

Friday 17 July 2015

**Issue 3118** 

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## Samoa: New Brand, 2016 Is Our Year

Samoa Tourism has unveiled its new-look brand campaign to drive visitor numbers, and with new developments coming on-line as well as an increased effort to drive ex-

cellence in the industry, Samoa is claiming 2016 as its year.

"2016 is Visit Samoa Year, and 'Beautiful Samoa' is the overarching brand message driving this campaign," says local Samoa Tourism Authority rep Sonny Rivers. "VSY is a celebration of Samoa becoming a first class destination. This encompasses new developments to host visitors, as well as existing hotels and attractions upgrading their offerings."

Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort opened its doors earlier this year, with a second property to follow later this year or early next; and there's the brand-new Taumeasina Island Resort opening in 2016 too. Next year will be about 'driving excellence in the industry and promot-

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ing visitor-care', says Rivers-and events will also be held throughout the year, to add to the experience

The new Beautiful Samoa branding has started rolling

out in New Zealand, and Kiwis will have had a glimpse of the new television commercial before the All Blacks vs Manu Samoa game last week.

The tagline was developed following feedback from visitors to promote one of the country's key selling points, says Rivers.

'Surveys among and testimonials from visitors have continually highlighted that Samoa is beautiful, it has beautiful people, culture, beaches and landscapes and it's therefore fitting that the brand-message speaks of how many visitors feel about Samoa," he says.

Check out the new video on our Facebook page facebook.com/ traveltodaynz

#### ... Roadshow

Agents will be able to hear about the new campaign, and Samoa's big plans, first-hand at a roadshow in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland from 07-11 Sep. Keep an eye on Travel Today for details.

#### **KRA Gets First Aircraft**

Canada & Mexico.

Kiwi Regional Airlines is set to receive its first aircraft, a Saab 340A, with KRA investor 2 Cheap Cars set to import the aircraft into New Zealand in a few weeks. The Saab, which can hold 36 passengers, has been bought from Polish airline Sprint Air. "Our aim is to be operational before the end of the year and the early arrival of our first aircraft is a key part of achieving that goal," says 2 Cheap Cars boss Eugene Williams.

#### NZ Sth Island Weather

Air New Zealand is offering flexibility for passengers ticketed to travel to and from Queenstown, Dunedin, Invercargill or Christchurch up to and including 17 Jul, due to widespread snow fall predicted to hit the east coast of the South Island tomorrow. NZ flights may be affected by the snow, as could access to the airport and surrounding areas via road, the carrier notes. For details see airnzagent.co.nz



#### **MH17 Sunflowers**

A touching story about bringing sunflowers to the families of the victims of MH17 has emerged from Australia as the world marks one year since the downing of the aircraft.

Jetstar

Fairfax journalists covering the tragedy wanted to bring sunflower seeds from the crash site back to Australia for families of the victims, but couldn't do so because of Customs rules.

After they wrote about the plan in a column, an agriculture official contacted them with a plan-they could bring the seeds to Canberra, where the official cultivated them in a quarantine facility. Once those flowers produced seeds, if they were free of disease they could be distributed to the families-which they were.

Relatives of all 38 Australian victims are now said to have requested the seeds, as have others from overseas.

### China Airlines – 6 x weekly flights from CHC this summer!



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### News & Product



#### **ANA Adds Tokyo-Sydney**

ANA has confirmed it will add daily non-stop Dreamliner flights from Tokyo's Haneda Airport to Sydney from 11 Dec, subject to government approval. Flights will depart Haneda late at night, and return flights will arrive at Haneda early in the morning, allowing passengers to transit to a number of Japanese destinations by midday, says ANA.

#### **OOL Redevelopment**

Gold Coast Airport has announced plans for an AUD200 million redevelopment that will overhaul the airport ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Stage one of construction is due to commence in early 2016 and will include three new widebodied aircraft stands and a threelevel terminal development. This stage will be completed in late 2017 prior to the games, with subsequent stages scheduled to be completed in late 2018 and late 2020.

#### **LATAM Awarded**

LATAM Airlines Group has received certification for the second stage of the IATA Environmental Assessment for its international flights operating from Chile.

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## Has MH17 Had Any Impact On Safety?

Aviation experts are reportedly questioning whether any tangible change in safety procedures have come about as a result of investigations into the downing of flight MH17 one year ago today.

Experts say there has been a 'lack of real change to assess whether it is safe for passenger jets to fly over con-

#### **Cairns Racing Carnival**

GO Holidays advises of its package for the Cairns Amateurs Racing Carnival. Two nights' accommodation and a general admission ticket is priced from \$165pp s/t, with options to upgrade and extend available. On sale to 11 Aug for travel 10-13 Sep. GO has details.

#### **KLM Apple Watch App**

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has introduced a new app for the Apple Watch. The app will offer features including the ability for passengers to check-in for their flight by tapping the screen, save a boarding pass on their phone, and check remaining flight time on their watch at any time during the flight. flict zones', according to the *Sydney Morning Herald*'.

There was a huge outcry around the issue following the incident, but air safety expert Geoff Dell is quoted as saying that 'there has been a heightened awareness of the issues and an endeavour by international aviation authorities to do a better job of providing information to airlines but not a lot has changed'.

He added that airlines were more risk-averse following MH17, 'but that focus tended to wear off quickly when they began to calculate the greater cost of flying around potentially dangerous zones'.

Meanwhile, a Qantas pilot was reported as saying all the airlines make statements about doing the right thing but they will balance risks against outcomes. They are driven by the reality of the economic costs of the daily operations'. A senior aviation lecturer was quoted as saying while it is probably impossible to exclude such incidents happening, it is important to stress again that aviation remains the safest mode of transport.

#### QF Sched. Changes

Qantas has advised of an alternative process to the handling of schedule changes for travel agents as these are no longer handled by Sales Support. Agents will receive notification of the schedule change in SSR/RM remark via the GDS. For assistance they should call the contact centre on 0800 808 767. For details see qantas.co.nz/agents

#### **FJ LAX On Sale**

Fiji Airways has flights to Los Angeles on sale to 23 Jul starting at \$1199 ex Wellington/Christchurch on the carrier's twice-weekly services to Nadi. Book in V class. See GDS for details.

#### **More WA Access**

Clients travelling through Australia will soon be able to fly directly into Western Australia's South West region, with the State Government announcing the AUD59.7 million expansion of Busselton Regional Airport, advises Tourism WA. The airport's infrastructure developments will allow for new interstate airline routes, including direct flights from Australia's East Coast. A surge in visitor numbers is expected following the completion of the airport's transformation in mid-2018.





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### **News & Product**



#### **NYC Restaurant Week**

NYC & Company advises that reservations are open now for NYC Restaurant Week Summer 2015.

Diners can enjoy three-course prix-fixe lunches for USD25 and three-course prix-fixe dinners for USD38 at 368 restaurants from 20 Jul-14 Aug, Mon-Fri and Sun. For menus, photos and reservations see nycgo.com/ restaurantweek

#### Hotel, Ticket Packages

AccorHotels in Melbourne has partnered with the Australian Centre for Moving Image to provide exclusive hotel and ticket packages to David Bowie Is - the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition which runs through to 01 Nov. Fifteen AccorHotels in Melbourne and ibis are offering special hotel and ticket packages, including overnight accommodation for two, untimed and undated tickets to the exhibition, priced from AUD199 for two. Visit accorhotels.com/ melbexhibition for further details.

# **Jane's Joining Tropical North QLD**

Familiar industry face Jane Wilson has been appointed as the director leisure sales and marketing of Tourism Tropical North Queensland, and the RTO says her retail experience will be useful as it focuses on 'influencing its global distribution partners'.

Wilson is currently marketing and business development general manager for Southern Travel Holdings, but will be more familiar to Kiwi agents from her 14 years with the South Australian Tourism Commission in New Zealand.

She will take up her new position on 03 Aug, and is charged with leading both the TTNQ sales and marketing team and TNQ's tourism industry to 'facilitate highly effective collaborative destination marketing', says TTNQ chief executive Alex de Waal.

"Jane's outstanding strategic marketing and analytical experience backed by a science degree and post graduate qualification in business management will bring significant strategic market-

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for bookings before 30 September



ing leadership competence to TTNQ's highly experienced team of four market specialists," he says.

"Jane's wholesale product management travel experience with Gullivers Pacific Ltd (now Stella Travel Group) combined with her retail travel experience with Budget Travel

will greatly support TTNQ's focus on influencing its global distribution partners."

Wilson's strategic marketing skills and can-do attitude will be invaluable in ensuring TTNQ retains its destination marketing leadership role, he adds.

Wilson says she is looking forward to working closely with operators and industry partners to ensure TTNQ continues to grow expenditure and visitor share.

"TTNQ has recently implemented a number of very successful campaigns in the digital space and I am excited about working with the team to continue to deliver innovative marketing solutions for the benefit of our members and our region," she says.

#### The **FRIDAY** Files True stories from the mouths of clients, as shared by Kiwi agents.

A couple of elderly ladies from Auckland went down to Wellington to the Wearable Arts as a treat, it had been a while since they'd stayed in a hotel and this one had all the bells and whistles. *They were quite impressed. More* gadgets than they had at home even.

Dinner time came and they decided to heat up something in the microwave, they pushed all the buttons but just couldn't get it to go so they rang down to reception and explained that the microwave wouldn't go.

After a stunned silence at the end of the phone, the receptionist asked where the microwave was. "In the cupboard," was the reply.

"Madam, that's not a microwave, it's the safe," he explained.

Have you got a funny travel story to share? We won't publish your name or agency details. Send your funny travel stories to faith@traveltoday.co.nz

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# **Cruising Today**



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### **RCL: Never So Much Choice For Kiwis**



All three RCL Cruises brands (Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises) will sail to New Zealand during the 2015/16 summer season, opening up extra opportunities for Kiwis who are looking to cruise close to home.

Six ships will be based in local waters, increasing RCL's capacity throughout Australasia by close to 50%, with 93





Actual size (30mm dia). E-mail tony@tabsontravel.co.nz itineraries around Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific and Asia.

RCL Cruises New Zealand sales manager Mark Kinchley says it's going to be a very exciting local season and he expects, with the rising popularity of staycations, 'there is a lot that Kiwis are going to love about Royal's 2015/16 season'.

"Never before have New Zealanders had so much choice in cruise holidays right on their doorstep. They no longer have to travel long distances to experience their favourite ships," he says. "For example, on 13 Jan 2016, Celebrity Solstice will be in Dunedin, Explorer of the Seas will be in Auckland, and Voyager of the Seas will be in Tauranga, which may be a record for the amount of passengers we have carried around New Zealand at a single point in time. It is a testament, to the popularity of cruising amongst Kiwis now, that for the first time we are bringing all three brands to the region."

Kinchley expects Kiwis will be particularly interested in Explorer's eight-, nine-, and 10-night South Pacific Island cruises, as well as her 10-night repositioning cruise from Singapore to Perth on 03 Nov.

#### ... What's New

There are a number of new features for RCL Cruises' 2015/16 Australasian cruise season. Azamara Club Cruises will base its first ever ship in Australasia, Azamara Quest; RCI will base its first ever ship out of Brisbane, Legend of the Seas; revitalised Explorer of the Seas will sail out of Sydney for the first time; and Celebrity Solstice will visit Mystery Island in Vanuatu for the first time. RCL's Australasian cruise season will kick off with the arrival of Radiance of the Seas into Sydney 09 Oct.

#### **Savings For Singles**

Windstar Cruises is offering to waive or reduce the single supplement fee on more than 130 voyages. The supplement is waived on 43 voyages, whilst there are discounts of 10-25% on 94 select voyages, to be booked by 18 Sep. See windstarcruises.com

#### **CLIA Charity Choice**

Cruise Lines International Association has selected Mercy Ships as their Charity of Choice. Mercy Ships operates floating hospitals that provide training for medical professionals, along with curative surgical interventions. It uses hospital ships to deliver free, world-class healthcare services, capacity building and sustainable development to those without access. CLIA will work with Mercy Ships to further endorse their initiatives to deliver healthcare to developing nations and make CLIA global members aware of the international non-profit's mission and efforts. CLIA president and chief executive Thomas Ostebo says the partnership is a natural fit, and they are proud to support the work that Mercy Ships is doing to increase healthcare throughout the world. See mercyships.org.nz

#### **Queen Mary 2 Refurb**

Cunard's flagship Queen Mary 2 is set to undergo a major refurbishment in 2016. She will be in dry dock for 25 days from 27 May 2016 at the Blohm+Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, where 15 single staterooms will be introduced; 30 additional Britannia Club balcony staterooms will be created; and ten new kennels will be created for fourlegged travellers.

#### **Silversea Savings**

Silversea Cruises is extending its Silver Select promotion to 31 Aug, adding an extra 12 voyages across the globe.

Silver Select delivers enhanced savings options on 55 worldwide voyages departing in 2015, with guests able to choose from a number of classic itineraries through Asia, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, as well as expedition voyages through the South Pacific, South America, Galapagos and the Arctic.

For oceangoing voyages guests may select a two-category suite upgrade, or USD1000 onboard credit, or 50% off a second suite on new bookings; and for expeditions cruises guests may select a two-category suite upgrade or 50% off a second suite. See silversea.com

#### **Regent World Cruise**

Regent Seven Seas Cruises' 2017 World Cruise is now open for bookings, Cruise Holidays has advised.

The 128-night inclusive voyage includes free unlimited shore excursions, shoreside experiences, a pre-cruise one-night gala event, specialty restaurants, in-suite mini-bar replenished daily, gratuities, unlimited Wi-Fi, unlimited beverages including fine wines and premium spirits, USD1400 shipboard credit per suite and Visas issued upon arrival in Indonesia, Myanmar, India and Turkey.

The roundtrip Miami voyage onboard Seven Seas Navigator, departing 05 Jan 2017, visits 31 countries with calls in 62 distinct ports and explores 29 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It's priced from \$53,399. Call Cruise Holidays on 0508 278 473 for further details.





#### Vancouver Outlet Open

The first designer outlet in greater Vancouver, the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver has opened its doors. The centre features brands such as Armani, Calvin Klein, Hugo Boss, Nike, Ralph Lauren and more, all offering savings of up to 70% all year round. Also featured is a lifestyle concept store SL, an Italian-style coffee house Caffe Artigiano and a popup social food marketplace Hawkers Mercado, plus more. The centre is easily accessible via public transport, with Canada Line's Templeton Station located across the street. Shoppers travelling from downtown Vancouver will be at the centre in just over 20 minutes, while those coming from the airport will arrive in three minutes. Travel between the airport and Templeton Station is free. For more information see mcarthurglenvancouver.com

# **Discover Colours & Cuisine Of WA**



Sampling first-hand the benefits of flying on one of Air New Zealand's 787-9s as well as exploring the highlights of Perth, Broome and the spectacular WA coastline is on the agenda in the second famil itinerary in the NZ/Virgin Australia Great Aussie Experienceagent famil programme.

The famil utilises the combined NZ/ VA Tasman network, flying to PER on an NZ Dreamliner before taking in the coast, culture and cuisine of Perth, from street art and bustling lane way bars to night markets and



#### **Japan Famil Fun With Active Asia**

A group of Air New Zealand Holidays agents have recently returned from a famil to Japan with Active Asia, where they experienced Tokyo and Kyoto. Highlights included the Kiyomizu-dera temple which overlooks the city of Kyoto. The Buddhist temple's buildings were constructed in 1633 and not a single nail was used in the entire structure, says Active Asia. They also visited the Nishiki Markets in Kyoto, a five block shopping street lined by more than 100 shops and restaurants; and the pedestrian-only Takeshita St, which is lined with fashion boutiques and cafés in the Harajuku area of Tokyo and is very popular with local teenagers. Pictured is Hayley Valentine, Christchurch; Serena Martin, Mt Eden; Liz Dickey, Hamilton; and Mandy Robertson, Nelson.



the city's burgeoning offering for foodies.

There's also Perth's new billion dollar plus waterfront precinct and new hotels to take in before the group will fly VA up to the stunning coastal colours of Broome, in time for the region's Shinju Matsuri festival. After exploring the gateway to the incredibly Kimberley region the group will also take a four wheel drive tour up the WA coastline to Cape Leveque and Cygnet Bay, including a visit to a working pearl farm.

Agents must complete the NZ/VA online training module to be eligible to apply for the famil. For more details see airnzagent.co.nz

There are seven more itineraries to be announced, offered in conjunction with the Australian state and territory tourism partners.

#### Christmas In Jul

Christmas has come early in Victoria with Vibe Hotel Marysville offering a Christmas in July special. Clients can receive 15% off the best available rate for the night of 25 Jul, as well as receiving 25% off all spa services. Prices start from \$237 per night, to be booked by 25 Jul.

> EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY

### **News & Product**

#### **Spencer Top Hotel**

Spencer on Byron in Auckland has been named the best hotel for 2014-15 by Grand Pacific Tours, which recognised the hotel for always striving to 'deliver the best service to our guests'. The hotel is a stop on two GPT luxury coach tours, and travellers on the tours scored it 9.12 out of 10.

#### Switzerland Whisky Trek

Switzerland has introduced its very first Whisky Trek, which is also the highest in the world sitting at 2502m above sea level.

The trek is based in Appenzell, just under a two-hour train ride east of Zurich. Switzerland Tourism director Mark Wettstein says the trek not only highlights a 'very well-preserved and traditional side of Switzerland which can be quite unexpected for many visitors, but also shows off the country's rugged and untouched nature'. Plus, whisky lovers will have the chance to stop in at mountain inns along the way.

The entire tour is recommended via a hike, however, most of the mountain inns are also reachable by cable car or car. See saentismalt.com

#### Agra Heritage Walk

Exotic Holidays says its Mughal Heritage Walk in Agra, India offers a 'unique opportunity to experience the traditions, and culture of the local people'. The 1km walk takes in the three Mughal monuments of Gyarah Sidi, Humayun Mosque and Mehtab Bagh. Also included is a stroll through the Kachpura rural settlement, a visit to a traditional dwelling and the opportunity to purchase locally made souvenirs. The twohour commissionable tour is priced from \$52pp, with a minimum of two people required for bookings.

#### **GO Malaysian Open**

GO Holidays advises of its package for the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur. Two nights' accommodation and one day ticket is priced from \$119pp s/t, with options to extend available. It is on sale to 26 Aug for travel 25 Sep-05 Oct. GO has details.



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### News & Product



#### **Hilarious Beer Tour**

Up to 15 people can hop aboard the Sac Brew Bike and pedal their way on a three-hour tour of Sacramento's craft beer scene. The Brew Bike has a sunshade, wooden bar with cup holders for a non-spill experience and a stereo system. Cost is USD20 for a two-hour pedal and USD26.50 for a three-hour experience. Participants must be no younger than 21 years. Details, sacbrewbike.com AKL Airport App

The new Auckland Airport app, in partnership with TripIt from Concur, is set to be available soon for both Apple and Android phones.

The app will sport a host of new features, such as live notifications of when to leave home to catch a flight, taking into account real-time flight information and traffic congestions; it will allow users to make parking and lounge reservations and duty-free purchases on-line. There will also be the ability to book transport to and from the airport; and travellers can access the latest exchange rates and the weather and local time at their destination as well as maps. Further features are planned, with more functions to be released in the future. Auckland Airport's general manager of marketing and communications Jason Delamore says the partnership is a world first between airport and TripIt. "The new Auckland Airport app has numerous additions that will allow travellers a one-stop planning tool to make their airport and travel experience better – regardless of airline or class of travel," he says. See aucklandairport.co.nz/app

#### **New Rooms In LVS**

The Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas has redesigned more than 3000 guest rooms and suites in its resort-wide transformation and selected rooms are now available. Check them out at mandalaybay.com

#### **Get Cute While Flying EK**

Kiwi passengers travelling on one of Emirates three daily A380 services from Auckland to Dubai, via Australia, can now watch fashion and beauty vlogs from the YouTube channels, 'Cute Girls Hairstyles' and 'Brooklyn & Bailey' on the ice entertainment system.

### **Industry Diary**

#### JULY

Globus Family of Brands 2016 North America Launch Pukekohe: Tue 21, Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club - Ten Pin Bowling Centre, 78 Nelson Street, 1745.

Globus Family of Brands and Rocky Mountaineer- 2016 North America Launch

Christchurch: Tue 21, Tequila Mockingbird, 98 Victoria Street, 1745. Invercargill: Thu 23, Super Bowl, 105 Kelvin Street, 1745.

South Pacific Association of National Tourism Offfices Nelson: Tue 21, the Suburban Club, 1730.

#### **OzFocus Auckland Auckland**: Thu 23, Travel Corporation offices 131 New North

Corporation offices 131 New North Rd, Eden Terrace from 1800.

#### AUGUST Bula Marau Fiji Roadshow – Around Viti Levu

Christchurch: Mon 3, Novotel Christchurch, 1730-2030. Wellington: Tue 4, InterContinental, 1730-2030. Auckland: Wed 5, Stamford Hotel, 1730-2045. Hamilton: Thu 6, Novotel Tainui, 1730-2030.

World of Accor Auckland: Thu 06, the Pullman hotel, 1600-2000

Philippine Department of Tourism & Philippine Airlines Auckland: Thu 20. Date and time tba.

Anaheim Roadshow

Auckland: Mon 24, The Hilton, 1730. South Pacific Association of

National Tourism Offfices Napier: Tue 25, the Crown Hotel, 1730.

Cruise WA Auckland: Wed 26, the CICC building, 100 Beaumont Street, 2 sessions - 1430 and 1800.

#### TAANZ National Travel Industry Awards 2015 Auckland: Fri 28, the Aviation

Hall, MOTAT, from 1800.

#### SEPTEMBER

Insight Vacations Launch Breakfast with CEO John Boulding Christchurch: Mon 07, Function

Room, Ilex Botanic Gardens, Hagley Park, AM (TBA).

TAANZ AGM Auckland: Wed 09, Heritage Hotel, from 1500.

#### A Day in WA, with ATEC and Tourism Western Australia Auckland: Thu 10, the CICC building, 100 Beaumont Street.

Royal Caribbean – New Zealand's Travel Has Talent Grand Final

Auckland: Fri 11, the Pullman hotel.

#### Globus/Cosmos Europe 2016 Launch

Hamilton: Tue 15, pm. Christchurch: Tue 15, pm. Auckland Nth Shore: Wed 16, am. Tauranga: Wed 16, pm. Dunedin: Wed 16, pm. Napier: Thu 17, pm. Invercargill: Thu 17, pm. Auckland East: Thu 17, am. Lower Hutt: Tue 22, pm. Wellington: Tue 22, am. Whangarei: Tue 22, am. Nelson: Wed 23, pm. Palmerston North: Wed 23, pm. Kerikeri: Wed 23 am. Queenstown: Wed 23, am. Wanganui: Thu 24, am. New Plymouth: Thu 24, pm. Blenheim: Thu 24, pm. Pukekohe: Tue 29, pm. Timaru: Wed 30, am. Venues that



#### **CHC Conference Facility Opens To Public**

A new conference and collaboration centre has opened near Christchurch Airport and says it's looking forward to welcoming local businesses to use its facilities. The Tait Technology Centre is opening its doors to the public and offers high speed internet, smart technology, flexible conference and meeting rooms, and multiple configurations offering space from 35 to 400 delegates. Enquiries and bookings are handled by 360 Degree Events, e-mail donna@360de.co.nz

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For more see Monday's Travel Today

# AWAIIAN Aloha Friday

# Exploring, Eating HNL Like A Local



The repeat rate of Kiwi travellers visiting Hawaii continues to climb, and more clients are said to now be looking for new experiences.

For those looking for something different, and keen to experience Honolulu like a local, direct them to downtown Chinatown's colourful and evolving restaurant scene.

From roots as an historic immigrant gateway the precinct has moved to become a hip arts district and dining and nightlife hub.

Among the top spots to recommend are the Livestock Tavern, opened by the owners of the iconic Lucky Belly eatery (livestocktavern.com).

The tavern focuses on simple comfort food in a relaxed atmosphere with handcrafted spirits, craft beers and classic cocktails.

For those looking for something earlier in the day the Scratch Kitchen and Bake Shop (scratch-hawaii.



com) has been opened by chef Brian Chan and sports an open kitchen offering breakfast and lunch options made entirely from scratch.

Clients after a little culture with their cocktails and cuisine should try Manifest, an art gallery, cafe and cocktail bar in one (pictured). It's also home to top mixologist Justin Park and recommended for an early evening cocktail or a night of dancing to the live music. See manifesthawaii.com

#### ... Beer And Pizza

If beer and pizza are on the menu, suggest Bar 35 (bar35hawaii.com). It offers more than 200 beers from around the world, specialty cocktails, and pizzas, and is popular after work with the locals.

Or if clients are after a more classic Chinatown experience there's The Dragon Upstairs (thedragonupstairs.com) which offers jazz and classic cocktails. It is hidden up the stairs at the top of the dragon's tail on the wall.

For more details on Oahu's food scene, see visit-oahu.com

#### **HA Most Punctual**

Hawaiian Airlines was the most punctual carrier in the USA in May and had the fewest flight cancellations, the airline says. Its flights arrived on schedule 90.9% of the time, and it cancelled just 0.1% or seven out of 6434 of its flights.

HA has also released its Jun traffic statistics, showing it carried 7.5% more passengers than Jun 2014. Demand was up 5.8% on capacity increases of 4.5%, with load factors averaging 84.2%.

#### **Mauna Kea Restrictions**

Use of the road on Mauna Kea on Hawaii Island is being limited between the hours of 2200-0400 for the next 120 days, as protests continue against a giant telescope being built on the volcano. The new rule means access is restricted to anyone not travelling in a vehicle, and prohibits camping on the mountain within one mile of the summit road at all times.



#### Halekulani Indulge Gala

Halekulani will host a culinary gala as well as a champagne and caviar event and three wine seminars as part of the upcoming Hawaii Food and Wine Festival. The Caviar and Champagne event is on 1700-1800 09 Sep, and will showcase Cristal, Dom, Krug and Salon champagnes paired with French Sturia Caviar, with tickets priced from USD500. The Indulge gala series is on 11 Sep, with cocktails from 1700 followed by dinner at 1800 featuring wines paired with caviar, foie gras and wagyu beef prepared by master chefs from the island. It's priced from USD1000pp. See hawaiifoodandwinefestival.com

#### **New For HTA Board**

Richard Fried Jr has been appointed the new chairperson of the Hawaii Tourism Authority board of directors. Fried has served on the board since 2012, and this will be his first term as chair



**New Pit-Stop When Driving Oahu's Circle Island Tour** Visitors who self-drive Oahu's Circle Island Tour are being encouraged to call in for a pit-stop at the Polynesian Cultural Centre's new Hukilau Marketplace. The area features around 40 shops with both retail and dining, as well as entertainment, and is free to enter. While the PCC tells the story of all of Polynesia, the marketplace is focused just on the nearby town of Laie, which is home to around 5000 people. All of the shops have some tie to the local community. The marketplace has free parking, free Wi-Fi, and is a perfect stop on the circle island drive, which doesn't offer many public restrooms, says a spokesperson for the centre. See hukilaumarketplace.com



