



## Brace yourself!

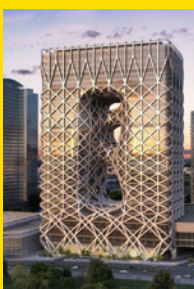
AS A trend towards new hotels in Dubai is said to be more lifestyle than high end luxury, if that's remotely possible, our near neighbour Macau, with its explosion of glitzy hotels and increasingly figuring on the conference agenda, is continuing on its "bigger is best" trajectory, as 46,000 new hotel rooms are expected to come online by 2018.



Taking a leaf from online hotel site 'Hotel Chatter,' this is what we can expect to see:

St Regis has 400 guestrooms and suites due to open 01 Dec in the Sands Cotai Central district; JW Marriott in the massive Galaxy Resort will have 1,015 rooms when it opens in May; Ritz-Carlton Macau also in the Galaxy Resort will be relatively small with 254 suites; Studio City Hotel within an Art Deco/Hollywood-inspired theme park will have two towers and a total 1,600 rooms.

The City of Dreams Hotel, within the existing City of Dreams resort, will add a 780-room "biomorphic" (a resemblance to shapes and forms found in nature (pictured)) hotel in 2017.



The Parisian will have a replica Eiffel Tower and 3,000 rooms and suites, gaming space, and plenty of F&B and entertainment options; MGM Cotai, set to open in 2016, will have 1,600 hotel rooms, a casino and a private, invite-only mansion.

The new Lisboa Palace, which opens in 2017, will be a 270 room Karl Lagerfeld fashion-branded hotel.

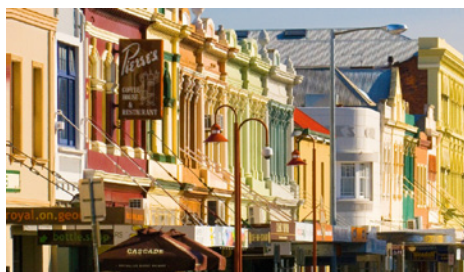
It will join two other hotels in the complex: Lisboa Palace Hotel and Palazzo Versace Macau for a total of 2,000 hotel rooms.

Jill

## BET's best months in 10 years

**BUSINESS** Events Tasmania (BET) has said September, October and November are set to see the most delegates ever for these months in the past 10 years.

More than 5,000 delegates per month would attend conferences in the state, with the period one of the best ever seen by the



state's business events sector, BET ceo Stuart Nettlefold said.

This was due to several larger conferences, ranging from 700 to 1,000 delegates, being held in the state.

The 2015-16 financial year was shaping up to be one of the best ever in terms of conferences confirmed for the state, he said.

The boost in business was due to a number of factors, Nettlefold said, including the strength of the Tasmanian brand, new products on offer that were directly relevant to the business events sector, and Tasmania's appeal as an alternative destination to the big cities.

Awareness of Launceston (pictured) as a business events destination had grown, seeing increased conferencing activity in the last two years and into 2015-16, he said.

BET reported 94 bids worth more than \$51m and representing more than 19,000 delegates in the last financial year, up from 84 bids worth an estimated \$47m in the 2012-13 year (BEN 26 Nov 14).

## VECCI: MCEC expansion a must

**THE** Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) has said the state government's first budget should include the expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

The budget needed to build on recent infrastructure funding commitments by investing in other projects that created jobs and improved productivity, ceo Mark Stone said.

"Foremost among these is the expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre".

The previous Liberal government committed to the expansion (BEN 27 Oct 14) and MCEC ceo Peter King has said the move could be taken as a given (BEN 23 Feb).

The state budget will be handed down next week on 05 May.

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## Ascend for Adelaide

**ADELAIDE** is set to see an Ascend hotel in September 2016 with the Lester Hotel, developed by the Lester Group, managed by the Lancemore Group and part of Choice



Hotels' Ascend Hotel Collection. The first Ascend in SA, the property was worth more than \$50m and would have more than 240 rooms, Choice Hotels said.

The hotel would have "significant" conference facilities, with further details to come, the company said.

Construction would begin in the next few months, with Adelaide chosen for development based on the need for more corporate and quality accommodation in the area, a spokesperson said.

## Element of Byron joins MGallery



**THE** \$100m Elements of Byron resort in Byron Bay has signed an agreement with Accor to join the company's MGallery Collection.

Construction on the resort began last August, with the property scheduled to open this December.

The resort has been approved for 193 one and two bedroom villas with 94 due for completion in December, Accor said.

It would feature four meeting spaces catering for up to 400 delegates, with more details to come, Accor said.



# business events news

1st May 2015



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### crumbs!

**IT MIGHT** be time to pool staff resources at your event company or convention bureau to buy a lotto ticket, given the news that 16 co-workers at a New York company have won a US\$58m jackpot.

Apparently, the co-workers call themselves the Lucky 16 Trust and have put in US\$4 each per week to buy tickets since about 2010, AP reports.

The colleagues, who will, of course, split the winnings, reportedly "huddled in a conference room" to let the news sink in, the publication reports - try not to think about that in your next meeting!

### Flexible check in at the Majestic

**THE** Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur is bringing back its 'The Majestic 24' service from now until 30 Sep, which allows guests to determine their own check in times.

Guests could give a preferred check in time, with check out 24 hours from this time, the hotel said.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

### ibtm arabia venue announced

**IBTM** arabia 2016 will be held at the five star Jumeirah at Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi from 09 to 11 Feb, show organisers have said.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

### ICMI Sydney seats

**ICMI** Speakers and Entertainers' complimentary, fully plated Speaker Showcase breakfasts, being held in Sydney and Brisbane, currently have 25 seats still available for the Sydney Showcase at The Star on 07 May, with 575 already registered.

However, the Brisbane event on 08 May at the Hotel Jen is now at full capacity.

**CLICK HERE** to learn more or register for the Sydney event.

### A Cheeky offer

**THE** Cheeky Food Group is calling on Sydney event managers and PAs to take part in a 100% interactive faml at its new venue.

Register your interest by emailing:  
[info@cheekyfoodgroup.com.au](mailto:info@cheekyfoodgroup.com.au).

### AACB input

**THE** Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) provided input on behalf of Australian destinations at a workshop hosted by Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI) last month.

Held in Adelaide, the workshop looked to inform DMAI's work in the second stage of the DestinationNEXT program, called NEXTPractices, which aimed to create a tool kit and recommend strategies to help destination management organisations when it came to improving in the destination marketing industry, AACB said.

President Lyn Lewis-Smith said the program would help Australian bureaux identify possible new strategies to deliver greater value to the economy.



## Getting an Update On: Singapore

by: Jill Varley

**IT IS** said that change is inevitable and constant, and nowhere is this more apparent than in Singapore, a country constantly reinventing, re-energising and re-imagining itself.

Beyond the marvel of its futuristic buildings are innovations such as the Eco-Link that straddles the green lungs on both sides of Bukit Timah Expressway on your way to the Singapore Zoo, a corridor that allows animals to cross from one side of the Expressway nature reserve to the other.

Start a day of recreation with breakfast at the Zoo with the delightful orangutans before heading to the new river-themed wildlife park, River Safari. Occupying 12 hectares, it houses one of the world's largest collections of freshwater animals and includes six themed Rivers of the World zones. Both the Zoo and the River Safari have a number of function spaces to host events.

Resort World on Sentosa Island, with six world-class hotels, a full suite of convention facilities and the ability to host more than 36,000 delegates, has introduced the world's largest aquarium, S.E.A. Aquarium, with more than 800 species of marine animals. This could be followed by an alfresco lunch on Sentosa's Siloso Beach in the laid-back vibe of Coastes.

No visit to Singapore would be complete without experiencing the extraordinary Gardens by the Bay with its horticultural themed gardens and 18 Supertrees set on 54 hectares within Marina Bay. Ten F&B spaces are available for private events including dining 50 metres atop the SuperTree Grove at SuperTree by IndoChine, and party on in the alfresco rooftop bar with a 360-degree, unobstructed view.

Then experience the nightlife in Club Street on Ann Siang Hill where foaming Heston Blumenthal-style drinks are concocted at Operation Dagger.



**Business Events News** is Australia's newest online publication dedicated to the vibrant meetings, incentives, conferences and events sector.

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