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Monday 23 March 2015

Issue 3037

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South America Heats Up; New Brand

Kiwis travelling to South America could benefit from a pricing war similar to that seen on the Auckland-Honolulu route, say sources, as demand heats up and a new independent brand dedicated to the destination launches here.

The industry is reporting increased interest in the South American region, thanks in part to Air New Zealand's new Buenos Aires flights launching at the end of this year. House of Travel's Brent Thomas says Kiwis are looking for unique destinations and the launch of NZ's flights is likely to lead to market growth for the region as a whole, 'not just people moving from one carrier to another'. "What we do know is when we get a new route or one where there is a significant increase in capacity with

a new airline we will see significant market growth," he says. The effect could be similar to that of Hawaiian Airlines launching on HNL-AKL, which led to some 'fantastic pricing', he says. "What we expect is that pricing will remain competitive [to South America]." United Travel's John Willson says they too are seeing more clients interested in the destination, although with NZ's flights not yet on sale they're still waiting to see if the interest will translate to bookings. "To me this is a new tourist destination opening up—the interest is certainly there."

... New Travel Brand

The growth in demand from Kiwis to Latin America meanwhile has led local operator Viva Expeditions to expand its offering, with the launch in New Zealand of Chimu Adventures. "In the last couple of years we have experienced huge growth," says Viva's Rachel Williams, who's picking Latin America as 'the' destination of 2016. "It is a huge continent with so much to see and do, we want to make it easy for agents. It is a high yield destination that is really expanding and with NZ set to start flying at the end of this year demand is only expected to increase," she says. Viva has teamed up with Chimu in Australia to meet the growing demand. For more details see p5.

NZ/CA To Fly BJS-AKL

Air New Zealand and Air China have released details of their proposed alliance on services between China and New Zealand. The alliance, subject to regulatory approvals, would see CA introduce a daily direct service between Beijing and Auckland, as well as continuing to codeshare on NZ's daily Shanghai – Auckland service which will operate exclusively by 787-9 from late Aug. Subject to approval, services could commence as early as Dec 2015. NZ boss Christopher Luxon says the alliance will see 'two home carriers with complementary strengths at each end of the route working together to drive traffic in both directions'.

NZ Night Rider To WL

Auckland has confirmed Auckland-Wellington is the next route for its Night Rider services. From 17 Apr-14 May, Thu-Mon, an extra A320 late night service will operate with every seat priced from \$39 Seat + Bag.

Rail Pass Auction

Nelson Travel Broker Sue Ketel is hoping the travel industry can help out with an auction to raise money for the family of her terminally ill niece. Adelaide is just two, and friends and family are raising money so her parents can stay home and care for her and her two siblings. Rail Plus has donated two Swiss Rail passes for an auction, and Ketel hopes there may be agents out there with clients interested in buying the passes at a 'very reduced' price. The auction is for two first class Swiss Passes for 15 days of travel, which must be claimed by 28 Feb for travel by 27 Jul. They're valued at \$2288, and bidding starts at \$1300. For details [CLICK HERE](#).

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Yellow Fever Update

Adventure World has advised that a yellow fever vaccination certificate is no longer required when travelling from Zambia into Botswana. This comes after the South African Department of Health confirmed last month it no longer requires travellers from Zambia to produce a yellow fever certificate when entering the country. It follows on the World Health Organisation's confirmation in Jan of low yellow fever exposure status for Zambia.

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EK Fare Changes; YQ Phasing Out

Emirates will be revising its long-term Economy Class fare structure with effect from 31 Mar. Existing bookings will need to be ticketed by 30 Mar to avail of current long-term fares. Further details and tariffs will be distributed in due course and the GDS will be updated on 31 Mar.

Along with this, EK is in the process of phasing out YQ fuel surcharges

BNZ Backlash

Some in the industry are questioning if Kiwi travellers may change banks, after it was announced last week Air New Zealand Airpoints will no longer be available through BNZ GlobalPlus from May. At this time they will instead become available with Westpac. BNZ is urging its clients not to 'let an airline dictate your bank', and says customers don't want to be tied to one airline or type of reward but would rather earn cash.

However one industry source says BNZ has 'completely missed the point' and GlobalPlus users are more interested in gaining status points to boost their membership level.

on published airfares. For Economy Class tickets issued from 31 Mar, with travel commencing on/after 01 Sep, the fuel surcharge will be incorporated in the base fare and there will be no separate YQ. If travel commences on/before 31 Aug, the fuel surcharge will still show separately as a YQ carrier imposed charge. These changes will be filed in the GDS and automatically fare quote. There will be no change to the Business and First Class long-term fares currently and YQ will remain in place for Business and First Class until further notice.

SQ's New Stopovers

Singapore Airlines has launched new Basic Singapore Stopover Premium and Singapore Stopover Premium product for sales through to 31 Mar 2016. The promotion is only available to customers originating from New Zealand on SQ or SilkAir operated flights. Rates start from \$162pn t/s including one night in a hotel, transfers, Wi-Fi in hotel room and discounts as listed in the SIA Boarding Pass Privileges Programme. For full details see krisport.co.nz

QF Daily To DFW


Qantas will be providing additional capacity to Dallas/Fort Worth and Hong Kong during the holiday season. QF currently operates six flights per week between Sydney and Dallas/Fort Worth, however, they will increase to daily A380 services from 08 Dec to 19 Jan. QF will also upgrade its service between Sydney and Hong Kong from 10 Dec to 20 Jan, replacing its B747 services with an A380 aircraft on Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat and Sun. From 21 Jan-16 Feb, QF will operate the A380 daily on this route.

... Perth To Auckland

QF has published its third season of Perth to Auckland services, operated by an A330. From 30 Oct-06 Dec a flight will depart from PER, bound to AKL on Fri and vice versa on Sun. From 11 Dec-26 Mar a flight will depart PER to AKL Fri and Sat, returning Sat and Sun.

Hawkes Bay Renamed?

Hawke's Bay Airport may become Ahuriri Airport Hawke's Bay as part of its \$5 million upgrade. The airport is considering the name change following a request from local treaty claimant group Mana Ahuriri Incorporated, according to the airport's shareholder report.

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*Chauffeur-drive service available for Business Class and First Class, excluding Trans-Tasman flights.

Capacity Up For Carnival In The US

Carnival Triumph will replace Carnival Elation on the four- and five-day short cruise program ex-New Orleans in the Northern spring, which will increase Carnival's capacity by 34% on this route, says the cruise company.

The released Carnival Elation will reposition to Jacksonville, Fla., for year-round four- and five-day cruises freeing up Carnival Fascination for a shift to San Juan for year-round seven-day Caribbean cruises beginning in spring 2016, providing consumers with 'fresh and exciting' new choices in these markets. As previously announced, Carnival Liberty will replace Carnival Triumph on the line's year-round four- and five-day cruise program from Galveston next spring.

Carnival Elation's repositioning opens up two longer length cruises; an 11-day New Orleans-San Juan (02-13 Apr 16) calling in at Aruba, Curacao, Grenada, Barbados, Anti-

gua, and St. Thomas, and a 10-day sailing San Juan-Jacksonville (13-23 Apr 16) taking in Barbados, Grenada, Tobago, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and St. Thomas.

Additionally Carnival Fascination will offer a one-time six-day cruise Jacksonville-San Juan (18-24 Apr 16) porting at St. Thomas, St. Kitts and St. Maarten. Details, contact Francis Travel Marketing.

Seven Seas Explorer

Two new venues aboard Seven Seas Explorer have been revealed. The ship will feature Regent Seven Seas Cruises' first culinary instruction centre called the Culinary Arts Kitchen and will debut a new social venue named the Meridian Lounge. At the Culinary Arts Kitchen guests will learn how to prepare a variety of dishes while the Meridian Lounge boasts an expansive bar and relaxed arm chairs, making it an ideal space for a cocktail gathering.

Chonos Classic Route

Clients can experience a four-day cruise of the Chilean fjords with Adventure World. The trip passes age-old ice formations of the Glaciar San Rafael and sails through archipelagos, channels and gulfs. Stops include the towns of Castro and the fishing village of Puerto Aguirreand. The cruise is priced from \$2566 pp and includes five night's accommodation in an Atenas Deck twin cabin, meals, beverages, excursions and airport transfers. Clients who book before 30 Jun will save \$359pp for travel 09 May 2015 to 30 Apr 2016. Details, ph 0508 496 753.

Un-Cruise Wine Experts

Four wine experts will accompany travellers aboard the S. S. Legacy for Un-Cruise Adventures' new culinary and wine cruises along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Un-Cruise Adventures says the new Ameritage river cruise itinerary was created to highlight the culinary and wine offerings in the Pacific Northwest. The inclusive itinerary features four rivers—Columbia, Snake, Willamette and Palouse—and highlights the burgeoning wine regions in Washington and Oregon. A stop at one of the top 10 wine regions in the world, Walla Walla, will be included. Wholesalers have details.

Global WOW Sale

There are savings to be had on all Royal Caribbean International global voyages. For cruises five nights or less, guests will receive USD50 per stateroom and a 50% reduced deposit. For cruises six to nine nights, guests will receive USD100 per stateroom and a 50% reduced deposit. For cruises 10 nights or longer, guests will receive USD200 per stateroom and a 50% reduced deposit. The offer is valid for all bookings between 21 Mar to 02 Apr, for travel from 15 May. Use 'WOW Sale AU' in the reservation when booking. Offer excludes all voyages on Quantam of the Seas, Ovation of the Seas and Harmony of the Seas. Terms and conditions apply.

Avoiding Tunisia

An increasing number of cruise lines are dropping Tunisia from their itineraries for the remainder of the year. As reported in *Travel Today* last week, MSC Cruises have cancelled all port stops to Tunisia for the rest of the year.

Costa Cruises is following suit and has cancelled all remaining 39 port stops; and Holland America has removed Tunisia from three itineraries through the end of May and will evaluate scheduled calls beyond then as sailing dates get closer.

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VA Air Tickets Winner

Aimee Ng Shiu of Pacific and International Travel has won two tickets to Rarotonga with Virgin Australia as part of Air Tickets' airline of the month promotion for Feb. Every Stella agent had a chance to win the flights when booking through Air Tickets. Pictured left to right is VA retail manager Carol Fautua, Ng Shiu and VA account manager North Island Felina Wright.

Darwin Deal

Book by 30 Apr and travel by 31 May to get a weekend at the Trav-lodge Mirambeena Resort Darwin for AUD99 p/r p/n. Deal includes upgrade to executive room, breakfast for two and checkout at noon.

Sabre Launches New RoomDeal App

Sabre Pacific has today launched its new RoomDeal Red app, which gives agents an expanded view of 350,000 pre-paid boutique and branded hotels.

Working with aggregators like GTA, HotelBeds and Expedia, Sabre says it has captured and qualified non-GDS options from all over the world for Kiwi agents to book and add their own discretionary fee.

"We want our agents to be able to cater to even the most differentiated

South America Up 4%

Adventure World is reporting strong growth in travellers heading to South and Central America.

"People travelling to these regions are up 4% year-on-year, with the projected growth, and the release of Air New Zealand's flights in Dec, we expect this to increase immensely," says general manager Dave Nicholson.

Popular Adventure World itineraries include the 10-day Latin Rendezvous, from \$3075pp t/s; 21-day Splendours of South America, from \$7610pp t/s; and 13-day Handpicked Peru, from \$5289pp t/s.

demand," says Sabre's New Zealand country manager Nigel Taylor.

Agents can pick, confirm, modify and change reservations based on location maps, real-time availability and extras like inclusive Wi-Fi. Integrated with Sabre Red Workspace, RoomDeal records the accommodation as a passive booking segment in the traveller's PNR.

"Bundling net rates with other travel products becomes easy, with agents processing just a single transaction. Pilot studies have shown this time-saving alone makes a significant material difference," says Taylor.

The app is free for all Sabre agents in New Zealand.

Repeat Rewards

Choice Hotels is rewarding its repeat hotel guests with a \$50 E-gift. Any guests who stay at the Econo Lodge, Comfort, Quality or Clarion hotels throughout the country on two separate occasions before 20 May qualify for the offer. Guests will be presented with two voucher codes which they can redeem by visiting chooseyour-gift.co.nz and following the prompts.

Starwood Seeks Buyer

Three of Fiji's most iconic and best known hospitality assets, Sheraton Fiji Resort, The Westin Denerau Island Resort & Spa and Denerau Golf & Racquet Club, have been listed for sale on behalf of Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Worldwide, Inc. The assets will be sold with the benefit of a long-term management contract with Starwood, which has owned and managed the properties for many years. Starwood says it expects the properties to attract strong, global investor interest. The assets boast a prime beachfront location on the north-western tip of Denerau Island. CBRE Hotels has been appointed as the selling agent, with the properties being offered for sale via an international marketing campaign.

MEL To Get A Ritz

Melbourne is to get a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, with the property to feature as the centrepiece of an urban mixed-use project in the CBD which will also include residential apartments and retail shopping. The 250-room luxury hotel will take up floors 64 to 77, making it the highest in Australia. Construction is expected to start next year. It will be the second Ritz for Australia, with one also being developed in Perth.



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Amadeus Blacklane

Blacklane's global professional driver service will soon be available in all Amadeus channels, with the company set to become the first fully integrated provider in the Amadeus Taxi & Transfer solution.

Blacklane provides pre-booked rides with professional drivers at fixed prices in over 50 countries. Travellers can book transfers to and from airports, hotels and other destinations just as they book flights, hotel accommodation or car rental. The service can be fully integrated with the traveller's Passenger Name Record (PNR) and the agency's back-office. It will be implemented in three phases from Jun.

Flymojo Arrival

A new regional airline, flymojo, has been launched in Malaysia. The airline aims to improve connectivity between east and west Malaysia as well as boosting tourism numbers both for local and international visitors. The airline is scheduled to be up and flying by Oct.

New South America Brand For Kiwis

Viva Expeditions has teamed up with Australia's Chimu Adventures to cater to strong demand from Kiwi travellers for Latin America.

Viva's Rachel Williams says the move was necessary for the company to keep up with ongoing demand. "While this is fantastic we have also outgrown our current reservations system and have become limited by our documentation, marketing materials and agent resources. As such we have teamed up with our friends across the ditch, Chimu Adventures, to bring a lot of great benefits," says Williams. Chimu provides fully flexible, guaranteed itineraries to Latin America, plus cruises to Antarctica, catering to clients of all ages.

Canberra Deal

Book by 30 Apr and stay by 30 Jun to get an AUD199 pr pn deal at the Hotel Kurrajong Canberra staying in a Classic or Heritage room, with breakfast for two and a bottle of wine. The property was built in 1926 and has been refurbished to its original grandeur, promises TFE.

"We have worked with Viva for years now, their group expeditions are awesome and they are expanding rapidly in the New Zealand market," says Chimu's Chad Carey. "It was a great opportunity for us all to get together and pool our resources to be able to provide the best possible service to New Zealand travel agents and to travellers heading to Latin America and Antarctica."

Benefits of the move include a new reservations system allowing faster service while still providing detailed word and pdf itineraries, and the release of four brochures in Apr covering independent touring, group tours, luxury collection and Antarctica.

Williams says the partnership has allowed Viva to 'take a huge leap forward' but at the core not a huge amount has changed, with the Kiwi team remaining the same.

"We are offering agents a great opportunity to take advantage of this growing market. We are here to help you convert enquiries into sales, we have a great range of agent resources and are always happy to offer destination training and client info evenings."

Red Centre Adventures

Two packages to explore Australia's red centre are available from Ayers Rock Resort. The two-night Uluru deal is from AUD252 pp s/t including accommodation for two, return transfers from Ayers Rock Airport and daily indigenous guest activities programme. Kids under 15 free. The four-day Red Centre package is from AUD357 pp s/t and includes two nights' at Ayers Rock Resort, one night at Kings Canyon Resort, under-15s free, return transfers from Ayers Rock Airport and daily indigenous guest activities. Optional add-ons include car hire from AUD85 per day with unlimited kms. Upgrade to six-days/five-nights from AUD182 extra pp s/t which also includes daily buffet breakfast. See, ayersrockresort.com.au/redcentre.

Giraffes And Wine

Guests can drink in the view and local wine at a new evening event at the Santa Barbara Zoo's scenic hilltop on the third Thu of Jun, Jul and Aug. The Sunset Sips events will also feature special animal encounters, train rides, giraffe feedings, hors d'oeuvres, and more. Stop by the giraffe exhibit to say hello to Baby Buttercup, a Masai giraffe born in Nov, and his newest playmate due in this month. See sbzoo.org

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*Sydney to Auckland commenced 28 February 2015



Solomon Tourism Boost

The Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau are hoping to see the tourism sector become the prime source of the country's foreign exchange earnings within the next 10 years. SIVB has appointed Tropics Tourism & Marketing Services as its industry marketing representative Australia/New Zealand. SIVB says the company will take responsibility of the national tourist office's travel industry marketing and related trade activity in both key markets. The Australia/New Zealand market is pivotal, it adds, and the appointment is expected to play a critical role in achieving their goals.

EK Australia Sale

Emirates is offering Economy, Business and First Class Saver airfares from New Zealand to Australia on sale through to 26 Mar. One way fares ex Auckland to Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane begin from \$179 Economy and \$649 Business. One way fares ex Christchurch to Sydney begin from \$199 Economy and \$649 Business. First Class fares are also available, beginning at \$889 one way. Travel dates vary, see your GDS for further details.

More Visas On Arrival Boost Tourism

The implementation of visa-on-arrival policies in particular has led to strong visa facilitation progress in recent years, which reflects well on the increased awareness among policymakers of the positive impacts of visa facilitation on tourism and economic growth, says UNWTO.

The bureau's latest Visa Openness Report shows 62% of the world's population required a traditional visa prior to departure in 2014, down from 77% in 2008. In the same year, 19% of the world's population was able to enter a destination without a visa, while 16% could receive a visa on arrival, as compared to 17% and 6% in 2008.

The report also shows that the most prevalent facilitation measure implemented has been 'visa on arrival'. Over half of all improvements made in the last four years were from 'visa required' to 'visa on arrival'.

Countries in the Americas and in Asia and the Pacific have been at the forefront of visa facilitation, while Europe and Middle East have more restrictive visa policies. Overall, emerging economies tend to be more open than advanced ones, with South-East Asia, East Africa, the Caribbean and Oceania among the most open sub-regions.

Research by UNWTO and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) shows that the G20 economies could boost their international tourist numbers by an additional 122 million, generate an extra USD206 billion in tourism exports and create over five million additional jobs by improving visa processes and entry formalities. The same research carried out for the APEC and the ASEAN countries indicates that visa facilitation could generate important gains for both groups, including the creation of 2.6 million jobs in APEC and 650,000 jobs in ASEAN.

Egypt & Oman Deals

Innovative Travel has deals for Egypt and Oman with savings of \$500pp t/s. Egypt in Style, 12 days private touring ex Cairo including five nights deluxe Dahabiya cruise, six nights in heritage palace hotels, private sightseeing with English speaking Egyptologist, daily breakfasts and all meals on cruise, is now from \$4450pp t/s. The eight-day Mystical Oman private tour ex Muscat includes five nights at deluxe Al Bustan Palace hotel, Muscat; one night deluxe eco lodge, Nizwa; one night deluxe desert camp, Wahiba Sands and one night at the Turtle Beach Hotel in Ras Al Hadd; luxury private 4WD transport and English speaking guide, and is now from \$3750pp t/s. Each package is valid for sale up to 30 Jun, for travel 01 May to 15 Sep.



New Whitsunday Bike Trails For Conway

Two new mountain biking tracks have opened in Conway National Park on the Whitsunday coast. The Conway Coastal Fringe Circuit and Hayward Gully tracks take riders through lush palm valleys as well as offering stunning views over the coast and islands.

Book non-GDS hotel content (including GTA, HotelBeds & Expedia) within your Workspace.

Sabre Pacific's NEW RoomDeal App. Just Launched!

RoomDeal is a revolutionary new Red App for pre-paid hotel bookings. It plugs straight into your Sabre Red Workspace, so you can search all the world's major hotel content aggregators, get info, location maps and real-time room availability, and, of course, book rooms. All with a passive segment automatically in your PNR.

Another cool innovation delivered.

Sabre
pacific

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Insiders Cape Town

Cape Town Tourism will launch a new mobile app later this year sharing travel suggestions, experiences and activities from an insider's perspective. The bureau has also started a neighbourhoods series with insider's guides to two different neighbourhoods each month. This project compliments a neighbourhood-focused video series featuring colourful and interesting personalities in each area to be uploaded onto YouTube. Resident storytellers will encourage visitors to travel like a local, meeting local shopkeepers, hiring bicycles and renting local homes. See voicemap.me

Capri By Fraser Launch

Fraser's Hospitality has announced the launch of its urban-inspired, design-led hotel residence brand Capri by Fraser in Australia with the opening of its Brisbane hotel. The 239 suite hotel ranges from Studio Deluxe, Capri Club Rooms and One Bedroom Executives. The hotel is now accepting stays from 01 Apr.

Fifteen Years Of TripAdvisor

The first-ever TripAdvisor traveller review was of Captain's House Inn in Chatham, Massachusetts, which earned a rating of 4 bubbles.

Since then, the number of traveller reviews and opinions on TripAdvisor has accelerated dramatically around the world, up 2000% in the last 10 years, and up 60% since last year, says the company.

Founder Stephen Kaufer started the site from his little office above a pizza joint, also in Mass, never imagining that the idea would spread to more than 45 countries in 2014 and have reached 2.5 billion unique visits, which is equal to more than a third of the world's population. Kaufer says that TripAdvisor has evolved from being the site for hotel reviews to becoming the 'destination site' to research and book nearly every aspect of a trip.

Over the years the company launched a dedicated TripAdvisor for Business division with several features to support the industry. These include tools such as a Management Center, offering free resources and content to help hospitality businesses engage with

the TripAdvisor community and respond to traveller reviews, and Review Express, an automated platform for hoteliers to encourage their guests to share candid feedback on TripAdvisor.

TripAdvisor recently acquired a number of restaurant and attraction booking sites, including lafourchette and Viator, to broaden the booking options for consumers on the site.



EK's New Lounge In Los Angeles

Emirates has opened its 37th dedicated lounge for First and Business Class customers, along with Platinum and Gold members of Emirates Skywards, at Los Angeles International Airport. The Emirates Lounge offers seating for up to 157 customers, covering an area of 840 square meters and guests can enjoy facilities and amenities that include a terrace view, LED TVs, reading areas, comfortable leather armchairs, a choice of formal and relaxed seating, a dining area featuring a range of global cuisines, shower facilities, a business centre with complimentary WiFi connection across the lounge area, and bespoke artwork.

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Sail Santa Barbara

Captain Arthur and Chef Sherri McNary offer the 'ultimate sailing experience' on the Green Flash luxury catamaran, fresh from six years' worth of charter work in the Virgin Islands. The cruise off Santa Barbara includes a high-end dinner inspired by local seasonal cuisine. Charters range from two-and-a-half hours to two days or can be longer by arrangement. Activities and facilities include 12 foot dinghy with 25 hp motor, wake board, knee board, double person kayak, two Naish standup paddle boards, Delta Blaster tow tube, fishing rods and equipment, snorkeling gear, floating mats and noodles. Details and prices yachtgreenflash.com



Dubai Garden Dining At Refurbished Raffles

Raffles Dubai has refurbished its garden area and launched a new al fresco dining experience in 12 exclusive open-air cabanas surrounded by garden views. Raffles Garden will serve a 'well-rounded Arabic themed menu' and flavoured shishas, and is described as an oasis in the heart of the city. It's situated on the third floor, with access through Crossroads Bar, and the rooftop venue features 1500m² of greenery built around a centrepiece glass dome. Raffles Garden is also available for corporate events, parties and weddings, and can cater to up to 600 people cocktail-style or 350 banquet. E-mail dining.dubai@raffles.com

New For Whisky Lovers In Scotland

There are four new whisky experiences in Scotland for 2015, advises Visit Scotland.

The Isle of Harris Distillery in Tarbert will be the first distillery in Harris when it opens this spring. It will be a Social Distillery that gives its guests a warm welcome with personal guided tours and the reportedly rare opportunity to find how the first Harris whisky will be made. Local produce will be on offer in its canteen and retail area.

The re-opening of Annandale Distillery after 90 years means that fine Single Malt Scotch whisky will be available again from Dumfries & Galloway. A variety of tours will show visitors the processes of whisky making and the distillery manager will be on hand to answer any questions. A coffee shop and retail area will be on site.

Glengoyne Distillery (Glasgow) is extending its tour offering with the opening of a new maturation area and warehouse, No1 Warehouse. Visitors will learn about the effect different oak species, cask manufacture and previous fill of casks has on the spirit and will draw two drams directly from a fill sherry cask and a first fill bourbon barrel.

St Andrews will celebrate the launch of a new single malt scotch whisky distillery to the area. Owned by the Wemyss family, The Kingsbarns Distillery and Visitor Centre is located just outside of St Andrews

in the village of Kingsbarns. The first Kingsbarns Single Malt Scotch whisky will be ready in 2018 and the visitor centre will offer a unique opportunity for guests to watch the process first-hand and be part of the history of the Kingsbarns Single Scotch Malt Whisky in the making.

GC Outlet Shopping

More than 220 stores make up Harbour Town outlet shopping centre, 20 minutes from Surfers Paradise. Shopping packages for groups or VIP visitors are available. A Tourism Lounge is also available with free WiFi, air-conditioned relaxation area, complimentary tea, coffee and water, secure luggage and parcel minding, free pushchairs and wheelchairs, and special Tourism Club Card for further discounts. See harbourtowngoldcoast.com.au

Industry Diary

MARCH

Jaws 2015

Tauranga: Tue 24, Tauranga Yacht Club, 1700-2000. **Hamilton:** Wed 25, Hamilton City Oaks, 1700-2000.

Tourism Fiji's Mamanuca & Nadi Roadshow 2015

Christchurch: Mon 23, Peppers Clearwater, 1730-2030. **Wellington:** Tue 24, InterContinental, 1730-2030. **Hamilton:** Wed 25, Novotel Tainui, 1730-2030. **Auckland:** Thu 26, Stamford Plaza, 1730-2045.

APRIL

Avalon 2016 Launch

Hamilton: Mon 13, Waikato Stadium, Gate 5, 128 Seddon Road, 1745, drinks & canapes. **Timaru:** Tue 14, Mocca Café, 0715, breakfast. **Christchurch:** Tue 14, Christchurch Casino, 1730, drinks & canapes. **Tauranga:** Wed 15, Trinity Wharf, 1745, drinks & canapes. **Nelson:** Wed 15, Grand Mercure Nelson Monaco, 1730, drinks & canapes. **Blenheim:** Thu 16, Watery Mouth Café, 1730, drinks & canapes. **Napier:** Mon 20, Globe Theatre, Ahuriri, 1800, presentation & movie. **Palmerston North:** Tue 21, Distinction Hotel & Conference Centre, 1745, drinks & canapes. **New Plymouth:** Wed 22, Devon Hotel, 1745, drinks & canapes. **Auckland East:** Thu 23 Apr, Pakuranga Golf Club, 0715, breakfast. **Pukekohe:** Tue 28, Sugar Shed, 1745, drinks & canapes. **Wellington Lower Hutt:** Wed 29, The Dowse Art Museum, 1745, drinks & canapes. **Auckland West:** Tue 28, Quality Inn Lincoln Green, 0715, breakfast. **Auckland Central:** Wed 29, Maison Vauron, 0715, breakfast. **Auckland North Shore:** Thu 30, Bruce Mason Centre, 0715, breakfast.

Destination NSW Sydney Agent Pub Quiz Nights

Auckland: Tue 21, Atticus, 63 Fort St, CBD, 1730-1900. **Wellington:** Wed 22, The Establishment, 14-16 Courtenay Place, 1730-1900.

Asia Now

Auckland West: Tue 21, Hong's Kitchen, Westgate Shopping Centre, 1730. **Auckland Central:** Wed 22,

Grasshopper, 26 Albert St, CBD, 1730. **Wellington:** Thu 23, Monsoon Poon, 12 Blair St, Te Aro, 1730.

MAY

Asia Now

Tauranga: Tue 05, Thai Thani 2, 15 Wharf St, 1730. **Hamilton:** Wed 06, Ibis Hotel, 18 Alma St, 1730.

Avalon 2016 Launch

Whangarei: Tue 05, Dickens Inn, 0715, breakfast. **Dunedin:** Tue 05, Park Regis, 0715, breakfast. **Kerikeri:** Wed 06, Velvet Café, 0715, breakfast. **Invercargill:** Wed 06, Kelvin Hotel, 0715, breakfast. **Queenstown:** Thu 07, Prime Waterfront, 1730, drinks & canapes. **Wellington CBD:** Wed 13, Mac's Function Centre, 1730, drinks & canapes.

Aloha Down Under

Auckland: Mon 11, venue and time tba.

South Australian Roadshow

Auckland North: Fri 15, Spencer on Byron Hotel, Takapuna, 1700-1930. **Auckland:** Sat 16, Orakei Bay Function Centre, Orakei, 0930-1100. **Auckland East:** Sat 16, Howick Golf Club, Bucklands Beach, 1400-1600. **Hamilton:** Sun 17, Novotel Tainui, 1400-1600. **Tauranga:** Mon 18, 59 The Strand Function Venue, 1200-1330. **Rotorua:** Mon 18, Novotel Rotorua Lakeside 1700-1900. **Palmerston North:** Tue 19, Kingsgate Hotel, 1630-1900. **Masterton:** Wed 20, Masterton Club, 1200-1330. **Wellington:** Wed 20, Shandon Golf Club, Petone, 1730-2000.

Amazing Thailand Roadshow

Auckland: Thu 21, Sky City Grand, 1700.

Whitsundays Travel Agent Workshop

Auckland: Fri 22, The Mercure, 1730-2030.

JULY

Hawaii Tourism MCI Roadshow Mon 27, Dates and venue TBA

BRAND USA AND HAWAIIAN AIRLINES MEGAFAM 2015

Warm Hawaiian Welcome For Agents



It was mai tais, a sunset serenade and a warm welcome for the agents on the Brand USA Hawaiian Airlines megafam.

The agents have finished their US mainland tours and have two days in Hawaii before they head home.

Last night's event, staged at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, even included a guest performance by Kainoa Daines of the Oahu Visitors Bureau. Spirits were high as the Kiwi agents shared the highlights of their trips. For some it was the snow in NYC, the float plane ride to the San Juan Islands



was a highlight for Seattle, while others showed off their shooting bruises, sustained from the gun kick-back after their clay bird shooting lesson.

1 The Kiwi team is pictured enjoying themselves. **2** Simone Macdonald, Stu McKay and Amy Boustead, all World Travellers-Fuzion; and Antony Myers, HoT Newmarket.



Islands, Museums, Celebrities And Snow For Kiwis

With another jam-packed itinerary on Sat (Fri local time) the USA Megafam teams enjoyed the last day on their US mainland tours.

Team Portland, Oregon & Seattle spent the day exploring the San Juan Islands, which can be reached by a 45 minute flight from Seattle. The team checked out the sights with San Juan Transit & Tours, including South Beach, Lime Kiln Point State Park, the San Juan Islands Sculpture Park, and finished up with a tour of The Whale Museum and some free time to explore the art galleries, shops and boutiques. Team New York went on a tour through the Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the world's largest and finest art museums, before checking out the Empire State Building Observatory. Team Sacramento & San Francisco had a GPS Guided Tour with Go Car before taking a Tales of the City hike with Urban Hiker Tours, then spent the evening on a Dinner Dance Cruise.

Team San Diego & Los Angeles spent most of the day at Universal Studios Hollywood and made the most of their Front of Line Passes, finishing with dinner at the Hard Rock Café Hollywood and exploring Hollywood's nightlife scene. Team Las Vegas & Nevada ventured to Death Valley where they spent some time at the Badwater & Devil's Golf Course before having lunch at the Furnace Creek Ranch Resort, visiting the ghost town of Rhyolite and Beatty.

1 Craig Martin of Flight Centre met Vanessa Hudgens in Times Square. **2** Debra Duke of House of Travel in the snow at the top of the Empire State Building. **3** The snow was a highlight for the NYC team, including Craig Martin of Flight Centre. **4** Lydia Haydon of Harvey World Travel checks out the view over Vegas. **5** HA's Lindsey Morgan (right) frolics with her team in front of the Golden Gate Bridge. **6** Opal Saenju of Flight Centre in Death Valley.

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