great stuff really and it shows the trade is right behind the event—we've got Emirates and Etihad on board as sponsors this year as well as Qantas and American Airlines and some of the cruise lines. We have now got a full book," says Olsen. There are an expanded number of categories this year, and Olsen says there has been 'great interest' in the rookie of the year category. A number of finalists are back this year, and some are competing to uphold their titles, adds Olsen.

In response to feedback there is now just two weeks between when the nominations are announced and voting commences so the TAANZ boss says nominees should start campaigning, and urges all those in the trade to vote for their preferred choices once voting officially opens 26 Apr. For a full list of the nominees [CLICK HERE](#).

... Tickets

Tickets for the 2016 TAANZ NTIA event (10 Sep) are now on sale. Tickets are \$125pp or \$1250 plus GST per table of 10. See taanz.org.nz for details.

Joyce: JQ Looking Up

Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce is in New Zealand on a two-day visit to meet with the carrier's staff and industry stakeholders—and has been talking up Jetstar's regional services. The QF Group boss says it's been a steep learning curve for those in JQ's regional business but that its regional services are now operating well ahead of expectations.

JQ's regional flights operated at 100% on time performance (OTP) yesterday and he says in the past two weeks JQ's regional flights achieved 80% OTP and more than 80% passenger loads.

For pictures from last night's industry event with the QF boss in Auckland, see p6.

'Mega' US Fam Response

Entries to the Air NZ/Brand USA MegaFam have closed and the carrier is 'really impressed' at the level of support from the trade. More than 1600 entries were generated during the incentive period and NZ's Thomas Gentz says from the itineraries he's seen the agents will have an 'amazing' time in the US. The winning agents will be announced 26 Apr.

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Ryanair's 400th 737-800

Boeing and Ryanair have marked a milestone with the delivery of the airline's 400th Next-Generation 737-800. Ryanair operates the largest fleet of Next-Generation 737-800s in the world.

VIVID Sydney

GO Holidays has two-night packages to VIVID Sydney events for sales to 15 Apr including a Circle A ticket pp double/twin share. Jazz singer Esperanza Spalding costs from \$315 for travel 03-05 Jun; from \$359 for synth-pop legends New Order for travel 04-06 Jun; from \$389 to American indie folk band Bon Iver for travel 26-29 May; and from \$285 to American experimental musician, composer and producer Oneohtrix Point Never for travel 28-30 May. Options to extend are available on all packages.

P s s t t t . . .

Watch
TV3
again
tonight
7.30pm

QF's Family Friendly Points Move

Qantas has recently ramped up its loyalty focus in the New Zealand market, and has today launched a new initiative to help its Frequent Flyer members keep their status while on parental leave.

The new Status Hold initiative, launched today, lets eligible QF Silver, Gold and Platinum Frequent Flyers keep their status for up to 18 months, even if they are not earning the number of Status Credits usually required to retain that tier. These members will also continue to enjoy their existing tier benefits, which may include lounge access, bonus points offers and preferred seating options.

... Family Transfer

QF has also increased its Family Transfer points limit and removed the restriction on the number of transfers. QF Frequent Flyer members can now make an unlimited number of transfers to eligible family members up to 600,000 Qantas Points each year, compared to 400,000 previously. The move is in response to member feedback, and is designed to recognise the loyalty of its customers. For more [CLICK HERE](#)

... Kiwi Appointments

QF recently appointed Phil Devlin, who has held senior loyalty-related positions with corporates including Air New Zealand, to head its newly-created loyalty division in Auckland. At the same time Tanya Milne is

Weir Now At FJ

Michelle Weir has today started as Fiji Airway's new business development executive. Weir who was most recently at Amadeus and prior to that Qantas, won the best industry representative title in the 2013 Travel Industry Awards. Weir reports to FJ sale manager Mel Watson.



EK Flight Update

Commercial Emirates and Skywards customers who are booked and ticketed to travel on/after 12 April 2016 on the one stop services, who now wish to rebook on the non-stop EK448-449 services between Auckland and Dubai, now must pay the applicable change fee, advises the carrier. For details see emiratesagents.com/nz

New Trade Website

The Gold Coast Tourism Corporation has launched a new trade website which features suggested itineraries, product details and traveller information. See visitgoldcoast.com/trade

QF Oz Deals Extended

Qantas has extended its Australia tactical fares, from \$229 one-way, for sales now to 15 Jun and travel through to 28 Feb. Conditions apply, see qantas.co.nz/agents for details.

QF's new marketing manager, loyalty in Auckland. *Travel Today* understands that recent developments by QF locally, including the Jetstar route expansions and ties with American Airlines have created a need to increase market awareness of QF's frequent flyer programme.



HKG Sevens CX-Style

Cathay Pacific hosted a group of Kiwi agents to last weekend's 2016 Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens. Despite the changeable weather the intrepid bunch got to enjoy the Sevens as well as Hong Kong's infamous nightlife – and the Sevens Bar Tram. Pictured at the stadium is, from left, CX's Garry Smith; Jeremy Lowe, Flight Centre Albany; Stu McKay, Fuzion Travel Parnell; Mark Adams, Travel Select Papakura; and Meetesh Patel from Flight Centre Parnell.



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MSC Announces New Ships



MSC Cruises is planning to build up to four 'world class' cruise ships—and the cruise line says it is the first global cruise brand to develop an investment plan of this length and magnitude, which totals nearly EUR9 billion.

From 2014 through to 2026, MSC is planning to build a total of eleven next-generation ships, and the first of the four ships announced overnight is due to be delivered in 2022

MSC Cruises executive chairman Pier-

francesco Vago says the MSC Cruise World Class prototype 'will feature a record-breaking, futuristically-conceived design that will make the ship a truly unique place to be at sea, whilst maximizing the open air space available to guests'.

"Our long-standing focus on innovation will make the new prototype quite unlike anything currently existing in the cruise industry," he says. "It will be: the richest in amenities and features for all guests, including families; cutting edge in design; feature the latest and best state-of-the-art smart technology at sea as well as use the most-advanced environmentally-friendly technology available. Moreover, it will be a ship for all seasons and for all regions." See upcoming issues for more World Class ship details.

Caribbean adventures

Royal Caribbean has released its 2017-18 schedules with a collection of year-round short and seven-night itineraries to 20 of what the company believes are the most popular island destinations in the Caribbean.

Highlighted ports of call include Belize City, with opportunities for hiking in the rainforest, cave and river tubing and Mayan ruins; CocoCay in the Bahamas, a 140-acre island for exclusive use of RC guests offering environmentally friendly activities and nature tours; and St George's in Grenada, with tours of a local rum distillery and spice estate.

All In Harmony

The first in a new generation of Royal Caribbean's Oasis-class ships, the Harmony of the Seas will sail its first Northern summer season to the Caribbean. Oasis class ships combine architectural innovation with breakthrough technologies, of the Quantum-class says the cruise company.

Venice-Greece Deal

GO Holidays has released new value-add offers on a 12-night cruise ex Venice through Croatia to the Greek Island to Athens aboard the Riviera, and departing Venice 31 Aug. Cruise fares are priced from \$4369pp share twin for sales to 31 May (unless sold out) and include free unlimited internet plus the choice of either, a four free shore excursion, a free house beverage package or a USD400 shipboard credit. Contact GO Holidays for details.

RC's Adventure Update

Following multimillion dollar revitalisations this year, Royal Caribbean's Adventure of the Seas will sail from Puerto Rico on seven-night itineraries. The company believes the vessel's ports of call cover the most sort-after southern Caribbean islands. Meanwhile, Liberty of the Seas, also undergoing extensive and expensive revitalisation, will remain in Galveston for 2017 as the state's biggest ship and offer a variety of schedules to the western Caribbean.



Hurtigruten Ships Refurbished

Hurtigruten's Kong Harald and Polarlys ships have completed an extensive refurbishment, part of wider plans to upgrade four of the line's 11 Norwegian Coastal ships and add a new expedition ship, the Spitsbergen. The upgraded ships feature a 'new Arctic interior' look with modern Scandinavian elements; and their restaurants now serve a new Coastal Kitchen concept emphasising locally sourced, seasonal ingredients. The bar has been moved to the panoramic lounge so guests can enjoy the view with their cocktails. The makeovers of the Nordkapp and Nordnorge will be completed this Apr and Nov, respectively, says local rep Discover the World. Meanwhile a reconstruction of the Spitsbergen is nearly complete to make it suitable for polar waters, including upgrading cabins, suites and public spaces. The ship will join the Norwegian Coastal Voyage route later this spring and replaces the Midnatsol, which will join the Fram in Antarctica for the 2016/17 season.

ISSN 1176-5275

Travel Today (incorporating Tabs on Travel) is published by Tabs on Travel Ltd, New Zealand. Ph +64-9-415 8111.

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Entries Extended to 15 Apr

Do Big Small Things

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Travel Today has five copies of Do Big Small Things, the new travel journal by G Adventures founder Bruce Poon Tip, to give away.

E-mail your entries by 1700 on 15 Apr, to giveaways@traveltoday.co.nz with 'Do Big Small Things' in the subject line

TRAVEL TODAY
Incorporating Tabs On Travel



AVALON IMAGERY II CHRISTENING

Kiwis Sail into the Alsace with Avalon Waterways

Avalon Waterways took its launch celebrations into the French region of Alsace last week with dozens of New Zealand guests helping to mark the christening of its brand new ship Avalon Imagery II.



Having sailed up the Rhine from a launch ceremony in the German town of Engers, the group cruised onwards into France to explore the spectacular city of Strasbourg and the postcard-perfect town of Colmar,

both brimming with colourful medieval buildings and canals. They were joined by broadcaster Judy Bailey, who had christened the Avalon Imagery II in an event dedicated especially to the New Zealand market.



1 The 'Little Venice' district of Colmar. **2** The picturesque canals of Strasbourg. **3** Some of the 70 guests aboard Avalon Waterways' New Zealand christening cruise, in the town square of Colmar.



4 Exploring the canals of Strasbourg, Helen Opperman and husband Stewart Williams (Globus family of brands Managing Director Australasia), with Karen Jones (Andrew Jones Travel, Tasmania). **5** Cian Harvey (Globus family of brands Customer Service Representative) and Letitia Eyes (Globus family of brands Marketing Manager New Zealand). **6** Stewart Williams (Globus family of brands Managing Director Australasia) with broadcaster and Avalon Imagery II godmother Judy Bailey, his wife Helen Opperman and Judy's husband Chris Bailey. **7** Boating on the canals of Strasbourg, Michelle Rowe (STA Travel Auckland) and Bryce Read (Travel Managers). **8** The silver fern flies on Avalon Waterways banners. **9** Exploring the Easter Markets in the town of Colmar, Leah Ackerman, Jono Norton (Flight Centre HQ Auckland), Wendy van Lieshout (World Travellers), and David Marriott. **10** On a boating excursion around the waterways of Strasbourg - Leah Ackerman and husband Troy Ackerman (Globus family of brands General Manager New Zealand). **11** Richard Baker (Singapore Airlines), Cian Harvey (Globus family of brands), Tim Holden (Flight Centre HQ) and Jay Gulde. **12** Karen Jelas (Flight Centre Coastlands) and Robert Jelas. **13** The medieval buildings of Colmar.



For more information on
Avalon Waterways
[CLICK HERE](#)

Easy GC Car Rental

Clients looking to hire a car or campervan whilst visiting the Gold Coast will be happy to hear that Jucy has recently opened a branch at Gold Coast's airport. Jucy sales executive Kirsty Malone says prior to this, clients were having to travel to Brisbane to pick up their hire car or campervan, but now that the Gold Coast branch is open, it gives clients further options. "We've been consistently sold out since we opened; we are having to move more fleet into the new Gold Coast branch," she says. Malone added that agents should encourage clients to book in advance to ensure they can secure a good vehicle at a good price.

... Jucy Motorhomes

In a first for Australia, Jucy is set to introduce a Casa Plus motorhome to its fleet in Sep. It will be the first motorhome Jucy has ever offered in Australia and will accommodate six people. See jucyworld.com for more.

Hands-on LON Maritime

Above and Beyond is a hands-on experience at London's National Maritime Museum with retrospective and forward-thinking views on the innovation and science behind flight. The exhibition is in collaboration with NASA and has interactive experiences using flight simulation, augmented and virtual reality including a simulated space elevator ride. The exhibition will also span Boeing's centennial date, 15 Jul. Entry is free.



MEL's Floating Park

Plans have been unveiled to develop a 2000m² public park in the sky in the Melbourne CBD. Floating above Collins St, the Melbourne Skypark will offer a space to be enjoyed by local workers as well as the general public, similar to New York's High Line park. It's scheduled to open in 2018, and will feature a signature restaurant as well as 'idyllic spaces' from which to enjoy the city skyline. See melbournequarter.com

Explore The World's Longest Train Tunnel



After 17 years of construction the longest train tunnel in the world will open in—or under—Switzerland on 11 Dec, and for a limited time it's offering guided tours to visitors.

From 02 Aug, passengers can make the 57km trip between Erstfeld and Bodio on special excursions that include disembarkation 800m below the surface at the multifunction station in Sedrun, where a guided a tour will demonstrate the dimensions of the gigantic tunnel system.

Once regular services start with trains travelling through the Gotthard Base Tunnel at high speed, a stop in the middle of the tunnel will no longer be possible. However the new north-south connection means passengers will be able to cross the Alps in only 20 minutes. For those who like a scenic, slower journey the existing historic Gotthard route will remain in service.

The special Gottardino train schedule

only runs until 27 Nov and the number of tickets is limited. Cost is from CHF79. The journey includes travelling via the new tunnel in one direction and the historical mountain route in the other. Passengers should be more than six years old, in good health and are only allowed one piece of luggage. Details, swisstravelsystem.com



Kitty At Universal

Visitors can now meet Hello Kitty herself, as well as spend lots of money on a huge range of her merchandise, at the new Hello Kitty Shop featuring Hello Kitty and Friends at Universal Orlando Resort.

The store is divided into four sections—Hello Kitty Town, where guests can 'find products from some of her famous friends'; Hello Kitty Sweet Yummy Shop, full of Hello Kitty merchandise and sweet treats; Hello Kitty Lounge, with lounging merchandise; and Hello Kitty at the Movies, showcasing Hello Kitty with a classic movie theatre backdrop.

Industry Diary

APRIL

Avalon Waterways 2017 Launch Tauranga: Tue 12, Macau, 1745.
Dunedin: Tue 12, Wains Hotel, 1730.
Auckland, East: Wed 13, Fisher House, 1745.
Timaru: Wed 13, Mocca Cafe, 1730.
Napier: Wed 13, Crown Hotel, 1745.
Auckland, West: Thu 14, The Falls, Henderson, 1745.
Palmerston North: Thu 14, Distinction, 1745.
Ashburton: Thu 14, Lushingtons, 1730.
Auckland, North: Tue 19, Takapuna Boating Club, 1745.
Christchurch: Tue 19, Dux Central, 1745.
Invercargill: Wed 20, Kelvin Hotel, 1730.
Queenstown: Thu 21, Copthorne Hotel, 1745.
Nelson: Wed 27, Monaco Resort, 1730.
Blenheim: Thu 28, Watery Mouth Cafe, 1730.

Gold Coast Tourism Agents Function Tauranga: Tue 12, Trinity Wharf, 1730.
Hamilton: Wed 13, Gothenburg, 1730.

China Showcase

Invercargill: Tue 12, The Kelvin Hotel, 1730.
Dunedin: Wed 13, The Scenic Lounge, Forsythe Barr Stadium, 1730.
Christchurch: Thu 14, The Ilex, Christchurch Botanical Gardens, 1730.

Asia Road Show: Cathay Pacific/Adventure World/Exodus Breakfast updates New Plymouth: Tue 19.
Palmerston North: Wed 20.
Wellington: Thu 21.
Times and venues tba.

Wendy Wu Tours Update & 'Jungle Book' film evening

Christchurch: Wed 27, Hoyts Riccarton, 1745.
Wellington: Thu 28, The Embassy Theatre, 1800.
Auckland: Thu 28, Rialto Newmarket, 1800.

Adventure World, Exo Travel and Accor Hotels Vietnam Masterclass

Auckland: Wed 27, Mercure Auckland, 1730-1930.

MAY

SPANTO roadshow Hamilton: Tue 03, Ferrybank Reception Centre, 1730.
Palmerston North & New Plymouth: TBA

Viva Expeditions and Chimu Adventures Experience Sth America

Auckland: Thu 12, Takapuna Boat Club, 1730-2000.

Adventure World Latin Extravaganza

Auckland: Thu 12, Air New Zealand CICC, 1730-2030.

Broome's Michelin Chef

Karl McPhail is the new chef at the Ramada Eco Beach Resort. McPhail previously worked at the Michelin-starred Inverloch Castle Hotel at Fort William in Scotland. Resort manager Ross Boobyer says McPhail has already made a name for himself with local foodies.

Matangi's New Reserve

Matangi Island Resort advises agents it is now managing one of the largest marine reserves in Fiji with more than 300 hectares of protected reefs and sea bed. It adds that it is set to construct two marine hatcheries to produce seedlings of giant clams—which are 'quite a sight' for the snorkelers and scuba divers—as well as other marine species in the future.



New Raro Eatery

The Islander Hotel on Rarotonga has opened up a new eatery at the Punanga Nui Market, advises Eye 4 Travel. Michele's Café, run by former Islander chef Michele Finn, specialises in fresh yellowfin tuna sashimi, carpaccio, ika mata, steak, and Vietnamese iced coffee. Meals average \$13-\$15. The café is open Mon-Sat, 0600-1500, and is quickly becoming an institution with locals and visitors, says Eye 4 Travel.

Alan Joyce Toasts Kiwi Trade



Industry stakeholders last night turned out in force for an audience with Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce.

The engaging Irishman thanked the trade for its collective support as he

updated QF's industry partners on the carrier's progress and future plans.

1 Jason Buckley and Simon McKearney, helloworld, with Alan Joyce.

2 Alan Joyce with Kevin Weston, Executive Travel.

War Images In LON

IWM Contemporary: Edward Barber is a new art display at London's Imperial War Museum Contemporary. Peace Signs is a display of 50 edited monochrome images documenting the anti-nuclear protest movement of the 1980s. Entry is free.

Golf & Spa Getaways

GO Holidays has a seven-night Sunshine Coast golf getaway from \$765pp s/d; and a seven-night spa getaway from \$1499pp s/d. The offers are for sales to 07 Apr and travel 01 Apr-22 Dec.

Heritage Bring The Kids

Heritage Hotels is encouraging Kiwis to consider a stay at one of its properties these school holidays, where it has family-friendly options including recreational facilities, dining specials and a Kids Travel Journal for rainy days. Many Heritage properties offer multi-bedroom accommodation options, and kids are entertained with gardens, swimming pools, tennis courts, and travel journals with games and quizzes. Children eat free at breakfast and receive 50% off lunch and dinner menus at selected properties.

3 Malcolm MacLeod; Alan Joyce; Andrew Bowman, First Travel Group; Wes Nobelius, new Qantas manager, Auckland; and Rebecca Slee, Qantas Auckland.

4 Adrian Turner and Andrew Harrison, helloworld.

5 I've got my eye on you, says Phil Goad, Flight Centre; with Tim Allen, from House of Travel.

6 Simon Dodd, American Airlines, Sydney; with Kate Porter, helloworld.

7 Sue Matson, Flight Centre; with Simon McKearney, helloworld.

8 Rebecca Slee, Alan Joyce and Patrick Whelan, Qantas.

9 Malcolm MacLeod, First Travel Group; Des Dockery, Qantas; and Grant Bevan, Business World Travel.

10 Jason Buckley, helloworld; Jodi Burnard and David Coombes, Flight Centre.

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