



Glorious food

IT'S always a pleasure to report on a new eatery that goes beyond the ordinary - where the food is sublime, the service attentive and the ambience perfect for a themed event.

afous (the perfume of life), a Spanish, Moroccan tapas restaurant at The Spit, on Sydney's north side, is run by Omar and his creative chef Lalo who has worked with some of Spain's top chefs.

Come October, downstairs from the main restaurant, a waterfront, outside deck with a capacity for 45 cocktail style, will make a great place to dine on a warm, summer's evening.

As one reviewer enthused, "Give your taste buds a holiday and pop along to afous."



Floriade 25th offer



DURING the 25th Anniversary of Australia's largest floral festival, Floriade, which kicks off on 15 September and runs until 14 October, Crowne Plaza Canberra is offering guests a series of floral and foodie experiences.

In addition they are offering great rates at \$250 per night and extra value add-ons

For more information visit - crownplazacanberra.com.au/floriade.

cievents opens in WA

REROUTING a 650-person conference in three days, from Fiji to Sydney, after a cyclone cut off access and power to the island, and with 80 delegates already on pre-conference holiday, was just another day in the life of Flight Centre's (FLT) expanding cievents business, which opened a Perth office this month.

The opening comes just weeks after the company launched its Stage & Screen corporate travel brand in WA, with both operations aiming to capitalise on the growing demand for a dedicated local offering.

The new office is cievents' first in Australia outside the east coast capital cities and will target clients across all business sectors.

"Perth is growing and we see great potential for cievents in this market, just as we see great potential for local destinations like Margaret River, Broome and, of course, Perth to host more events," said cievents gm Natalie Simmons.

"In addition to the thriving local business community, many of our east coast clients are setting up offices in Perth, which creates a demand for our dedicated conferencing and events services.

"We also have the opportunity to work closely with FLT's other corporate travel brands, including Corporate Traveller and FCm Travel Solutions, to add additional value to our growing client base in Western Australia."

By the way, the cievents Fiji relocation to Sydney drama was achieved successfully and without the loss of a single bag.

Southern Ocean Lodge

DON'T forget to enter our major competition to win a two night stay at the stunning Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island.

Details are on **page 3** and to enter send in answers to the questions in each issue of **BEN**.

Earlier questions are online at www.businessesnews.com.au.

South America hots up for MICE

WITH increasing capacity from Australia to Santiago, Chile and Buenos Aires, Argentina, South America is becoming one of the hottest holiday and MICE destinations for Australian travellers.

There was plenty of evidence on Monday evening when more than 200 travel agents and wholesalers attended the South American Showcase, at Sydney's Ivy ballroom.

Jointly hosted by the tourism offices of Chile, Argentina and Colombia, as well as over 30 suppliers from the three countries, the event included presentations from the three nations, workshop sessions and an evening cocktail function at which performers presented traditional South American dances.

Tonight the three-nation group is in Melbourne, followed on Thu by a final event in Brisbane.

As well as a vast range of cultural, luxury and adventure activities for visitors, Chile, Argentina and Colombia are all actively promoting opportunities to the MICE market, offering not only world-class venues and activities for delegates but extensive pre and post event touring opportunities for delegates and their partners.

With Columbia back on the world tourism map and a favourable WTO 2009 report, this alluring 'extreme tourism' destination, once known for its mafia connections and paramilitary uprisings, now has the catchy tourism catchphrase - "The only risk is wanting to stay".

Jorge Montero, executive representative for Australia, ProExport Colombia said, "With improved security and our



economy booming together with our ICCA ranking of 34th in the world, we are welcoming an increasing amount of Australian incentive groups."

Pictured from left are: Jorge Montero, ProExport Colombia; Carolina Valenzuela, Turismo Chile and Mariano Vila, Argentina's tourism promotion agency, INPROTUR.



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business events news

22nd August 2012



A BRITISH ship, the *Lord Sandwich*, brought to Narragansett Bay in the US, in 1778 and scuttled into the harbour in 1878 by the British in an effort to blockade the harbour against the French fleet, has been identified as the *Endeavour*, the bark that Captain James Cook sailed on for his first circumnavigation of the globe.

ATLANTA Braves baseman Chipper Jones, staying in New York's Grand Hyatt Hotel, found his TV & air-con wasn't working.

He tweeted to his 101,000 followers, saying "If anyone was thinkin about staying at the Grand Hyatt in NY, dont!".

Minutes later, the hotel maintenance worker was there and promptly repaired both.

Ah, the power of social media!

Rent a Resort For Exclusive Events



Club Med
GROUPS & INCENTIVES

Adina Norwest open



HANDS on ceo Rachel Argaman of Toga Hotels was working with the Adina Apartment Hotel Norwest team on Monday as they welcomed guests on the first day of operation.

The 106 apartment hotel, located within Norwest Business Park at Baulkham Hills, is a 45 minute drive from Sydney's CBD.

Argaman said: "It's an honour to introduce the Adina Apartment Hotel brand to an area with high corporate and leisure demand and Toga Hotels has embraced the ongoing growth of Norwest Business Park."

The brand new hotel is currently offering an opening special of 20% off the best available rate until 31 December, with overnight accommodation in a studio room from \$129.

For more information visit - www.adinahotels.com.au.

Nobu takes two

BURSWOOD took out two awards at the prestigious 2012 Savour Australia Restaurant & Catering HOSTPLUS Awards for Excellence this week, with Nobu Perth winning the best Asian Restaurant, and Modo Mio Cucina Italiana winning the category of best Italian Restaurant – formal.

Peppers NZ expansion

PEPPERS Retreats, Resort and Hotels has added a third New Zealand property this year to its portfolio with the introduction of The Carrington Resort.

Located four hours north of Auckland on the Karikari Peninsula, the property which will be rebadged to Peppers Carrington Resort offers 10 lodge rooms and 14 three bedroom villas.

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First ACTE conference

THE inaugural ACTE Australasia Education Conference (Association of Corporate Travel Executives) is to be held on 5-6 December at the Shangri-La Hotel Sydney.

The 1 1/2 day educational event will see the region's business travel community review the past year, preview the year ahead and provide invaluable assistance to those striving to achieve a reliable, streamlined and cost effective travel program.

"This much anticipated event has come at the request of our ACTE members and many others in the region's business travel community," said Georgie Farmer, board member representing Australasia, ACTE and Global Service Delivery manager MS Travel, Microsoft Corporation.

ACTE will also host a similar event in Rome 14-16 October for education sessions and thought-provoking general sessions featuring world-renowned presenters and "networking opportunities with the industry's leading buyers and suppliers."

Fancy an upgrade?

NOW everyone can get a taste of the good life with Qantas taking things up another notch for domestic travellers, refreshing its 16 Boeing 767 aircraft with new interiors that include leather seat covers in Business, a new look and feel in Economy and individual in-flight entertainment streamed direct to iPads in every seat.

Qantas customers were the first to experience the "ground-breaking wi-fi entertainment technology" in a trial of the system earlier this year.

Qantas domestic ceo Lyell Strambi said the airline was looking at ways to evolve this technology platform even further.

The first of 16 aircraft to be refitted will enter into service in October.



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

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22nd August 2012

Panda-ing to taste

AS a tourism drawcard, it doesn't get cuddlier than Wildlife Reserves Singapore's (WRS) announcement that two giant pandas from China will be arriving in Singapore on 6 September.

The giant pandas from Ya'an Bifengxia Panda Base will be flown to Singapore on board a Singapore Airlines Cargo Boeing 747 freighter.

Named Kai Kai (QQ) and Jia Jia (VV), they will be housed at the Yangtze River zone of the upcoming River Safari, along with other endangered wildlife from China such as the giant salamander and the red panda.



Traders opens in Bris

THE first Traders Hotel operated by Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts in Australia has opened in Brisbane.

The centrally located, 191 room property, above the Brisbane Transit Centre and next to Roma Street Parklands, marks the hotel group's third venture in Australia following the recent acquisition of the 563 room landmark Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney and its current majority stake in Shangri-La Hotel, The Marina in Cairns.

For special events, banquets or meetings, Traders Hotel Brisbane has seven meeting rooms which have the ability to be converted into a ballroom for up to 500 guests.

Commenting on the occasion, Bruno Cristol, general manager of Traders Hotel, Brisbane said, "Brisbane is a strategic feeder destination to other major Australian cities and we believe Traders' 'Be Ready' philosophy is an excellent fit for visitors to this dynamic city."

Setting the standard

IN an effort to increase the standard of the business tourism industry in Malaysia and enable Malaysian conference organisers to be certified and compete internationally, Malaysia Convention & Exhibition Bureau has introduced the Professional Conference Organiser Partner Program or PPP.

There are two tiers in the program, explains Ho Yoke Ping, general manager of sales and marketing for MyCEB.

"Firstly, partners of both tiers are required to become members of MyCEB's Industry Partner Program.

"Our tier one partners must be able to offer the full PCO services for international meetings with more than five years experience in managing international conferences of 1,000 delegates and above."

Tier two partners need to have at least three years experience in managing international conferences consisting of 500 delegates and more.

Tier one partners receive higher value in education certification support as well as opportunities to be included in bid committees.

So far, three companies have signed on as tier one PCOs.

Festive Fraser offer

CLEARLY, Christmas is on its way as Fraser Suites, in the heart of Sydney, is offering a Festive Delegate Package from \$78pp.

The package is available from 01 Dec until 31 Jan 2013, for 20-100 people.

The offer includes: room hire, note pads and pens, iced water and mints, morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

To find out more information or to make a booking email sales.sydney@frasershospitality.com.

Handy goes East

TODD Handy has been appointed general manager of East Hotel, Canberra's newest four and a half star "contemporary design and lifestyle hotel."

A native of the USA, Handy, studied Hotel and Restaurant management in America before heading to Australia where he graduated from the Australian International Hotel School with a B.Sc in Business Administration (Hotel Management) in conjunction with Cornell University.

Marketing the farm



IN a previous life, New Zealand's Millbrook Resort, in Queenstown, was an expansive wheat farm.

Since then, it's come a long way.

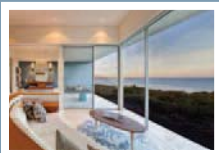
Now, with its own Conference Centre, more than 175 hotel rooms, world-class spa and a 27-hole golf course, award winning five-star resort has announced the appointment of Melbourne based MHF Marketing to provide conference and incentive representation services in Australia.

Commenting on the appointment, MHF Marketing managing director, Mary Helen Farrell said, "We are delighted to welcome Millbrook Resort to our portfolio of international conference and incentive clients.

"Millbrook Resort has successfully retained the feel of the original wheat farm but has incorporated luxury features without compromising the tranquility of the beautiful landscape."

Pictured above from left are: Jillian Miller, business development manager (MICE) and Mary-Helen Farrell.

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



business events news

Q5: Name the brand of spa product used by the Southern Spa?

Hint: www.southernoceanlodge.com.au
Click here for Terms and Conditions

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