

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Thursday 21 June 2012

Issue 2398

BKK, KUL, SGN & HKT

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Intra-Asia flights operated by Jetstar Asia (3k)

Jetstar

Qantas Re-jigs Tasman Schedule

Qantas has announced plans to realign its Tasman schedule in a bid to better meet the needs of Kiwi corporates and offer improved same-day connections to the US East Coast.

The carrier says the changes, effective 16 Jul, are in response to feedback from its 'enhanced consultation' with the Kiwi trade and consumers.

As part of the schedule changes, QF's Tasman morning services will depart 10-30 minutes later on QF47 (SYD-WLG), QF118 (WLG-SYD), QF123

(BNE-AKL), QF124 (AKL-BNE) and QF135 (MEL-AKL). Afternoon/evening services will also depart later for QF38 (WLG-MEL), QF125 (BNE-AKL) and QDF136 (AKL-MEL).

"The improved schedule will better support corporate itineraries in line with QF's commitment to being best for business in the trans-tasman market," says Rohan Garnett, QF regional general manager New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. "It also improves same-day east coast USA connections via services from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane."

Garnett says the later departure times make QF a more desirable travel option for Kiwis. "Passengers are under less pressure to make connecting flights in the US with QF offering attractive East Coast connections."

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TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY Instant Poll

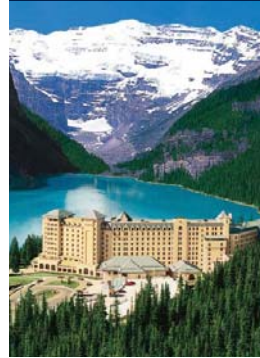
Inflight calling: Annoyance or convenience?

CLICK HERE TO VOTE

Ultimate Aircraft

If travellers could design their own plane, it would apparently be something like a huge see-through first class cabin. Skyscanner asked people what they would like to find on their dream aircraft, and in the top responses were free use of iPads, massage chairs, capsule-like bunks, sound-proof sections for children and anti-kick seats. One in 20 respondents wanted transparent floors and ceilings, while 4% opted for a singles section, 4% wanted showers, 3% said there should be a cinema and 2% wanted a cocktail bar.

SCENIC TOURS



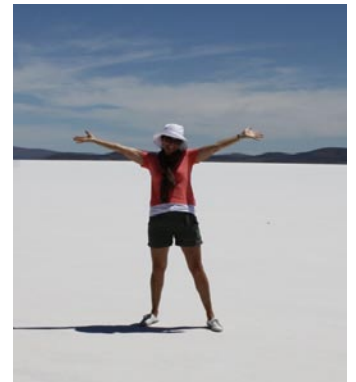
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TA On Common Border

Tourism Australia chief executive Andrew McEvoy is optimistic there will be future progress towards streamlined Tasman travel.

While more SmartGate units are being rolled out across the Tasman, talk of moving to a common border appears to have stalled. McEvoy, a member of the Tourism Access Working group, admits there are some stumbling blocks [namely bio-security issues for New Zealand and visa issues for Australia] but remains upbeat. "I would love it if cross border harmonisation eventuated," McEvoy said at the Australian Tourism Exchange in Perth this week. "There are some sticking points but aside from those, from a tourism point of view, it really would drive some significant [Tasman travel] growth if we had essentially borderless travel. It would reduce the cost both ways in what is a very price sensitive market. I think there's still some room to move on the issue."



Bailey's Aussie Tour

This week on *Judy Bailey's Australia* Bailey enjoys the best of South Australia's produce and wildlife before heading to Victoria's goldfields and Ballarat and Bendigo. In Port Lincoln Bailey indulges in local seafood specialties before swimming with bluefin tuna and sea lions, and in Lake Gairdner National Park she sets up camp next to one of Aussie's largest salt lakes. The show screens on TVOne 2030 this Sat.

Journeys 2012/13

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Like Sabre And Win

Sabre Pacific is encouraging agents to like its new Facebook page for up-to-date information, exclusive commentary and product news, training tips—and plenty of competitions. To celebrate, agents who like the page by 06 Jul go in the draw to win an iPad 3. Sabre, which is also launching a blog in the coming weeks, is embracing social media as a way to create an open dialogue with agents, says Sabre Pacific head Gai Tyrrell. “We’ll be focusing on building relationships with agents, making sure they understand our vision and providing them with all the information they need to get the job done,” she says. “It’s important that agents feel we are partners in this together.” See facebook.com/sabrepacific

QF HKG 3-day Sale

Qantas has economy fares to Hong Kong starting at \$1399 return ex Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch, on sale until midnight Sat 23 Jun. The fares are valid for travel 10 Aug-30 Nov and are based on travel via Sydney without a stopover.

Tasman Capacity Data

Air New Zealand accounted for 50% of Tasman passengers numbers in 2011, while Qantas and Pacific Blue/Virgin Australia accounted for just 15% and 14%, respectively, shows Tourism Australia data. Jetstar carried 9% of the total Tasman passenger volumes in 2011, with Emirates at 8% and others at 4%. The figures include direct and indirect capacity. “Consolidation, alliances, the potential of reclassification of Trans Tasman services as domestic are expected to improve the sustainability and connectivity of flights—potentially opening up more regional Australian ports such as Canberra and Newcastle,” says the NTO in its New Zealand market profile.

Air NZ Figures Positive In May


Air New Zealand saw increases in passenger numbers, demand and load factors on the majority of its routes in May.

Overall NZ carried 910,000 passengers, 2% more than in May 2011. Demand was up 4.7% on a capacity increase of 3.1%, leading to load factors of 79.7%—an

increase of 1.2 points on last year. Short haul passenger numbers were up 1.7%, with domestic numbers up 0.4% and tasman/pacific up 5.9%. Tasman/pacific loads rose three points to 81.9%, with demand up 5.9% and capacity up 2.1%. Domestic loads however fell 0.1 points.

On long haul routes, passenger numbers increased 4.8%, demand rose 5% and capacity was up 4%, leading to loads of 78.9%.

Group-wide yields were up 3.2% (or 5% after removing the impact of foreign exchange) for the financial year to date.



**Complimentary
Beverages**

See page 8

MK, UU Codeshare

Air Austral and Air Mauritius are to codeshare on Perth (subject to final approval) which will see UU maintain a presence on the Reunion-Australia route. UU’s last Reunion-Sydney-Noumea flight will be 12 Aug and Noumea-Reunion-Sydney-Paris on 14 Jun.

Dim Not Dark Enough

The dimmable windows on Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner are not dark enough to allow passengers to sleep on long-haul routes, launch customer ANA has reportedly said. The airline is looking to have blinds installed, an industry source told *Reuters*.

NZ Fiji Fares

Air New Zealand has fares to Fiji starting at \$288 ow on sale until 29 Jun, for travel 23 Jul-07 Dec (except AKL-NAN 25 Sep-06 Oct and NAN-AKL 23-25 Jul, 29-31 Jul and 06-17 Oct).

Europcar Discounts

Europcar is offering customers discounts of up to 30% depending on how well Team Europcar does at this year’s Tour De France. If the team wins one to three jerseys, customers will receive a 10% discount, which will go up to 20% for four to eight jerseys or 30% for more than nine. The discounts will apply to rentals from 23 Jul-31 Aug.



Win EK’s Monster Toys

Emirates is introducing a new range of toys for pre-school and older children from 25 Jun, and *Travel Today* has a selection to give away. The Fly With Me Monster collection, on flights from New Zealand to Australia and beyond, features four monster characters in the form of Blanket Buddies, Seat Belt Critters and Magnetic Sketchers. Older children on long-haul flights will be given Quiksilver travel folios and wallets. To be in to win some EK toys of your own, like us on Facebook and e-mail two examples of the new toys to news@traveltoday.co.nz by Thu 28 Jun.

Rate Your Flight Meal

An enterprising Aussie has created a website where travellers can rate the meals available to buy onboard on over 80 airlines worldwide. The man, known as Nikos, flew on over 22 airlines before starting the site, which includes links to in-flight menus. Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia are among the airlines on the site, but they haven’t been reviewed yet. See inflightfeed.com

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Oceania Agent Rates

Oceania Cruises has travel agent rates from USD75 per day plus port taxes and gratuities on Marina's 22 Jul Baltic Treasures sailing from Copenhagen to Stockholm, says Cruise Holidays. The voyage takes in key ports in Latvia, Estonia, Russia's St Petersburg and Finland, before crossing the Baltic to Stockholm. Bookings are on a first come first served basis. Cruise Holidays has details.

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New Ship A Breeze For Families



Carnival Cruise Lines' new ship Carnival Breeze is living up to her hype as an ideal family product, reports Carnival rep Francis Travel Marketing's Tony Smith, live from her maiden voyage in the Mediterranean this week.

"[The] ship is absolutely beautiful and a great family product," he says. "Waterworks is open all day every day, even when in port and my boys have had a great time on it. They are having such a good time they do not wish to go ashore!" Smith says the ship offers 'plenty of

space to chill, eat and drink, or just laze in the sun' and the range of dining options mean everyone is catered for, including Bonsai Sushi and Il Capitano Italian restaurant, which has an Italian family home feel, to the 55 Fahrenheit specialty restaurant for a good steak, and the Blue Iguana for burritos.

"There is also the market place which is like a food hall and has everything for breakfast lunch and dinner at about 10 different stations. [We] would have to highly recommend Bonsai Sushi though and even though [there's] an extra cost it is so minimal you wouldn't know," says Smith.

On the entertainment front, there are opportunities for singalongs and dancing, and when it all gets too much, the cabins are spacious with enough room for the family (including in the popular balcony cabins), he adds.

Overnight In Vanuatu

P&O Cruises has added extended overnight stays in Vanuatu on its 11-night Pacific Islands cruises on Pacific Dawn from Brisbane. Clients can enjoy both day and evening tours, including a Vila sunset cruise, Melanesian feast and cultural performance. "Port Vila already rates highly among our passengers, so we think they'll be thrilled to stay longer and explore more of this part of Vanuatu," says Carnival Australia chief executive Ann Sherry.

GO Tonga Island Escape

GO Holidays has five-night Island Escape Tonga sailings priced from \$2795pp s/t, outside for sales to 31 Jul. Cruises depart 07/14/21/28 Sep and 12 Oct, and clients can fly Auckland-Nukualofa from \$199pp with two free nights at the Scenic Hotel, Tonga.

Antarctica Discounts

Hurtigruten has savings of more than GBP1000 on selected departures to Antarctica for the coming summer, says local GSA Discover the World. Prices for the 10-day Classic Explorer voyage are from GBP3295pp s/t and there are departures from Ushuaia 29 Nov, 08 Dec and 13 Feb. Price includes flights between Ushuaia and Buenos Aires, transfers to the ship and landings in the Antarctic. All voyages take place on board MS Fram, Hurtigruten's newest expedition ship built specifically to sail in polar waters. Details ph: 0-9-623 4293.



Australia Culture Cruise

For clients looking for a cultural cruise in Australia, Orion Expeditions has a seven-night Art of Arnhem Land voyage departing Darwin for Thursday Island 20 Sep. Guests will be introduced to Yolngu art, the Pirlangimpi art community in the Tiwi Islands and other cultural destinations in Arnhem Land. Fares are from AUD3805pp s/t for an oceanview stateroom, and suites are from AUD5250pp s/t.

Journeys 2012/13
world. see page 7
JOURNEYS

Silversea In Galapagos

The Silversea Group has acquired Canodros S.A. an Ecuadorian company that operates expedition cruises in the Galapagos—allowing it to operate year-round expedition cruises in the islands. The Galapagos Explorer II will be added to Silversea's fleet of six vessels next year following a major refurbishment and renaming, and in the mean time she will continue to be operated by Canodros. The all-suite vessel can cater for up to 100 guests, and offers a naturalist education programme. Details see galapagosexplorer.com




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New oneworld Member

Sri Lankan Airlines has begun the process of joining the oneworld alliance, reports the carrier. When the process is completed late next year, the carrier will join oneworld member airlines Cathay Pacific, Royal Jordanian and oneworld member elect Malaysia Airlines in serving Sri Lanka and India.



Etihad Hosts Kiwi Trade At The Footy

1: Boys and their games. Pictured at the Australia-Wales Rugby game at the Etihad Stadium in Melbourne last weekend, the guests of Etihad and Virgin Australia. Back: Stephen Tanner, Walshes World; Andrew Bowman, First Travel Group; Cul-lam Murchison, airline strategy director, House of Travel; Wayne Borland, national sales manager industry, Etihad Sydney; and in front: Phil Goad, supplier relations and contracting team leader, Flight Centre New Zealand; Bruce Moffat, regional sales manager, New Zealand, Virgin Australia; Tony Terrill, ceo, Flavour Travel.

2: Flight Centre's Phil Goad "moonlighting" at the Chandon Winery in the Yarra Valley.

3: The real (Bruce) Moffat Piece, pictured at the Chandon Winery.

Sofitel Viaduct Harbour Opens

Accor officially opened the Sofitel Viaduct Harbour at the site of the old Westin Viaduct Harbour in Auckland last night—putting an end to months of dispute and confusion over the property—and introduced its new vice-president for New Zealand and Fiji, Garth Simmons.

"We'll continue to drive each of our



brands in this market and hold on to our stronger market share," he says. "Things have been tough in New Zealand for some time, but we're seeing a return of RevPAR growth," he adds.

Simmons (pictured) says part of the brand growth will come at the high end of the market.

"We're keen to expand the Sofitel brand, with the right properties of course," he says, hinting that Wellington will come 'in time'.

Simmons is excited that the ibis will be the first major hotel in Christchurch to reopen in Sep, with the Novotel to follow in Aug 2013.

"We feel a responsibility of getting people back into the city."

Simmons was previously in charge of Accor's New South Wales operation, and will take up his role in New Zealand 01 Jul.

Big Splash MEETINGS Hit

Rainbow Springs says its new Big Splash attraction was a hit at MEETINGS 2012 with plenty of interest from the MICE market and some strong booking leads.



NZ's New Safety Video

Air New Zealand will next month release the latest in its series of much-talked-about safety videos—and once again it features celebrities, although for most their inclusion is a little sneaky. The hand-drawn video is narrated by Ed O'Neill of *Modern Family* and Kiwi actress Melanie Lynskey of *Two and a Half Men*, and features 'cameos' from celebs including Barack Obama, Snoop Dogg and Richie McCaw. It will be progressively rolled out on all international and domestic flights from early Jul, to check it out [CLICK HERE](#)

Leisure Pass Adds Rome

Leisure Pass Group (behind the London, Berlin and Paris Pass) is now the sales agent for OMNIA Vatican and Rome Card, and has helped create a new website for the card. See romeandvaticanpass.com



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Industry Diary

JUNE

Avalon Waterways

2013 Area Launch Nights

Blenheim: Tue 26, Heartland Hotel, 0730, breakfast and presentation.

Nelson: Wed 27, Rutherford Hotel, 0730, breakfast and presentation.

Peregrine and Gecko's Big Breakfast Roadshow

Tauranga: Wed 27, Tauranga on the Waterfront, 0715 for 0730-0830.

Asia Travel Marketing Assn 2012 Roadshow

Wellington: Thu 21, James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel, Chancellor 1 Room, 1730.

A Team Update

Christchurch: Thu 28, The George Hotel, 1730-1800.

JULY

Peregrine and Gecko's Big Breakfast Roadshow

Christchurch: Wed 25, CHC Netball Centre, 0715 for 0730-0830.

AUGUST

Peregrine and Gecko's Big Breakfast Roadshow

Wellington: Wed 01, Wellesley, 0715 for 0730-0830.

SEPTEMBER

New Zealand Travel Industry Awards Gala Dinner

Auckland: Sat 01, venue TBA.

TAANZ AGM and 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Auckland: Wed 12. Times & venues tba.

For more see Monday's
TRAVEL TODAY



Best Outback In SA

South Australia's Arkaba Station has been named as having the best outback experience in Australia in the 2012 Australian Gourmet Traveller awards, says the South Australia Tourism Commission.

Arkaba is located on the southern edge of the Flinders Ranges National Park, a 4.5 hour drive or

one-hour flight from Adelaide, and offers five luxury suites, luxury Swag stays, 4WD safaris and four-hour discovery walks. "We're thrilled that a South Australian icon won this prestigious award, cementing South Australia as the ultimate outback destination for travellers across New Zealand," says SATC regional manager New Zealand Jane Wilson.



Asia Travel's Agent Night

Pictured at this week's Asia Travel Marketing Assn agents' evening at the North Harbour Stadium are Gareth Williamson, account manager at The Walshe Group and Elissa Kent, account manager at PMA Sydney, the new representative company for Taiwan Tourism in Australia and New Zealand.

Cooks Customs Upgrade

New customs legislation being tabled in the Cook Islands Parliament is expected to bring the Cooks in to line with other OCED countries. The Cooks' current legislation is 99 years old. *Travel Today* understands the changes are expected to be fairly minimal.

News & Product

Internet Travel Site Visits — Weekly Stats

Travel agency website usage, "visits" by New Zealand residents, as measured by Experian Hitwise, for the week ending 16 JUN 2011.

1	expedia.co.nz	12.02%
2	houseoftravel.co.nz	9.98%
3	webjet.co.nz	9.48%
4	wotif.com	9.07%
5	flightcentre.co.nz	7.35%
6	jetabroad.co.nz	3.17%
7	orbitz.com	2.11%
8	kayak.com	1.88%
9	skyscanner.co.nz	1.50%
10	agoda.co.nz	1.50%

Darwin Resort Update

The final countdown is underway for the launch of Skycity Darwin's multi-million dollar resort extension, due to be unveiled in Jul, the company said at ATE. The development was announced in 2010 and has taken almost 22 months to complete. It will feature 32 luxury rooms and two superior villas, and is centred on an extensive man-made lagoon with a swim-up bar and 30m white sand beach. It will also feature a new day spa, bar and restaurant. Meanwhile the hotel rooms in the existing property have been fully renovated and the two restaurants have also been refurbished.

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Amazing Australia — Food & Wine



To Market To Market In Adelaide

For more than 140 years the Adelaide Central Market has provided the freshest and largest range of local and imported produce, seafood, meats and gourmet products, making it a key attraction with more than 8 million visitors a year. The 80 independent stall-holders offer a massive range and are manned by people with a broad knowledge of what's in season, what you can do with their goods and what's new in the world of food. There's always entertainment too, such as music, cooking and kids'

activities. The market is open Tue-Sat from early, see adelaidecentralmarket.com.au

... Market Tour

The perfect way to get the inside story on the famous attraction is through a gourmet tour with a local foodie, says Mark Gleeson of Chef's Media Tours. The tours offer 'generous tastings of the best in South Australian produce...olive oil, oysters, cheese, chocolate and more', says Gleeson. Wholesale enquiries are welcome, see centralmarkettour.com.au



Exploring The Taste Of SYD

Sampling cheese and cured meats from a real Italian deli and feasting on one of Harry's legendary Tiger Pies is a great way to explore Sydney's culinary history for clients looking to experience the city like a local. Ultimately Sydney operates a number of food-focused tours including its Sydney Gourmet Icons Tour. Highlights include the Italian family-run PR Raineri Deli in Five Dock, sampling the produce at the Sydney Fish Market, a stop-off at the Schwartz Brewery, which makes its own boutique beers and ciders before heading to the famous Harry's Café d'Wheels in Woolloomooloo for a Tiger Pie (a pie topped with potato, peas and gravy). Wholesalers have pricing and tour details or see ultimatelysydney.com.au

Tasmanian Whiskey At Lark Distillery

They say whisky is 'the king of all drams'. If so, then Lark Distillery in Hobart is the patron centre of whisky in Tasmania. The award-winning tippie that comes from its barrels is the fruit of Bill and Lyn Lark's labour, and they want to share it! Guided tours of the distillery are available, with tastings, from its

finest single malt to its Cherry Max lacquer, all in the woody surrounds of the bar. Perhaps the ultimate whisky lover's incentive treat however, is the four day trip to the Peat Bogs in Tasmania's central highlands, where clients can make their own 20 litre barrel of whisky. See larkdistillery.com.au



Penfolds Grange Experience

South Australia-bound gourmands will relish the chance to learn the story behind the legendary Penfolds Grange wine. The Penfolds Magill Estate Cellar Door offers tours and tastings and is located on the outskirts of Adelaide, around a 15 minute drive from the CBD. A historical tour of Penfolds Magill Estate offers an insight into the sought-after drop and a tasting of six Penfolds luxury wines, including the iconic Penfolds Grange. The tasting is also accompanied by a platter of gourmet cheeses. The two-hour experience is AUD150pp and bookings at least 48 hours out are essential.

Tetsuya's Top In SYD

The awards have been flowing in for Sydney's Tetsuya's restaurant and its celebrated chef Tetsuya Wakuda. The restaurant, at 529 Kent St, says it serves up a unique cuisine based on Japanese flavours and French technique. Accolades include People's Choice Award in the *Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Guide 2011*, *Restaurant Magazine* (London) World's 50 Best Restaurants between 2002 and 2010, and Tetsuya himself was recently named one of the world's most influential chefs. Tetsuya's serves a 10-course degustation menu, with past dishes including a chilled cucumber soup with sheep yoghurt ice cream and Tetsuya's signature dish, confit of Petuna ocean trout served with konbu, celery and apple. See tetsuyas.com

Granite Belt For Wine

The Granite Belt on the border of Queensland and New South Wales boasts more than 40 wineries and vineyards, top produce including legendary Stanthorpe apples, a burgeoning arts community and spectacular scenery including prehistoric granite formations and national parks. The belt is also home to the famous Strange Bird Alternative Wine Trail, which lets visitors try something beyond the usual Chardonnay and Shiraz varieties (such as Viognier, Mourvedre, Gewurztraminer or Barbera). The region stretches just 60km and is about half as wide. It is a three-hour drive from Brisbane and the Gold Coast or a 30-minute flight. See granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

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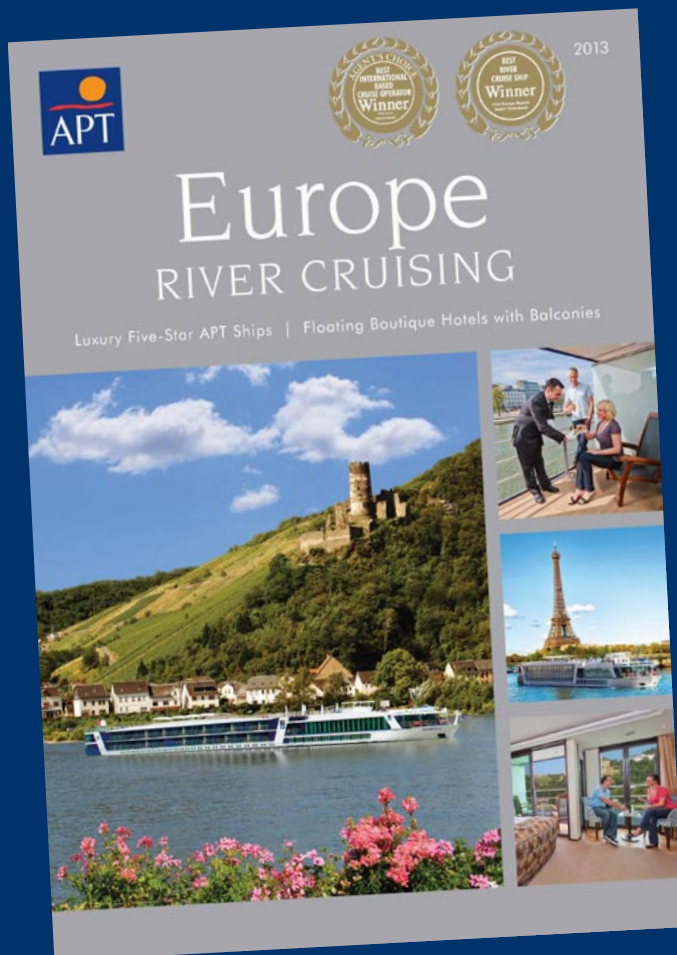
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