



Psst!

FANCY yourself as a spy? Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) is looking for 25 hotel



inspectors to join its worldwide team of 'secret' agents.

The global search which continues until 31 August is all part of their 25th anniversary celebrations, with details on their www.slh.com/mi website.

Don't go giving up your day job though because there's a catch to upholding SLH's high standards of luxurious excellence across its worldwide portfolio of 520 hotels.

You need to be a loyal SLH guest with an eye for detail. Someone who travels frequently and who can incorporate this nefarious activity with their own travel plans.

You'll need to be in tune with the brand and be able to look at the experience as a whole - from drinks by the pool and a signature spa treatment to borrowing a kayak or enjoying a Michelin-starred meal.

In this quest for perfection you'll also need keen eyes attuned to the finer details of luxury expectations.

Tim Davis, global director of marketing at SLH says: "These are real SLH customers talking about the things that really matter to them when on holiday or business and staying in a luxury property, not someone who inspects hotels for a living and is immune to what gives a hotel that exceptional 'SLH feel'.

"Just remember," he cautioned, "being a Mystery Inspector is no picnic - unless it's an option on the room service menu of course!" *Jill*

New address for ICE

INTERNATIONAL Conference and Events Australia has relocated its Perth office from today, with the new location being at 100 Havelock Street West Perth.

Phone and email contacts remain unchanged.

ETM honoured at NTIA

EVENT Travel Management has been named Best Business Events Travel Agency for the fourth time in five years, with the accolade awarded on Sat night at the National Travel Industry Awards.

Taking place at the new Dockside Pavilion on Darling Harbour, the capacity crowd of more than 1200

honoured winners in a range of categories including Best Domestic Airline (Qantas), Best International Airline (Emirates) and Best Tourist Office (Dubai Tourism).

The awards are the culmination of a comprehensive nomination, voting and judging process, with ETM general manager Tracey Edwards telling **BEN** the company was "so proud of winning the award and being recognised by our peers in the industry.

"The recognition for our team is very pleasing as they work so



incredibly hard for their clients and their business," she added.

Edwards said the NTIA award would feature on ETM's marketing material in the coming months.

"The NTIA certainly gives us a competitive advantage," she said.

"We're not just a travel company that does events, we are an event company with a full service offering and the ability to execute all or part of our clients' requirements".

Edwards said ETM had delivered significant sales growth and improved its market share over the past four years, with the operation's close relationship with suppliers enabling it to deliver a seamless experience.

Edwards is pictured above with Richard Austin from Cover-More Travel Insurance which sponsored the category in the awards.

AccorHotels on show

FORMERLY known as the World of Accor, the upcoming AccorHotels Showcase Sydney 2015 will once again offer the opportunity for an attendee to win a new Peugeot.

Taking place at the Sofitel Wentworth on 04 Aug, the event is expected to attract as many as 1000 guests with Channel 7 celebrities Melissa Doyle and Larry Emdur to host the show.

There will be a daytime exhibition featuring AccorHotels executives from Europe, the US, Asia, NZ, Australia and the Pacific from 10.30am-3.30pm followed by a "free-flow workshop" and cocktails between 6pm and 9pm.

Delegates can register their interest in attending online at accorhotelsshowcase.com.

ICC Sydney poaches MCEC executive chef

THE new International Convention Sydney today announced the appointment of Tony Panetta as its new Executive Chef - who will join ICC Sydney after five years as Executive Chef of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Described as a "positive coup... set to shake up the convention and business events market," Panetta will work alongside recently appointed Director of Culinary Services, Lynell Peck and the venue's general manager Adam Mather-Brown.

ICC Sydney ceo Geoff Donaghy said the appointment of Panetta was part of AEG Ogden's commitment to developing a "world class team to manage Australia's premier convention, exhibition and entertainment precinct, ICC Sydney".

US domination

THE strong US economy is seeing an influx of business travellers to many key American cities, according to data released this morning by American Express Global Business Travel (GBT).

The figures analysed Australian air bookings made with GBT for travel Mar 14-Apr 15, with an increase in visitation to New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago & Dallas.

The top Asia-Pacific destinations were Singapore, Auckland, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur.

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Newcastle offer

WITH the opening of the \$15m Mercure Newcastle Airport drawing near on 01 Aug, special rates are available which include overnight accommodation and breakfast for \$150 per night.

All of the contemporary soundproofed guestrooms offer high-speed wireless broadband, blackout blinds, iPod docking stations, Foxtel and smart TV's, while meeting venues can accommodate events ranging from 12 to 150 guests.

Double duty

THE chic French provincial-style courtyard at the centre of the five-star InterContinental Sydney Double Bay is now available for events of all kinds, including corporate cocktail celebrations or alfresco conference breakouts.

The space, reminiscent of a courtyard belonging to a French private residence with its stone paved, fragrant gardens, lush green trees and ceramic feature urns, adjoins the hotel's pillarless Grand Ballroom with six adjoining function rooms.

Shanghai's "new habit"



SHANGHAI'S tourism ties with Australia are continuing to grow closer with increases in leisure and business traffic a two-way street, said Connie Cheng, Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration (SMTA) vice chairman, speaking at a travel and business events workshop last week, attended by NSW politicians Victor Dominello and Mark Coure.

Held at the Imperial Peking, Sydney on Tuesday, Cheng said that early signs showed a steady growth in Australian visitors into Shanghai this year, from the

168,000 who visited there in 2014, a rise of 7.8%.

"Shanghai," she continued, "has become easier for visitors with Australian passports. They no longer need a visa if transiting through Shanghai International Airports and are staying there for less than 72 hours.

"Added to the ease of entry, overseas visitors to Shanghai can now obtain tax refunds on their purchases," she added.

The STMA team of delegates (pictured) created a strong presence at the Travel Industry Exhibition at Luna Park later in the week – a visit that marked the expansion of collaboration between Australia and Shanghai, aiming to establish a "new habit" trend of travel to Asia.

HGA expansion

THE Hosts Global Alliance network of in-country DMCs has expanded its international reach with the addition of new members in Peru, France and New York.

The new partners include Details NYC in New York City, Coltur Peru in Peru and Metropolis DMC in northern France.

See www.hosts-global.com.

Luxperience adds

THE upcoming Luxperience show has signed up AV1 and the Sydney Park Hyatt Hotel, both of whom are partnering with the event taking place at the Sydney Technology Park 06-09 Sep.

The Park Hyatt's participation will see a select group of buyers stay at the hotel during the show.



FANCY a fancy dinner?

Authorities in New York have opened reservations for NYC Restaurant Week Summer 2015, with diners able to enjoy a fixed price lunch or dinner at a whopping 368 New York City restaurants.

A three-course dinner only costs US\$38 (excluding beverages, gratuities and taxes of course) with the celebration marking its 23rd year after launching in 1992 when New York welcomed the Democratic National Convention.

VENUE vermin alert - a British club has had to lodge an insurance claim after a squirrel snuck in and got on the turps.

The rodent apparently managed to turn on one of the ale pumps at the Honeybourne Railway Club near Evesham in Worcestershire, and proceeded to get somewhat tipsy.

Manager Sam Boulter said he initially thought the premises had been burgled when he entered and found smashed glasses and beer all over the floor.

However then the squirrel emerged from a box of chips and "staggered around the room".

The mischievous miscreant was eventually cornered in the men's toilets and thrown out of the bathroom window.

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