



Hidden secrets

DAY four in Macau and it never ceases to amaze what lies beneath the city's glamorous hotels and casinos



with their extraordinary restaurants and conference facilities.

With the assistance of the Macau Government Tourist Office, and in particular Joao Sales, we have walked through the Old Christian city with its UNESCO World Heritage listed St Paul's ruins, danced with locals, turned down secret, narrow streets in Old China Town, tried Tao Fu Pudding (sweet tofu) made by the same family for 150 years and so much more- *Jill*.

Moreton Hire gets glassed by Riedel

RIEDEL, the beverage glass brand of choice for wine connoisseurs and hospitality professionals worldwide, has entered a supply agreement of premium crystal glassware in Queensland and New South Wales, with Moreton Hire.

Mark Baulderstone, md of Riedel Australia says "We are delighted to be partnering exclusively with Moreton Hire.

"They are synonymous with the excellence that Riedel consumers expect and appreciate, and I'm confident that this will be a beneficial partnership for all involved."

Describing Riedel as an exciting edition to Moreton Hire's range, Ian Hoath, national manager for events at Moreton Hire said, "At Moreton Hire we are dedicated to offering premium, quality products to our customers and the industry alike.

"Riedel has established themselves as an industry benchmark and a brand we are happy to partner with to continually strive for excellence and deliver on our customers needs."

NSW seeks new venue chief

THE NSW government has today advertised for the inaugural Executive Director to head up a new statutory authority which aims to "create leading venues for national, international and local events" across the state.

Venues NSW was formally established in March this year to manage government-owned sporting and entertainment venues in the Hunter, Western Sydney and the Illawarra regions.

These include entertainment centres in Newcastle and Wollongong, as well as sports stadiums and other assets.

The new authority is part of the Department of Education and

Communities, with the Executive Director tasked with establishing the Venues NSW brand and "maximise commercial, operational and community opportunities across a range of sporting and entertainment venues".

A salary package of \$199,701 to \$226,850 is on offer, with the role including a focus on "maximising self-generated revenue to support community outcomes".

"The quality of services delivered by the venues is a major attractant for national and international visitors, as well as serving the NSW community," the job description states.

A "demonstrated leader" is being sought who can "develop venues that provide facilities for elite sporting events and professional performances as well as community programs and events that help deliver more connected, engaged and vibrant communities".

EEAA's awarding event

AS they prepare to celebrate their 20th anniversary, the Exhibition and Events Association of Australasia has opened nominations for Australian Awards for Excellence.

The awards, which recognise outstanding merit and leadership within the industry, are to be held at the Great Hall, NGV International in Melbourne, on 4 December.

Open to venues, suppliers and organisers and to be judged by a panel of independent industry experts, EEAA general manager Joyce DiMascio said in order to keep the awards criteria relevant and current a Member Focus Group has undertaken a review which had resulted in some refinement.

"We have made some changes to the judging criteria as a result of the review, that better reflect the evolving nature of our industry," DiMascio said, adding that the Best Supplier Award has been split into two, allowing both large and small companies a better chance to compete fairly.

The night, DiMascio continued, is even more special as they will be marking 20 years as an association.

Nominations for entries close 5pm Friday 5 October - visit eeaa.com.au/about-awards.php.

Taiwan ups visitors

WITH 44,412 Australian travellers visiting Taiwan so far this year, an 8.87% increase over the 40,792 achieved for the same six month period in 2011, comes the news from the Taiwan Tourism Bureau that international arrival figures for the first six months of 2012 increased year on year by 25%, reaching 3.58 million.

It's an increase that has led to several key international hotel players deciding to invest in the destination over the next six years.

These include hotel groups such as Le Meridien, Fullon Hotels & Resorts, Sheraton and Caesar Park Hotel & Resorts, all of which have indicated plans to start building properties in 2013.

Taiwan Tourism Bureau marketing representative for Australia & NZ, Pearl Lee, said "Taiwan offers a distinct local culture, plenty of outdoor adventure activities along with bargain shopping and is overall excellent value for money."

Puzzled?

Join us to see how the pieces fit together to create memorable events in Cairns & Great Barrier Reef.

Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef invites you to join us at our showcase event.

MELBOURNE
Tuesday 18 Sept. 2012, 12 - 2pm
Rivers Edge, 18-38 Siddeley St, Melbourne

SYDNEY
Thursday 20 Sept. 2012, 12 - 2pm
Opera Point Marquee, Sydney Opera House

BRISBANE
Friday 21 Sept. 2012, 12 - 2pm
Victoria Park, 223 Herston Rd, Herston

A cocktail lunch will be served at each event.

CLICK HERE TO RSVP
by Tuesday 11 September

BUSINESS EVENTS
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business events news

31st August 2012



A LUXURY high rise development in Singapore offers ensuite 'sky garages'.

Residents park their cars in designated lifts that take the vehicles up to the apartments, while they take a separate elevator.

But a sky high car spot doesn't come cheap.

Apartments with two parking spaces start at \$7.1 million.

Royal tech upgrade

ROYAL on the Park Hotel Brisbane will offer its inhouse, conference and dining guests free wireless broadband internet following the completion of an extensive technology update.

iPads are also now available on loan to all guests during their stay.

Rent a Resort For Exclusive Events



Club Med
GROUPS & INCENTIVES

Silversea sees growth in the MICE market

THE incentive and events industry is seeing the benefits of cruising onboard a Silversea vessel.

Four full charter cruises departed out of the Asia Pacific region within the past 12 months for the cruise line.

Speaking with **BEN** earlier in the week,

Karen Christensen, gm & director of sales and marketing Australasia said the "incentive market is growing" for the cruise line.

The market is a "big focus" for Silversea with Christensen adding that they are consistently "working on it", by being consistent with their message and by attending AIME each year and hosting charter and incentive lunches and events once a year predominately in Sydney and Melbourne for PCOs and various key companies.

Christensen pointed out that the Finance and Pharmaceutical markets are big for charter cruises.

The 'ultra luxury' all suite, all inclusive cruises can be organised for groups of 20+ people, with 147 suites onboard *Silver Cloud* and *Silver Wind*; *Silver Whisper* and *Silver Shadow* (194 suites); *Silver Spirit* (270 suites) and *Silver Explorer* (65 suites).

And for charter cruises "the whole ship is theirs" with themed events able to be organised through Silversea's global charter and incentive teams.

MEANWHILE the Silversea 2013 Voyage Atlas was released earlier in the week, along with a dedicated Silversea Expedition Voyage brochure, a first for the firm.

Ten new ports of call have been added across the program for 2012 including Port Arthur in Tasmania; Fukuoka, Japan; Sabang, Northern Sumatra, Laipeda, Lithuania, Saaremaa, Esponia and Soller de Majorca, Spain; with *Silver Explorer* also planned to make maiden calls at 28 new ports and return to Greenland.



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Fly fishing in the Yemen, perhaps?

A NEW, innovative travel concept - 'Mr Aristotle', that inspires and delivers travel experiences that mere mortals can only dream about, has just been launched.

The highly attractive collection of some of the very best boutique travel experiences, might include a private flight over Everest, fly fishing for trout in central Chile, learning to fly a helicopter in tropical North Queensland, a personal styling experience in Los Angeles or spending the night inside your very own heated igloo high in the Swiss Alps.

The company's unique selling point is its concentration on high-value experiences that appeal to an affluent audience and one which would rather spend its time actually living life rather than simply dreaming about it.

For more information about the many adventures visit the website www.mraristotle.com.

The 115 day World Cruise onboard *Silver Whisper* will return to Australia in 2013 sailing into Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Albany and Fremantle (Perth) between 04 and 13 February.

The most "buoyant" and "exciting" market for Silversea is Expedition Cruising with Christensen saying people want to go out and see Antarctica but come back to Silversea luxuries, such as a butler in all of the suites, gourmet cuisine and the rest of the ship's luxurious features.

Win a luxury stay at Southern Ocean Lodge



During the months of August and September, *Business Events News* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing two-night stay at the exclusive Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island courtesy of *Baillie Lodges*.

The prize includes two-nights accommodation for two people in a Flinders Suite with breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, open bar with premium wines and spirits, in-suite bar, signature experiences and return island airport transfers.

To be in the running simply answer the 17 questions and the final creative answer which will be featured in *BEN* on 21 September.

The person who answers ALL the questions and has the most creative response will win.

Email your answers to:

baillielodges@businesseventsnews.com.au

Q9: Name three wine regions featured in the wine selection at Southern Ocean Lodge

Hint: www.southernoceanlodge.com.au

Click here for Terms and Conditions



business events news



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KLCC's new website

A new "forward thinking" website has been created for the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre with a design that is visually stimulating.

The sales and information tool now offers up to date content on the Centre's facilities, amenities and value packages as well as the destination.

Additional features on klconventioncentre.com includes a corporate video and side bar with links to key corporate information on the Centre's policy.

The site is also HTML based thus eliminating the need for additional plug-ins making the site accessible from anywhere.



Sophistication by Swissotel

SWISSOTEL Sydney unveiled the final results of many months of work on its corporate and meetings offerings, with the results universally acclaimed as the usual Swissotel exceptional quality.

The heritage listed Blaxland Ballroom has been refreshed, given a lift in ambience and accessibility to improve uses for the conferences & events market.

One right hand turn on Level 8

out of the elevator from the hotel's Market Street entrance and you're greeted with a vast, expansive

area oozing with charm and a welcoming atmosphere.

Thick and soft carpets in the adjacent Maple Room make for a pleasant feel amid an ambience of warmth and tranquility suited to greeting and entertaining guests prior to an event start.

In a highly competitive meeting marketplace, Swissotel was never expected to falter in its continued drive for its impeccably high standard, capped with the appointment of AVPartners as its audio visual technical partner.

Swissotel, as a brand, is in the midst of a large expansion program across the globe over the next four years, with hotels already open or to be opened

soon in seven different countries.

For a more relaxed meal experience with table service, the

revamped Jpb Restaurant and Crossroads Bar boast new menus and a comfortable setting.

All facilities are now open, and to make a booking, arrange a site inspection or to discuss available packages, contact the Swissotel Sydney on (02) 9238 8888.



GETTING TO KNOW: South Africa

Encountering South Africa's extraordinary animals on a game safari is on a lot of people's wish lists, and the sighting of wild animals in their natural environment is a thrilling experience, especially those known as the Big 5 - lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and cape buffalo.

We sighted some of these animals while on a South Africa famill with award-winning DMC, Dragonfly, after attending Meetings Africa in Johannesburg.

An excellent conference destination, Johannesburg is home to some significant venues that include the Sandton Convention Centre, Pyramid Venue and Conference Centre, the Sinosteel Plaza Conference Centre and the Conference@TheArena.

Our safari began with a three hour bus ride to Entabeni where we stayed at Legends Golf and Safari Resort. Here in addition to the Lodge is a hotel, privately owned homes, an 18 hole championship golf course, a range of recreational facilities, a wellness centre and the Entabeni Safari Conservancy Conference Centre.

Here the meeting rooms are located in Lakeside and Ravineside Lodges with a smaller facility at their Wildside Safari Camp. Break out areas in the gardens have views of the Waterberg Mountains, the open plains or Lake Entabeni. Designed to minimise the impact on the natural environment, the resort is considered one of the most environmentally sensitive of its kind in Africa. From here visitors can take part in game drives, walking safaris, play golf, go horse riding, drive 4 x 4 trails and helicopter up to their 'Extreme 19th' hole.

Following our memorable game drive where we spotted numerous rhinos, giraffes and other exotic animals, we flew to Cape Town from Johannesburg to experience Table Mountain and its iconic aerial cableway. It was here that Dragonfly had arranged a surprise ride back into town on the back of Harley Davidson motor bikes.

Table Mountain is the backdrop to this central area with its near vertical cliff and flat topped summit towering over 1,000 metres and surrounded by the Devil's Peak and Lion's Head. Here a thin strip of cloud which sometimes forms at the top of the mountain has been dubbed the 'tablecloth'.

With its warm Mediterranean climate, Cape Town and its coastline edged with impressive cliffs, has a wealth of conference and exhibition space including the custom built Cape Town International Convention Centre with a capacity for up to 9500 people theatre style.

Our stay at The Table Bay Hotel with its stylish facilities allowed us to experience one of the finest hotel conference venues in the city. Facilities are available for up to 300, in five rooms, each with its own audio visual equipment. Among Cape Town's venues with excellent meeting facilities are the Hilton Cape Town City Centre with six meeting rooms and the Good Hope with its Noon Gun rooms. The Mount Nelson Hotel is another property that has facilities for both large and small meetings, wedding banquets and intimate cocktail parties.

