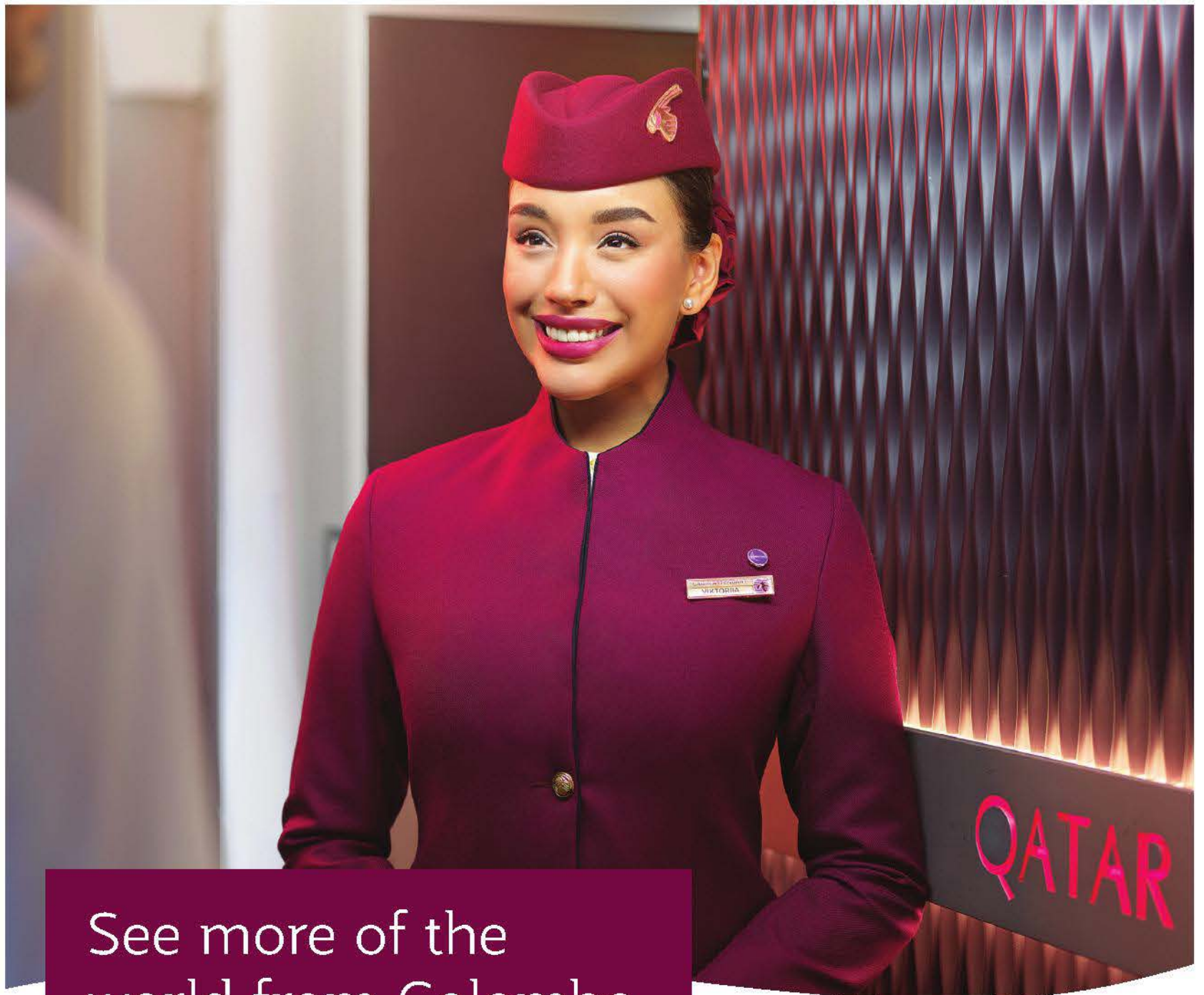


TRAVEL TALK Asia

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VOL 22 NO 07 2023 24 PGS



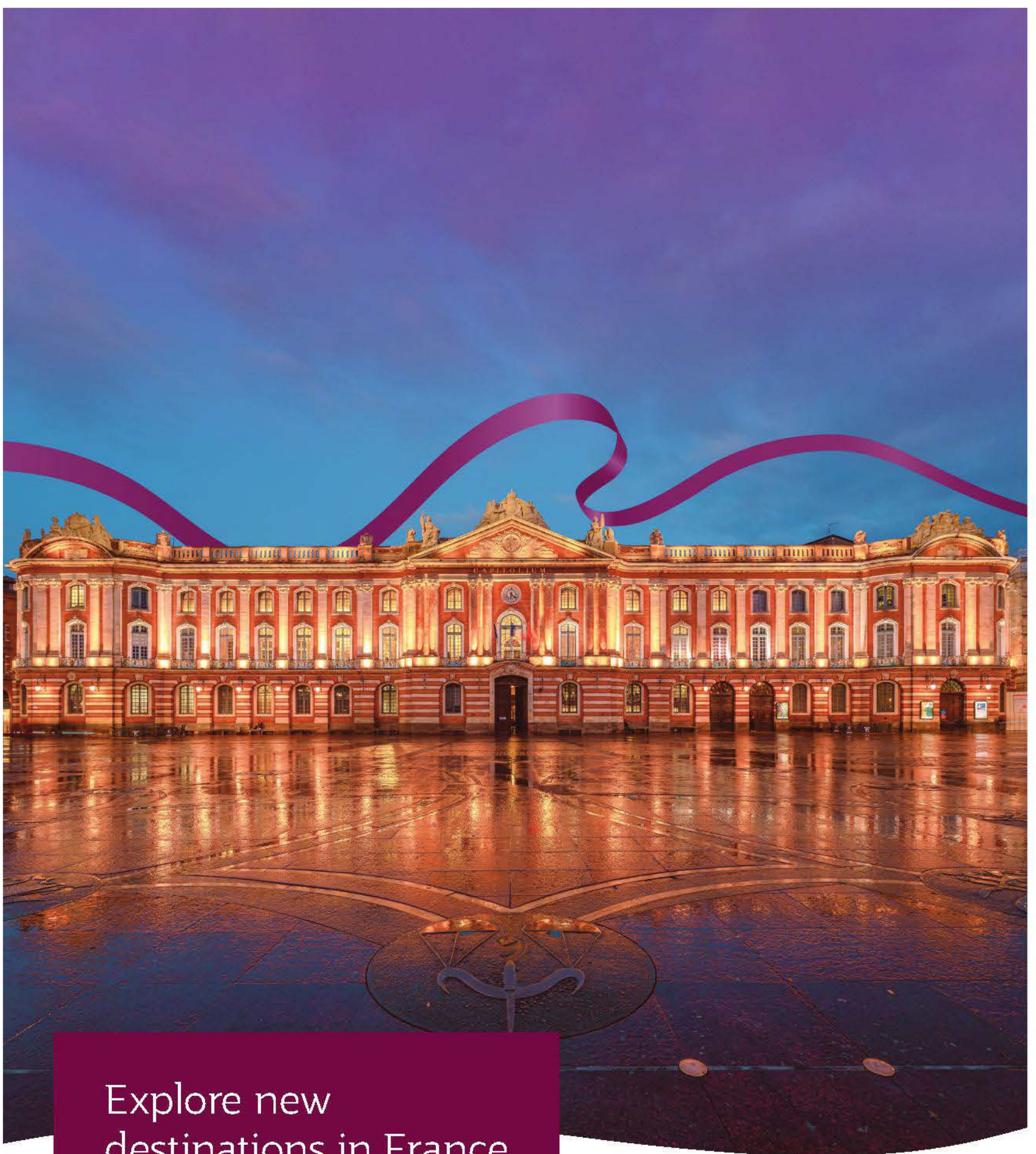
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The 67th TAAI Convention concludes on a high note: A resounding success

DINUSHKA CHANDRASENA



The much anticipated TAAI Convention India closed on a high note with over 400 participants in attendance. Organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators, this year's convention themed "Transforming Borders – Transforming Lives" was a three-day event covering B2B meetings with the opportunity of showing their travel potential and enabling Indian tourists to plan their ideal holiday in Sri Lanka. Around 150 Sri Lankan Travel Agents participated in these meetings. Along with the B2B sessions, a city tour of Colombo was also arranged in order to make the Indian visitors see Sri Lanka's uniqueness as a destination with their own eyes.

The 3rd days event also included panel discussions with top Indian Travel and Tourism officials where they engaged in interesting conversations which shared a lot of information. One panel discussion was themed "Transcending Borders- Strengthening International relations for a transformed world" which included Mr. Paul Stephens, High commissioner for Australia in Sri Lanka, Mr. Katsuki Kotaro, Charge D' Affairs, Embassy of Japan, Sri Lanka, Mr. Fakhri Alivev, Charge D'Affaire's, Embassy of Azerbaijan, New Delhi, Mr. H.E Maged Mosleh, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sri Lanka, and H.E Ambassador of Vietnam in Sri Lanka, Ho Thi Thanh Truc, who shared their views on future relationships between nations.

The other panel discussion Includ-

ed leading Indian Industry stakeholders such as Mr. Dev Karvat, Founder and CEO, Asego Travel LLP, Mr. G.D Srithar, Regional Director, India, Middle East & South Asia, Singapore Tourism Board, Commander Neville Malao, Senior Vice President, JM Baxi & Co. It was themed "Differentiating Travel – Perspectives from Industry Experts". It was productive and an informative session which highlighted their views and thoughts on future travel. The Indian delegates also received souvenirs for their contribution to the Industry.

The TAAI Convention marked its conclusion with a gala dinner reception which provided the best of music & entertainment, captivating dance performances by the Gayan Sri Mal dance troupe, and sumptuous cuisine to round off the evening.

The TAAI delegates were treated to the very best of English, Sinhala, Tamil & Hindi Entertainment, with the likes of Umara, Roy Jackson, Judy De Silva, Jaqueline Hettiarachchi, Ricky Bahar and many more. Ms. Jyoti Mayal, President TAAI, received a token of appreciation from Chairman, SLTPB, and President SLAITO to mark this memorable occasion. Hosting the 67th TAAI Convention in Sri Lanka will be an important milestone in order to add more promotional value, and benefit Sri Lanka and its Tourism sector, strengthening Bilateral, Cultural and economic ties between the two nations.

Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka Successfully Hosts 'Sri Lanka Aviation Day' Event

DINUSHKA CHANDRASENA

The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) successfully organized 'Sri Lanka Aviation Day' event on July 14th, 2023, at the Auditorium of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka.

The Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker was the Hon.Nimal Siripala De Silva, Minister of Ports, Shipping Aviation. Mr. Phillip Goh - Regional Vice President of IATA, Mr. K D S Ruwanchandra – Secretary, Minister of Ports, Shipping & Aviation were the other senior dignitaries present along with senior officials from the Airlines, Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka.

The aviation industry has confronted unprecedented challenges in recent times due to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The resultant decline in air travel worldwide necessitated a collective effort to rebuild and revitalize the aviation sector. Recognizing this need, 'Sri Lanka Aviation Day' aimed to position the aviation industry for growth and facilitate a vibrant future.

This knowledge sharing event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the challenges faced by the aviation industry and identify opportunities for recovery and sustainable growth. The event provided a unique platform for participants to engage in panel discussions, listen to keynote speeches, analyze case studies, and network with fellow professionals. There were 4 panel discussions conducted throughout the day with the participation of both local and foreign speakers & Moderators sharing insights, strategies, and best practices to foster recovery and strengthen the aviation sector in Sri Lanka.



The panels were:
Session 1: Navigating the challenges of air travel in a post-pandemic world.
Session 2: Sustainable Aviation in Sri Lanka.
Session 3: Smart airport development and its impact on the air transport industry.
Session 4: Sharing Aviation Safety Information.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partner, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), whose invaluable expertise and insights ensured the event's relevance and impact. Their collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka was instrumental in making 'Sri Lanka Aviation Day' a resounding success.

The event's success could not have been achieved without the active participation and support of industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders who attended the event. Their commitment and dedication to rebuilding the aviation industry in Sri Lanka is commendable.

As we emerge from the challenges posed by the pandemic, 'Sri Lanka Aviation Day' has set a solid foundation for continued collaboration and innovation in the aviation sector. We remain committed to working together towards a vibrant and sustainable future for Sri Lanka's aviation industry.

Sri Lanka Tourism recently hosted the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) for its annual convention in the city of Colombo. India has played an integral role in the revival of tourism in the past and continues to be a primary source market for the industry. With over 400 delegates and guests in the capital for 4 consecutive days, a series of B2B discussions, workshops and post event tours encapsulated the best of what Sri Lanka has to offer.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau have also embarked on rolling out the long awaited global media campaign. With the confirmation of an agency to drive the same, the industry is hopeful that a global campaign will assist with regaining visitor confidence and pave the way for a successful winter season.

A series of roadshows are underway in Australia as it has been identified as a potential source market for Sri Lanka tourism and direct flights with the national carrier combined with good connectivity with international flagship carriers offers the required capacity to grow this market.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka must diversify its tourism offerings beyond the conventional attractions. While its cultural heritage and pristine beaches continue to be key draws, promoting eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and wellness tourism can tap into new markets and attract a broader spectrum of travelers. With lush rainforests, wildlife sanctuaries, and Ayurvedic wellness traditions, Sri Lanka possesses the ingredients for these niche tourism segments.

Embracing sustainability and responsible tourism practices is paramount for Sri Lanka's tourism industry to thrive in the long term. Preserving its natural beauty, protecting wildlife, and engaging in sustainable practices will not only attract conscientious travelers but also ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the country's beauty.



continue to enjoy the country's beauty.

Dinushka

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NEWS

Sri Lanka Tourism promotes Travel and Tourism in three Australian cities

TTA BULLETIN

Sri Lanka Tourism is showcasing its high potential as a key travel destination for Australian Tourists this Winter season. These Roadshows are scheduled in three main Australian cities, namely Perth, Melbourne and Sydney. The first roadshow was held at the Pan Pacific hotel in Perth on the 11th of July 2023, which kicked off with the participation of Hon. Minister of Tourism, Harin Fernando, Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Western Australia, Rosh Jalagge, Mr. Chalaka Gajabahu, Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, and Mr. Sanath Jaysuriya, Sri Lanka Tourism Ambassador.



On the sidelines of the event, several important discussions took place with the Deputy Premier, Treasurer, and Minister of Transport and Tourism of the Government of Western Australia Rita Saffioti. This included an informative discussion between Hon. Minister of Tourism, Harin Fernando and Ms. Rita Saffioti, on launching direct flights from Perth to Colombo. The possibilities of cultural exchange programmes, Sports Holidays were discussed, and it was followed by an event held for

industry experts, including travel agents and the Sri Lankan community in Western Australia on promoting Sri Lanka as a tourist destination. Plans were initiated on holding a grand tourism roadshow targeting 2024.

The second roadshow in Sydney, which was held at Four Seasons Hotel on 13th July, concluded on a successful note, bringing positive output held from the discussions between Qantas Airways, Australia's national carrier, and Jet Star. Further, Hon. Minister had discussions with Flight Center, for future collaboration in promoting the destination. At this occasion, Sri Lanka High Commissioner to Australia, H.E Chitranganie Wageeshwara, also joined with Hon. Minister and Chairman SLTPB, for a discussion with the participants.



The final roadshow is in Melbourne at the Westin Hotel, with a large contingent of industry stake holders and travelers searching for a new destination to suit their holiday needs. Australia has been an important destination in the Tourism schedule and is considered as an emerging market for Sri Lanka Tourism.

30th AGM of The Sri Lanka Association of Airline Representatives

TTA BULLETIN



Sri Lanka Association of Airline Representatives (SLAAR) held its 30th Annual General Meeting on June 21, 2023, at the Taj Samudra. Mr. Rayhan Wannappa, the Director of Air Transport & Economic Regulation of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at this milestone event. The event was graced by Airline representatives and Industry partners.

SLAAR was founded in 1993, to be the voice of the Airline General Sales Agencies (GSA) of Sri Lanka. The founding President of the Association in 1993 was Mr. Eric Gauder. The Association has always stepped up in all industry-related affairs to ensure that the GSA's of Sri Lanka, operates with ease ensuring that the country continues to attract many international airlines.

Mr. Srimath Fernando was re-elected as the Chairman of the Association for the year of 2023/24 together with the appointment of the new office bearers for the same period. In his speech as the Chairman of SLAAR, Mr. Srimath Fernando mentioned the Association's notable achievements, industry activities and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. He also highlighted the Government's impactful programs aimed at enhancing industry and trade.

The Chief Guest Mr. Rayhan Wannappa shared his experience with SLAAR throughout the years and emphasized the unwavering determination of aviators and expressed that the sky is not the limit for aviators as an aviator never gives up.

Ms. Parveen Dassenaik, one of the Past Chairpersons of SLAAR, also addressed the meeting, reflecting on the Association's humble beginnings and its present growth, boasting a robust network of leading GSA partners from both Passenger & Cargo Airlines.

The newly elected office bearers are as follows:
Standing (from Left to Right): Ms. Sunethra Block, Mr. Gerard Victoria, Ms. Parveen Dassenaik, Mr. Shaminda Fernando, Mr. Ravi Widyalandara, Ms. Dushy Jayaweera, Mr. Eustace Silva, Mr. Santhush Udumalagala, Ms. Thanuja Lankathilake.

Sitting (from Left to Right): Mr. Vinodh Dharmarajah, Ms. Dilanka Herath, Ms. Sudeshinie Jayawardena (Secretary), Mr. Dumindu Amarathunge (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Srimath Fernando (Chairman), Mr. Rayhan Wannappa, Ms. Praharsini Bolling (Treasurer), Mr. Lal Dimantha, Mr. Sajith Amarasekara, Mr. Mushin Kitchilan. Not present – Mr. Kumudu Jayalath



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TAT announces 25 finalist attractions in 'Unseen New Chapters' campaign

TTA BULLETIN

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has announced the 25 finalists in the 'Unseen New Chapters' campaign comprising of five up-and-coming attractions in each of Thailand's Northern, Northeastern (Isan), Central, Eastern, and Southern provinces handpicked by Thai tourists as emerging attractions offering new travel experiences.

TAT opened voting for the 'Unseen New Chapters' campaign from 22 May-18 June 2023, inviting Thai people to participate in the selection of new attractions around the country via the websites: www.tourismthailand.org/unseennewchapters and www.unseennewchapters.com. The 25 finalist attractions were the results of over 547,710 votes received, and more than 1,089,193 visits to the sites.

Voters were able to choose from a total field of 77 tourist attractions – one from each province in Thailand, these having been selected by committees and experts from government agencies and the private sector, including the 45 TAT offices nationwide and tourism entrepreneurs in each province.

To qualify, an attraction needed to meet certain criteria; this included having an

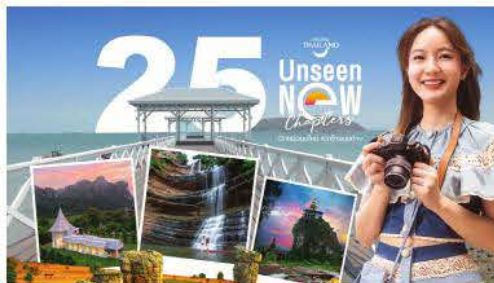


interesting story, not yet being widely known by tourists, having a good tourism management system in place, and being easily accessible.

Of the 25 finalist attractions in the Unseen New Chapters campaign, 20 were chosen based on the public's voting and five by an expert committee.

Here is the full list of the 25 finalist attractions in the Unseen New Chapters campaign:

Central: Manasikarn Dharma Gallery in Saraburi, Bo Cave on Mount Ibid in Phetchaburi, Thong Pha Phum's 3D Tunnel in Kanchanaburi, Khao Ngu Stone Park's Phu Pha Rat Viewpoint in Ratchaburi, and Phra Mahathat Chedi Phakdi Prakat of Wat



Thang Sai in Prachuap Khiri Khan.

East: Ko Si Chang in Chon Buri, Wat Maniwong in Nakhon Nayok, Wat Hong Thong in Chachoengsao, Wat Tham Khao Pratun in Rayong, and Khao Shiva Cave (Tham Nam) in Sa Kaeo.

North: That Yai Waterfall in Phetchabun, Phasan in Nakhon Sawan, Wat Phrathat Doi Phra Chan in Lampang, Wat Phrathat Hariphunchai in Lamphun, and Wat Tham Chetawan in Nan.

Northeast: Mo Hin Khao in Chaiyaphum, Phu Bo Bit Forest Park in Loei, Pha Phaya Kupri Viewpoint in Si Sa Ket, Ban Prang

Nakhon Community in Nakhon Ratchasima, and Wat Phuttha Wanaram (Wat Pa Wang Nam Yen) in Maha Sarakham.

South: Khao Na Nai Luang Dharma Park in Surat Thani, Mu Ko Kam in Ranong, Buddha's footprint in the sea at Ko Kaeo Pitsadan Monastery in Phuket, Hin Phap Pha in Nakhon Si Thammarat, and Ko Tarutao in Satun.

Preliminary information on each of the 25 finalist attractions in 'Unseen New Chapters' campaign can be found at www.unseennewchapters.com, in Thai language only.

More information and activities relating to the campaign are also on the Facebook page Amazing Thailand, and LINE account @unseennewchapters, or contact the TAT Contact Center 1672 Travel Buddy

Link Natural's Samahan now served onboard SriLankan Airlines

TTA BULLETIN

Link Natural, a subsidiary of the CIC Group, has partnered SriLankan Airlines, the national carrier, to introduce Link Samahan, a trusted herbal drink, as an onboard beverage choice.

Link Natural is a leading manufacturer and marketer of herbal healthcare and herbal personal care products in addition to ayurveda pharmaceuticals. Its flagship brand, Link Samahan, is a 100% natural authentic herbal drink formulated with 14 trusted ayurvedic herbal ingredients that have been used traditionally over centuries to enhance the health & well-being and supports immunity when consumed regularly. Moreover, it can be conveniently consumed in hot water, tea or coffee depending on the consumer's preference.

Link Samahan will be served onboard SriLankan Airlines' medium and long-haul flights. Passengers can now enjoy a cup of the healthy herbal drink, which promotes wellness and health.

The company prides itself on the state-of-the-art modern Research and Development Centre providing the core of research, product formulation and development ensuring stringent quality and regulatory standards. The facility is also US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) audit compliant maintaining high standards for Good Manufacturing Practices which supports the brand reaching global markets.

Today, Link Samahan is available in over 30 countries and has won the confidence of

consumers across the globe. Product has been recently endorsed by world-renowned British supermodel Naomi Campbell in her interview with Vogue India.

As milestones in its growing international journey, Link Samahan has gained approval to be marketed at Costco Wholesale stores in Japan, Lulu supermarkets in the Middle East and Amazon.com in the USA. In addition, locally discerning consumers have access to Link Natural's wide product range and wellness mantra through its recently launched exclusive experiential center "Swastha by Link Natural" located at No. 6, Maitland Crescent, Colombo 7.

Link Natural, for many years is home to internationally trusted and time-tested products such as Samahan, Sudantha, Swastha Amurtha, Swastha Triphala, Musclegard, SP Balm, Kesha etc., that have provided consumers with holistic wellness for generations. Earth Essence, consisting of a complete range of herbal personal care products, is the company's latest introduction to the retail market.

Chathurangi Perera, Manager-International Business, Link Natural Products stated, "Link Samahan offers customers a novel in-flight experience – a herbal drink which is highly appreciated for its health benefits enabling passengers to remain hydrated, healthy and comfortable. It is a matter of pride for our company and for Sri Lanka that we are showcasing a celebrated Sri Lankan brand to a global audience."

Sri Lanka Tourism hosts a gala Sri Lankan themed dinner for New Zealand and Sri Lankan Women's Cricket teams

TTA BULLETIN



Both Sri Lankan the New Zealand Women's Cricket teams were in for a pleasant surprise when they were treated to a sumptuous Sri Lankan themed dinner hosted by Sri Lanka Tourism, in Collaboration with the New Zealand High Commission in Sri Lanka on the 5th of July 2023, at the Cinnamon Grand Colombo. The Occasion was made more colorful with cultural dance performances which highly impressed the visitors and enjoyed to the maximum. The distinguished audience which was present at the occasion consisted of senior officials from the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, including Chairman SLTPB, Mr. Chalaka Gajabahu, H. E Michael Appleton, New Zealand High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and High Commission staff, Mr. Shammi Silva, President, Sri Lanka Cricket Board and other officials. The gala dinner was hosted by Sri Lanka Tourism in order to mark the visit of the New Zealand Women's Cricket team to Sri Lanka after 10 years, and with the purpose of spreading fellowship and networking among the participants. Mr. Chalaka Gajabahu, Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion

Bureau and H.E Michael Appleton, New Zealand High Commissioner to Sri Lanka addressed the gathering, whereas a toast was also raised in honor of the visiting team. The two captains of the team were also interviewed on their experiences during their respective tours of both countries, and they shared some interesting experiences of their tours as well as their expressions on Cricket.

The Sri Lankan music provided added more to the Sri Lankan flavor, along with the authentic cuisine and traditional sweet meats to follow. Hosting this occasion gave an opportunity to know about the Sri Lankan culture, tradition and taste its delicious authentic cuisine. This initiative taken by Sri Lanka Tourism will further enable them to take back cherished memories, and a positive message about Sri Lanka to their home country, encouraging more tourists from New Zealand, to experience the rich and colorful Sri Lankan culture and the warm friendship and hospitality of its inhabitants.



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Morocco has been announced as Premier Partner of WTM London 2023

TTA BULLETIN

The Premier Partnership announcement comes as Morocco experiences growth in its tourism activity, aiming to double the number of incoming tourists to 26 million by 2030, elevating Morocco as a leading leisure destination to the world's travel trade.

It is already known that Morocco's presence at World Travel Market London will focus on the "Morocco, Kingdom of Light" international campaign of the Moroccan National Tourism Office.

Launched in April 2022, this campaign was designed to inspire a new generation of traveller, showcasing the attractions and experiences of a "contemporary and dynam-

ic" nation.

World Travel Market, the most influential travel and tourism event in the world, provides the

perfect opportunity for Morocco to demonstrate its efforts in joining the league of highly favoured destinations.

Morocco's relationship with WTM spans far beyond Premier Partner of the flagship London event, as the destination has also seen tremendous success participating in



ATM, ILTM, IBTM, IFTM, and IGTM. The Moroccan National Tourism Office is relying on commercial events to boost the activity of all Moroccan tourism professionals.

Adel El Fakir, General Director of the Moroccan National Tourism Office, said: "Our presence at WTM London will be an excellent showcase to further boost the attractiveness of the Moroccan tourism destination. We will thus be in the heart of the action when tourism professionals from around the world come up with new products for 2024 and beyond, and we will

also be at the forefront in terms of communication and promotion of the country."

Juliette Losardo, Exhibition Director at World Travel Market London, said: "We are thrilled to announce Morocco as Premier Partner for World Travel Market London 2023 and excited to support them in reaching their goals for 2030. WTM London is the world's most influential travel and tourism event, as well as being the sourcing hub for international travel buyers, and so provides the ideal place for Morocco to showcase what they have on offer, highlighting their vibrant culture and incredible hospitality."

SLCB Unveils MICE Training Programme for Regional Hoteliers in Kandy & Nuwara Eliya Regions

TTA BULLETIN



SLCB has launched a MICE training program for hoteliers in Kandy and Nuwara Eliya Regions for promoting business events industry to foster MICE tourism. The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) is the state institute under the Ministry of Tourism with the prime objective of promoting Sri Lanka as a venue for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions & Events) activities. The one-day training programme aimed to equip conference and meeting planners with the necessary tools and processes in attracting and promoting business events, but also developing talents in the industry. The training was held at Mahaweli Reach Hotel.

visa, SLCB targets 10% of the total tourist arrivals to be MICE.

The training was conducted by prominent personalities from the hospitality and event industry comprising Mr. Trevin Gomez, Mr. Ziyam Ameen and Mr. Gihan De Silva. A Panel discussion on current status of



MICE and new trends was conducted with the Participation of Mr. Rodney Armstrong - President Kandy Hoteliers Association, Mr. Thusith Samaraweera - General Manager Grand Kandyan Hotel, Mr. Suresh Abbas - General Manager Grand Hotel, Mr. Asanka Kariyawasam

- General Manager Earls Regency moderated by Mr. Imran Hassan - President of Sri Lanka Association of Professional Conference Organizers (SLAPCEO).

Group work and presentations by participants was an incentive for learning and at the End of the programme a certificate of participation was issued to all participants.

The Training session focused on the importance of developing Sri Lanka as a premier MICE destination coupled with leisure. With the mechanism in play to capture the MICE segment at the point of applying for



Sarawak, Malaysia welcomes over 270 delegates to the PATA Destination Experience Forum and Mart 2023

TTA BULLETIN

The PATA Destination Experience Forum and Mart 2023 (PDFM 2023), with the theme "Sustainability in Action", officially began on Wednesday, June 21 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, attracting 272 delegates from 28 destinations.



The event, organised in collaboration with destination partners, the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts of Sarawak, the Sarawak Tourism Board, and the Sarawak Convention Bureau, brought together delegates from the public and private sectors for inspiring and insightful discussions on some of the major issues in marketing and managing tourism growth as the travel and tourism industry looks for new opportunities to promote sustainability within the industry.

Delegates travelled from all corners of the globe including Australia, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (ROK), Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and USA.

"The PATA Destination Experience Forum and Mart 2023, under the theme "Sustainability in Action" is extremely relevant as the industry begins its road to recovery. Climate change and over-tourism are existential threats to Pacific Asia's visitor industry. Coming out of COVID, there are really only two options: ignore the environmental and social consequences of mass tourism in a business-as-usual manner; or seize the opportunity to recalibrate how we measure tourism success and account for its invisible burden. As we look towards the future, we need to take concrete actions and avoid the mistakes of the past," said PATA Chair Peter Semone. "It is this type of collaboration with our destination partners, the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts of Sarawak, the Sarawak Tourism Board, and the

Sarawak Convention Bureau, that epitomizes the fundamental nature of PATA's mission in acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region. We as an industry must work together to create a better future for all by achieving long-term sustainability in conjunction with long-term growth and profitability."

Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) CEO Sharzede Datu Hj Salleh Askor said, "Sarawak is the perfect venue for PDFM 2023 in highlighting on Ecotourism, Gastronomy Tourism, Adventure Travel as these themes are very much aligned with Sarawak's tourism philosophy that emphasises on Responsible Tourism, gastronomy and sustainability in its effort in making Sarawak a preferred eco-tourism destination, in the region."

"I am happy that all delegates will have an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with Sarawak's tourism industry stakeholders as well as from around the region to understand more on the importance of adopting sustainable practices, such as waste reduction, recycling, and responsible resource consumption, to minimize the negative environmental footprint of tourism while enhancing the overall visitor experience," she added.

On Wednesday, June 21, delegates had the opportunity to join one of three different routes where they could fully experience the destination's responsible tourism, ecotourism, and gastronomy tourism offerings that highlighted Sarawakian culture, heritage, and history.

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Skal International Colombo EGM 2023

Skal International, a leading global organization of travel and tourism professionals, recently held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) at Cinnamon Red Colombo. At the meeting, Skal Colombo celebrated the remarkable contributions and dedication of Mr. Hiran Cooray, who has served

Skal International Colombo for 25 years along with inducting three new members, namely, Champika De Silva (Area Director Sales Minor Hotels Sri Lanka), Sujet Kumar (General Manager ITC Ratnadipa Colombo) and Nadia Issadeen (Marketing Manager ITC Ratnadipa Colombo)

The guest speaker at the EGM was Mr. Shehan Ramanayake – Director of the Tourism Resilience project (USAID/ EU funded project) who gave members and guests some valuable insights on the Pekoe Trail.

Skal Colombo was also privileged to have visiting Skaleagues from India, Sanajay Datta, Ranjit Vig and Ganesh Rao (Skal Delhi), Naveed Siah (Skal Srinagar) and Vinay Malhotra – Head Global Sales of Indigo airlines also from Skal Delhi.





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NITE 2023 In Jaffna To Boost Business In The Northern Market

TTA BULLETIN

The Northern International Trade Exhibition (NITE) Jaffna 2023 is scheduled to take place on 11th, 12th, 13th of August 2023 at the Jaffna Cultural Centre. The event is organized by Northern Chamber of Industries (NCI) and CDC. It is supported by the Consulate General of India, Jaffna.

The initiative to build and pursue new trade ties and future commercial prospects will be spearheaded by NITE 2023. With the leading chamber in the Northern Province collaborating to attract potential visitors to the event, this exhibition is set to be the central platform for businesses to reach the growing Northern markets this year.

NITE is a promising visit for those looking to promote opportunities, enhance company visibility, alter consumer perception, or generate leads for sales. Participants will be able to observe industry operations firsthand, introduce new products and services while also networking with executives from the public, private, and government sectors.

This exhibition is supported by many government and private organizations, thus forming an immersive opportunity for participants to get access to fantastic commercial opportunities in this new era through the trade connections.

The exhibition is also expected to attract a significant number of visitors, including local organizations/businessmen interested in trading, dealers, importers, exporters & wholesalers. You'll be able to network with trade export promotion councils, government agents & officials, members from the Northern Chamber of Industries and meet the business community, face-to-face.

As per Mr. K. Pooranachandran, Chairman, Northern Chamber of Industries "Sri Lanka is facing a severe economic crisis at the moment and it is our duty of all Sri Lankans to work together to rebuild and reset Sri Lanka in a quick phase of time to wipe out the economic crises by increasing the production of all export commodities and export same to bring foreign exchange in to the country to ease



the economic crises. We have already started few development projects in the Northern Province and waiting for plant and machineries to be purchase during the Northern International Trade Exhibition."

Rizwan Khan, Project Manager of CDC events says "We as organizers have first-hand experience organizing events in Jaffna & other parts in Sri Lanka for the past 16 years. Our management has over 25 years of experience in the exhibition industry. The same team who initiated the exhibitions in Jaffna have come together in creating this event mainly focusing on the

business development & also focusing on investment opportunities in the North."

Even the dates for NITE 2023 have been carefully scheduled one week prior to the Nallur Festival, the longest celebration held in Sri Lanka. This festival attracts the Jaffna expat community to the city and will give international exposure to the event.

This is the perfect opportunity to make the most of all the available resources to start or expand your trade with the Northern region and India.

Sabre appointed as dnata Travel Group's preferred technology partner

TTA BULLETIN

Sabre Corporation (NASDAQ: SABR), a leading provider of software and technology that powers the global travel industry, has signed a multi-year agreement with Dubai-based dnata Travel Group, the UAE's longest serving travel provider. The partnership will see Sabre support the travel company's strategic goals as its preferred technology partner.

Sabre and the dnata Travel Group already share a long-term commitment to innovation through travel technology, and the new deal will represent an extended, broader relationship between the two companies in the Middle East. Additionally, under this agreement, the dnata Travel Group's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Partner Network will continue to access Sabre's portfolio of innovative technology and its intelligent platform Sabre Red 360, allowing it to harness more data, content, and offer clients more choice from more than 400 airlines, 1.6 million lodging options, and hundreds of tour operators, rail, car and cruise providers.

"With evolving customer expectations and complex market dynamics, Sabre has been our partner of choice for over 12 years," said Simon Woodford, VP Global Air Services, dnata Travel Group. "Sabre's deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities offered by the dynamic global travel eco-system enable us to identify and embrace new technology to strengthen our position, improve efficiency and respond to evolving customer expectations with personalised experiences. This partnership will lead to

accelerated innovation, operational simplification and enhanced digital user experience."

For many years, Sabre has provided a broad portfolio of technology and solutions to dnata Travel Group brands in the Middle East as well as key markets in Europe. This strategic agreement builds upon that history with new initiatives that will help expand dnata's business and reinforces Sabre's role as a key distribution partner.

"We are excited to continue our successful collaboration with the dnata Travel Group," said Andy Finkelstein, senior vice president – Global Agency Sales & Delivery, Sabre Travel Solutions. "Our new agreement will see us respond together to new and evolving market conditions, including the region's specificity, new customer trends and expectations. Through this new agreement, we'll be focusing on helping dnata achieve growth and deliver enhanced traveler experiences – including tapping into opportunities offered by NDC and virtual payments."

Sabre Corporation is a leading software and technology company that powers the global travel industry, serving a wide range of travel companies including airlines, hoteliers, travel agencies and other suppliers. The company provides retailing, distribution and fulfilment solutions that help its customers operate more efficiently, drive revenue and offer personalized traveller experiences. For more information visit www.sabre.com.

ITB China 2023 Fully Booked: China's Premier Travel Marketplace Set for a Resounding Live Return

TTA BULLETIN

ITB China, the highly anticipated marketplace for China's travel industry, is gearing up for its grand live event from 12 - 14 September 2023. With an impressive line-up of exhibitors representing all travel trade segments, the three-day B2B show promises to reconnect global travel suppliers with the resurgent Chinese market. The international participation and strong demand from industry players provide a positive outlook for the show. Looking ahead, ITB China 2024 will mark its return next year on May 27 - 29. Save the date and be part of another remarkable edition of the annual event.

The organizer, Messe Berlin (Shanghai), is pleased to announce that ITB China 2023 has reached full capacity of exhibition space reserved for the upcoming event. Under this year's slogan "Crossing Barriers • Connecting Markets", ITB China will play a pivotal role in reconnecting global travel suppliers with the resurgent Chinese market, by offering abundant business opportunities through face-to-face meetings onsite and the latest interpretation of the travel trends in China. Media and Visitor registration is now open at: reg.itb-china.com

David Axiotis, General Manager of Messe Berlin (Shanghai), expresses his excitement, stating: "With the sudden opening of China's outbound travel market at the beginning of this year, Chinese buyers are now eagerly anticipating access to international resources to rebuild and update their product portfolios. ITB China 2023 will facilitate this with attending travel suppliers from Europe (24%), Asia (28%), Americas (15%),

Middle East (16%), Oceania (10%), and Africa (7%), underlining the global nature of the event, and our role in driving the recovery of the Chinese international travel market."

The exhibition showcases a wide range of global destinations, including national and regional tourism organizations from Aragón, Andalucía, Berlin, California, Catalonia, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, France, Galicia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Los Angeles, Madrid, Malta, Malaysia, New Zealand, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Scandinavian Tourist Board (Denmark & Norway) Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Tahiti and Turkey.

Among the global destinations, newcomers such as Beijing, Bursa, Chengdu, Maldives, NEOM, New York, Raktada, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom will make their debut on the ITB China show floor. The European Travel Commission (ETC) will once again showcase a prominent presence, emphasizing the diverse and appealing travel experiences that Europe has to offer.

The exhibition will also feature many global hotels and accommodation providers including this year's Partner Hotel Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, Bintan Resorts, Gloria Hotels & Resorts, INSPIRE Entertainment Resort, Jin Jiang International, Jinling Hotels & Resorts, LN International Hospitality Management, Mayfair Cruises, Meliá Hotels International, Pan Pacific Hotels Group, Restel, S.A., Travco Corporation, VinWonders, WebBeds and many more

Resplendent Ceylon and William Angliss Institute at SLIIT partner to launch Resplendent Academy

TTA BULLETIN

The Colombo Academy of Hospitality Management (CAHM) and Resplendent Ceylon, Sri Lanka's leading luxury hotel operator, today announced a partnership to operate a hospitality training centre, to be called "The Resplendent Academy by William Angliss Institute at SLIIT."

The coastal campus is strategically located at Cape Weligama, a Relais & Chateaux resort in southern Sri Lanka, where the extensive property lends itself as a challenging training ground for students.

This partnership brings together three formidable forces to deliver the highest quality of hospitality education in Sri Lanka. Resplendent Ceylon, has won numerous prestigious accolades and is recognized as a leading luxury hotel operator on the global stage. This strategic alliance with CAHM and the Australian headquartered William Angliss Institute,

renowned for their internationally accredited hospitality programs, intends to provide high-quality Australian qualifications on a subsidized and full scholarship basis to youth and career opportunities with luxury hotel operators across the island.

Errol Weerasinghe, Chairman of CAHM, reiterated his commitment to giving back to the community by "creating opportunities for youth by developing avenues to empower marginalized communities in Sri Lanka" as a part of his broader vision.

Malik J Fernando, Managing Director Resplendent Ceylon and Chairperson Sri Lanka Tourism Alliance, sees this partnership as "a perfect match that fuses the MJF Group's dynamic social empowerment programs and Resplendent Ceylon's luxury hospitality credentials.

Partnering with an institute like William Angliss is a big win for the hospitality industry and those that will benefit from this venture."

The Resplendent Academy by the William Angliss Institute is a pioneering effort that showcases the partners' commitment to Sri Lanka and an industry that depends on a skilled workforce to compete with other destinations.

Resplendent Ceylon's internationally acclaimed resort circuit will provide challenging practical components for students who will be exposed to diverse operating environments ranging from luxury coastal resorts, heritage properties in the tea country to a safari lodge deep in the jungle.

Beyond the curriculum, Anuk Weerasinghe, Managing Director of



CAHM, and Maheesha Ratnayake, Chief Executive Officer of Resplendent Ceylon, share a commitment to inculcate young minds with productive workplace behavior and promote healthy relationship management that they hope will develop mindful future leaders who are catalysts of the industry one day.

The Resplendent Academy will open its doors for enrollment in September and usher in a new era of hospitality education in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka.

Abercrombie & Kent Sri Lanka celebrates a "Decade of Inspiring Travel in Sri Lanka"

Afghar Mohideen celebrates "Five Decades in Sri Lanka Tourism"

TTA BULLETIN



Abercrombie & Kent group is the world's premier luxury tour operating brand, with an unrivaled legacy for over 60 years.

Geoffrey Kent with his parents Valerie and Colonel John Kent founded Abercrombie & Kent in 1962, in East Africa. They wanted to allow visitors to experience Africa without compromise to either comfort or authenticity. It all began with a silver ice bucket, a Bedford truck, and a simple ambition: To be the Best.

Today Abercrombie & Kent Global Travel Group is jointly owned between Geoffrey Kent and Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio, Chairman of Heritage Group.

The A&K Travel Group including Sanctu-

ary Retreats, Cox & Kings and Crystal Cruises, A&K philanthropy and A&K Villas are all under one holding company, pioneering new destinations to maintain A&K's position as the premier brand in luxury and experiential travel. Today A&K extends around the globe taking guests to more than 100 countries on all 7 continents with experts in over 55 offices and more than 30 countries. Abercrombie & Kent grew to become the world's most extensive network of Destination Management Companies.

Back in 2013, Mr Afghar Mohideen invited Abercrombie & Kent to join hands with him in creating the 51st DMC to join the group. This year marks the celebrations of "Decade of Inspiring Travel in Sri Lanka".

The A&K Sri Lanka team made it an opportunity to felicitate their valued trade partners who have been an inseparable part of their journey as they celebrate this momentous occasion on the 7th July 2023 at the Lotus Tower in Colombo.



ILTM Asia Pacific 2023 unites the region's luxury travel industry with four days of meetings + networking

TTA BULLETIN



ILTM Asia Pacific celebrated its most prolific event since 2019 this week in Singapore, welcoming 500 luxury travel suppliers from across the world to meet with 500 accredited regional agents representing their high-net worth clients across 25 countries in the region, including Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Over 28,000 business generating appointments took place and a spirit of true optimism emanated throughout the week.

ILTM Portfolio Director Alison Gilmore commented on the success of the event:

"At each ILTM event, we bring together our community to not only build connections but celebrate our continually renewing luxury travel industry. Business went on day and night throughout the week as travel suppliers and buyers forged new relationships, both inside and outside the ILTM Asia Pacific official venue - Marina Bay Sands - in Singapore."

Over 50 influential media from across the region and indeed the world were also in attendance and many of these editors, along with the buyers and exhibitors in

attendance commented on the energy and vitality of the event.

Edita Teper of Space Perspective commented: "We have met with incredibly engaged and high-end agents whose clients are seeking transformational experiences which Space Perspective certainly provides. Following this first ILTM Asia Pacific experience, we know we will be confirming quite a few journeys to travel to the edge of space, not to mention great awareness for our brand."

Tony Archbold of Crystal Cruises said: "ILTM Asia Pacific is the best opportunity to meet the widest and best qualified agents who will take Crystal to the regional marketplace. The level of enthusiasm and interest has been incredible. Crystal's heritage is Asian so this is the perfect forum for us."

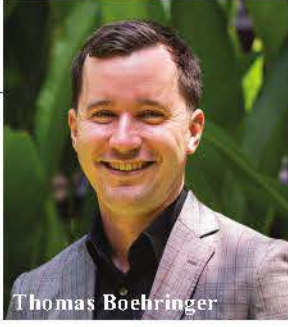
Rick Stiffler of Preferred Hotels added: "This is such a great market for Preferred. And ILTM is the ideal platform for us to be able to meet with such a great concentration of excellent agents from the region. All in all, a fantastic opportunity for our brand and our hotels."

MOVEMENTS / HOTELS

Luxury Service Expert Thomas Boehringer Joins Anantara Bophut Koh Samui as General Manager

TTA BULLETIN

Anantara Bophut Koh Samui Resort announces the appointment of Mr Thomas Boehringer as General Manager at the luxury resort in the Gulf of Thailand, effective 1 June 2023. The Swiss national is tasked with managing the operations of the 106-key property and focusing on elevating guests' experiences and a newly launched dining concept.



Thomas Boehringer

Boehringer's appointment brings extensive luxury hospitality knowledge and experience to the beachfront resort that he gained at some of the most exclusive resorts in the Maldives prior to relocating to Thailand, including Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas and the 20-key Naladhu Private Island Maldives retreat.

A passionate hotelier, Boehringer's hospitality career started in food and beverage service at Einstein Gourmet, a Michelin-starred restaurant in St. Gallen, Switzerland, followed by a managerial appointment at the Paradise Koh Yao Resort boutique hotel in Thailand where he oversaw the optimisation of productivity, quality of operations and guest satisfaction. In 2017, he opened and managed the deluxe TreeHouse Villas resort on Thailand's Yao Noi island paradise as Resort Manager.

Boehringer is an alumnus of EHL Hospitality Business School in Switzerland, formerly known as École hôtelière de Lausanne, and graduated with an honours degree in Science of Hospitality Management.

"I am honoured by the confidence and trust Anantara Hotels Resorts & Spas has put in me and I look forward to taking the reigns at Anantara Bophut Koh Samui Resort to deliver the brand's legacy of service excellence to our guests from around the world", said Boehringer. "With exciting new dining experiences to explore this summer travel season, including the first outpost of Anantara's innovative and immersive Latin-American dining experience, Guilty, the resort is ready to cater even better to our returning and new guests."

Commenting on Boehringer's appointment, Mr Mark O'Sullivan, Minor Hotels' Managing Director for Thailand North and Samui, said: "I am confident that by focusing on innovation and service excellence, Thomas will successfully drive his team to curate the authentic destination experiences that Anantara is renowned for to further position Anantara Bophut Koh Samui Resort for long-term success."

NH Collection Debuts in the Maldives - the Brand's First Expansion Out of Urban Locations

TTA BULLETIN

Minor Hotels, an owner, operator, and investor with a portfolio of over 530 hotels and resorts in 56 countries, announces the NH Collection brand's Maldivian debut with NH Collection Maldives Havodda Resort. The resort, slated to join the portfolio in August this year, will be the NH Collection brand's first property outside of an urban location.



The resort will offer 120 luxury villas, 60 beach and 60 over-water, each with breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. Delicious culinary options range from an all-day dining experience with international cuisine, a beachside grill, poolside pizzas and a cocktail bar with light bites. The stunning island also features a dedicated Asian concept spa, a fully equipped gym, an inviting swimming pool and pool bar, and a kids club to occupy the little ones. A water sports and dive centre will house a dedicated expert team to provide guests with countless activities out on the water, along with the unspoiled reef just off the beach, home to a plethora of colourful marine life.

With its location in Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll, NH Collection Maldives Havodda Resort is an idyllic island for guests seeking true

tropical relaxation and a once-in-a-lifetime experience in the world's most sought-after destination.

The addition of NH Collection in the Maldives will strengthen the brand's position by expanding into new regions and broadening its focus from central city locations.

Dillip Rajakarier, Group CEO of Minor International and CEO of Minor Hotels, commented, "We are pleased to grow our NH Collection brand and bring it to the Maldives for the first time. The continued expansion of Minor Hotels and particularly NH Collection into strategic tourism hotspots across Asia and the Middle East is positioning the brand as a key global player. We expect NH Collection Maldives Havodda Resort to become a sought after destination in this idyllic part of the world."

Ian Di Tullio Joins Minor Hotels as Chief Commercial Officer

TTA BULLETIN

Minor Hotels has announced the appointment of Ian Di Tullio PhD as the company's new Chief Commercial Officer, effective from June 2023.



Ian Di Tullio

He joins the Bangkok-based group from his most recent position as Chief Commercial Officer Europe at Accor, where he led the commercial management and marketing efforts for Europe & North Africa across a portfolio of nearly 3,000 hotels ranging from economy to luxury and management to franchise operating models.

On top of his proven record in driving commercial success, Di Tullio brings to Minor Hotels a deep expertise in loyalty, analytics, customer engagement and digital, having overseen groundbreaking innovations in customer loyalty, digital marketing and distribution during previous roles at Accor, Qatar Airways and Air Canada.

He has extensive global management experience with large multinational organisations and a proven track record managing

multi-cultural teams at senior levels in travel & hospitality, aviation, consulting, retail and media entities across three continents.

Di Tullio earned his PhD in Marketing from Cranfield University in the UK. He also holds an executive MBA from Queen's University in Canada, and has pursued executive education in Marketing Analytics from The Wharton School. The Canadian national is a guest lecturer at many universities, speaks frequently at commercial, digital, loyalty, analytics and customer engagement events worldwide, and is fluent in English, French and Italian.

Commenting on the appointment, Dillip Rajakarier, CEO of Minor Hotels and Group CEO of Minor International, said, "I am thrilled to welcome Ian Di Tullio to the Minor Hotels family. His unwavering commitment to driving commercial success make him an invaluable addition to the executive team. We are confident that Ian will further strengthen the company's commercial endeavours and elevate our global presence."

Savor the Taste of the Tropics at Hilton Sri Lanka with an Exclusive Range of Pineapple Delights

TTA BULLETIN

Hilton Sri Lanka is thrilled to introduce its Seasonal Produce campaign, highlighting the luscious and flavorful local pineapple produce which Sri Lanka is renowned for. This exciting initiative aims to demonstrate the fruit's versatility by incorporating it



into a wide array of delectable food and beverage offerings, exclusively available for our esteemed guests to savor and enjoy throughout their stay at Hilton hotels across Sri Lanka.

Experience the six-week-long promotional campaign starting 15 July 2023, where our food and beverage outlets showcase an exquisite selection of pineapple-infused culinary creations. Grown in a temperature between 24-32°C, guests can delight in the unique flavors of the country's famous pineapple varieties, such as Muritious and Kew.

Immerse yourself in a world of sweet indulgence at Cafe Kai, where a captivating array of confectionery awaits. Delight in the artistry of Pineapple and Passion Fruit Meringue Gateaux and the alluring Pineapple Strawberry Danish. To acquire these divine pineapple delicacies, explore our online emporium at shop.hiltoncolombo.lk or contact us at 011 2 492 492. Enjoy the added convenience of complimentary delivery within Colombo and its neighboring districts.

Step into the realms of sensory delight at

Lounge And Bar (L.A.B) and SunsetBlu, where our master mixologists have conjured an enchanting collection of libations infused with the irresistible essence of pineapple. Sip on the invigorating Pineapple Express or surrender to the tropical allure of Colamba Colada, meticulously crafted exclusively for this season. Join us and uncover a world of tantalizing, seasonal elixirs that will transport your taste buds on an extraordinary journey.

Basico Bar Lounge is thrilled to unveil a captivating assemblage of mocktails and cocktails that celebrate the enchanting glamour of pineapple. Our carefully curated A-la-carte menu presents a symphony of flavors, featuring sublime creations like Grilled Pineapple, Burrata, and Micro Herbs with Sweet Basil Pesto and Pineapple Pavlova. Level3 and In-Room Dining have meticulously composed a menu that traverses starters, soups, mains, and desserts, each artfully infused with the vibrant essence of pineapple. Embark on a journey of delectable discovery by visiting www.EatDrinkHilton.com or by reserving a table at 011 5 344 644, and immerse yourself in the fruity wonders that await.

Prepare to be captivated by the bars at Hilton Sri Lanka's enchanting resort property in the southern region. Dive into a world of pineapple-infused delights as our skilled mixologists craft a mesmerizing selection of signature cocktails and mocktails.

Grand Serendib Hotel Kandy opens with Rs. 1 b investment

TTA BULLETIN

Pinning another luxury boutique property to the hill country, Grand Serendib Hotel Kandy was opened recently with an investment of over Rs. 1 billion. Founder and Chairman of ABEC, a global leader in student counselling for educational opportunities and international educational services, Dilip Herath said that they have been in the education business for 17 years earning in dollars to Sri Lanka. "This is our first diversification to the leisure sector, and we invested around \$ 3.2 million for this."



He said that this investment was done by raising capital within the company via a consortium of five directors including legendary cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya. Grand Serendib Hotel Founder and Chairman Dilip Herath began his career in the field of foreign education consultancy in 2006. He was initially based in Colombo and later opened up a branch in Kandy in 2007. He travelled from Colombo to Kandy frequently and during those many travels, he fell in love with the environment and the hospitality that Kandy had to offer. Herath said that they also have a ABEC branch in Kandy and while staying in several hotels in Kandy they found several 'flaws' in them. "This is why we purposely built this hotel maintaining the rich Kandyan architecture." He also recalled that they were also encour-

aged personally by the former Prime Minister and President Ranil Wickremesinghe and former Tourism Minister John Amararatunga to invest in the hotel sector. "I must also emphasise we made this entire investment in dollars and during the recent economic and political crisis against all odds but are happy with the positive comments and outcome we received." Dilip Herath stated.

The new General Manager of the hotel who is over 30 years in the hotel industry with overseas experience Sujeeva De Soysa said that the hotel offers 24 rooms including two suites, a family room. "The hotel also offers an infinity swimming pool, a roof top area that is offered for private functions and many other modern luxury amenities. We also offer best relieving head-to-toe Yoga experience. We have also marketed extensively among local and foreign travel agents and destination management companies and our forward bookings are very promising." The hotel will soon offer special card promotions for locals as well.

The Hunt is Over as Anantara in Cambodia and Northern Thailand Launches the Treasure Collection Package

TTA BULLETIN

Inviting holidaymakers on an adventure of a lifetime, Anantara resorts in Southeast Asia curated a multi-day 'Treasure Collection' package centred on Northern Thailand and Cambodia's greatest natural and cultural treasures. As the rainy season brings a new vibrancy of colour to the landscape and a freshness to the air, travellers can look forward to spending more time enjoying the spectacular jungle surroundings in addition to exploring ancient temples and heritage sites.



jungle, as well as introducing them to some of the region's most treasured features.

Anantara is a luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, connecting them to genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, and providing heartfelt hospitality in the world's most exciting destinations. The collection of distinct, thoughtfully designed luxury hotels and resorts provides a window through which to journey into invigorating new territory, curating personal travel experiences.

From cosmopolitan cities to desert sands to lush islands, Anantara connects travellers to the indigenous, grounds them in authentic luxury, and hosts them with passionate expertise. The portfolio currently boasts over 45 stunning hotels and resorts located in Thailand, Maldives, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles, Mozambique, Zambia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Tunisia, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, Italy and The Netherlands, with a pipeline of future properties across Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Beginning in Angkor Wat, guests can tour vine-covered temple ruins that rise out of the jungle before returning to boutique suite luxury of Anantara Angkor Resort, followed by a relaxing sojourn in Chiang Mai, complete with riverfront unwinding and street food exploration. The suggested three-stop itinerary ends with a stay in the misty mountains of Thailand's north, where rescued elephants wait to greet and play amid the lush greenery of Chiang Rai.

With a minimum length of stay of two nights at each destination, travellers can immerse themselves in a monsoon getaway that envelops them in natural beauty and serenity of verdant grasslands and unspoiled

Dusit Thani Maldives enhances guests' journeys with luxurious seaplane lounge experience

TTA BULLETIN

Dusit Thani Maldives, a luxury Thai-inspired resort on Mudhdhoo Island in Baa Atoll, has elevated its arrival experience by opening an exclusive seaplane lounge at the Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA) terminal at Velana International Airport in Malé.

Designed to deliver unmatched comfort and tranquility to guests as they anticipate their connecting flight to the island, the expansive, air-conditioned lounge is tastefully furnished with luxurious seating spaces, floor-to-ceiling windows, and elegant, modern decor embodying Maldivian serenity.

In line with Dusit Thani Maldives' dedication to delivering unparalleled experiences, the seaplane lounge offers exclusive refreshments, gourmet snacks, and a variety of beverages, plus complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, electronic device charging stations, and a dedicated children's play area to ensure a relaxed atmosphere for families and couples alike.

Dusit Thani Maldives' collaboration with TMA, the globe's largest seaplane operator, ensures guests can enjoy prompt and smooth transfers the moment they touch down in the

Maldives. Resort-assigned airport representatives are present to assist with luggage and navigate guests through the transfer process, so they can focus on enjoying the travel experience.

"Our complimentary Dusit Thani Maldives seaplane lounge has been meticulously crafted to provide an extraordinary experience right from the moment our guests step foot in the Maldives, and we are thrilled to present it as part of our unique offerings," said Mr Reinhold Johann, General Manager, Dusit Thani Maldives. "Aligned with our unwavering commitment to providing top-tier service, we hope to curate an unforgettable journey for each guest, leaving them with cherished memories that will last a lifetime."

The seaplane lounge marks the latest addition to Dusit Thani Maldives' constant endeavours to elevate its guest experience. With its deluxe villas, world-class overwater dining, and spa treatment rooms nestled amidst palm trees, the resort continually raises the bar for luxury travel in the Maldives.

Grand Opening of Headquarters by W15



Toast to Perfection with Taittinger Champagne

Bubbles of delight as you elevate your celebration with effervescence

When it comes to the world of Champagne, few names command as much respect and admiration as Taittinger. Established in 1734, Taittinger is one of the oldest and most prestigious Champagne houses in the world.

With a rich history spanning nearly three centuries and market presence in over 162 countries around the world, the house of Taittinger has consistently upheld a tradition of producing exceptional Champagnes that epitomize elegance, finesse, and refinement.

The Sri Lankan tourism and hospitality industry had an insight into the rich history, ethos and culture of the Taittinger brand recently with Ronan De La Morlais, Director - Asia Pacific. "We are excited to be in Sri Lanka where we do business with friends and foster long term relationships irrespective of market magnitude"

The partnership Champagne Taittinger established in 2018 with Distilleries Company of Sri Lanka PLC and its Associate Company, Periceyl (Pvt) Ltd., has further strengthened with the visit of Mr. Ronan De La Morlais and we are delighted to be a part of the Taittinger family in Sri Lanka, said Mr. Senaka Amaratunga, Director of Periceyl. During his brief visit and at a very critical moment of time,

where tourism in Sri Lanka is rebounding, we were able to conduct a training for the F&B staff at Shangri-La Colombo, which was a tremendous success.

Sri Lanka is synonymous with celebrations and Taittinger offers the best accompaniment to make your day special. While celebrations are a great way to enjoy a bottle of bubbly, the quality and variety offered by Taittinger can be savoured irrespective of the menu or the venue"

Located in the heart of the Champagne region in Reims, France, Taittinger has long been synonymous with quality and luxury. The family-owned Champagne house has remained under the guidance of the Taittinger family for generations, each contributing their passion and expertise to the production of exceptional sparkling wines.

One of the key factors that sets Taittinger apart is their unwavering commitment to producing Champagne of the highest caliber. The house owns extensive vineyard holdings, which allows Taittinger to have precise control over the quality of their grapes, ensuring that only the finest fruit is used in the production of their Champagnes.

Taittinger is well-known for their emphasis on

Chardonnay, a grape variety that lends elegance and finesse to their wines. The house believes in the art of blending, carefully selecting grapes from different vineyards and vintages to create harmonious and well-balanced cuvées. This meticulous attention to detail is evident in every bottle of Taittinger Champagne, where flavors unfold with grace and complexity.

"We want to have Taittinger friends around the world and we are delighted to have so many friends in Sri Lanka who enjoy the art of celebration with Taittinger. While 'bubbles' is the ultimate statement of enjoyment with friends and family, the product is available in three sizes which makes it the perfect accompaniment to even a celebration for two"

The Taittinger Champagne House is a true icon in the world of Champagne. With a legacy that spans nearly three centuries, the house continues to uphold its reputation for excellence and elegance. From their meticulous vineyard management to their precise blending techniques, every aspect of Taittinger's winemaking process reflects a commitment to quality. Whether it's their renowned Brut Réserve or their prestigious Comtes de Champagne, Taittinger Champagnes never fail to delight, offering a sensory journey that captures the essence of the Champagne region.





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Dusit Thani Maldives enhances guests' journeys with luxurious seaplane lounge experience

TTA BULLETIN

Dusit Thani Maldives, a luxury Thai-inspired resort on Mudhdhoo Island in Baa Atoll, has elevated its arrival experience by opening an exclusive seaplane lounge at the Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA) terminal at Velana International Airport in Malé.



Designed to deliver unmatched comfort and tranquility to guests as they anticipate their connecting flight to the island, the expansive, air-conditioned lounge is tastefully furnished with luxurious seating spaces, floor-to-ceiling windows, and elegant, modern decor embodying Maldivian serenity.

In line with Dusit Thani Maldives' dedication to delivering unparalleled experiences, the seaplane lounge offers exclusive refreshments, gourmet snacks, and a variety of beverages, plus complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, electronic device charging stations, and a dedicated children's play area to ensure a relaxed atmosphere for families and couples alike.

Dusit Thani Maldives' collaboration with TMA, the globe's largest seaplane operator, ensures guests can enjoy prompt and smooth transfers the moment they touch down in the Maldives. Resort-assigned airport representatives are present to assist with luggage and navigate guests

through the transfer process, so they can focus on enjoying the travel experience.

"Our complimentary Dusit Thani Maldives seaplane lounge has been meticulously crafted to provide an extraordinary experience right from the moment our guests step foot in the Maldives, and we are thrilled to present it as part of our unique offerings," said Mr Reinhold Johann, General Manager, Dusit Thani Maldives. "Aligned with our unwavering commitment to providing top-tier service, we hope to curate an unforgettable journey for each guest, leaving them with cherished memories that will last a lifetime."

The seaplane lounge marks the latest addition to Dusit Thani Maldives' constant endeavours to elevate its guest experience. With its deluxe villas, world-class overwater dining, and spa treatment rooms nestled amidst palm trees, the resort continually raises the bar for luxury travel in the Maldives.

Celebrate the Olive Harvest Festival at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar

TTA BULLETIN

Olive enthusiasts will rejoice at the second annual Al Jabal Al Akhdar Olive Harvest Festival coming to the Green Mountain this September. Following the success of the inaugural event in 2022, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort is delighted to once again present this celebration of the region's bounty, in partnership with local olive farmers and olive oil producers.



Al Jabal Al Akhdar, also called the Green Mountain, is known as one of the most fertile areas of Oman. Its ancient falaj irrigation system and picturesque farms have helped roses bloom and the growth of pomegranates and apricots for hundreds of years.

Seeking to reap the benefits of this rich landscape, around ten years ago local farmers decided to plant olive trees. A triumphant harvest the following year rewarded their efforts, and ever since olive trees have delivered a fruitful crop annually.

The Olive Harvest Festival at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort will take place from 21 – 23 September 2023, providing guests with a daily schedule of events with olives as the main star. From cooking demonstrations to storytelling with a Local Guru, guests of all ages can enjoy a full programme. Guests can join in the olive harvesting – a fulfilling activity for the whole family. The harvest is a great way to work up an appetite before sampling the best olives in a variety of dishes made by the team of chefs at the resort.

There will also be the opportunity to visit

the local olive oil factory where olives are pressed. Visitors can view the entire process of extracting the oil and preparing this healthy liquid, which provides both a fascinating and enjoyable experience for people of all ages.

Throughout the month of September, which is officially harvest season, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar will feature special dishes showcasing the local olives and olive oil at Bella Vista, its contemporary Mediterranean restaurant located on the canyon edge with spectacular views. The menu will include delicacies such as seared cod with olive tapenade and ricotta-stuffed olives. Anantara Spa will also incorporate the super ingredient in a selection of its pampering therapies.

"At Anantara, we understand that our guests like to connect with the destination through immersive experiences. It is our pleasure to partner with local individuals and companies to highlight the wonders of Al Jabal Al Akhdar," remarks Maren Kuehl, General Manager of Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort. "We are proud to offer our guests an opportunity to learn more about the region, its unique features and produce."

Heritage Hotels & Resorts Triumphs with Regional Accolades, Clinching Best Down South Resort and Cultural Triangle Resort

Titles

TTA BULLETIN

Heritage Hotels & Resorts, the esteemed flagship brand of Aitken Spence Hotels, demonstrated its achievements at the Culinary Art Competition, hosted by the renowned Chefs' Guild of Sri Lanka. Heritage Ahungalla and Heritage Kandalama earned the distinguished title of Most Outstanding Regional Teams for Down South Resorts and Cultural Triangle Resorts respectively. This outstanding feat adds to the brand's legacy of culinary excellence.

The competition, renowned for its rigorous standards and fierce competition, drew talented culinary professionals from across the country. Heritage Ahungalla showcased its exceptional talent and expertise at the competition. Nuwan Chandimal's exceptional live cooking skills earned him the title of Most Outstanding Sri Lankan Live Cooking. Aruna Chinthana's mastery in pastry craftsmanship was recognized with the Most Outstanding Pastry Showpiece award. In addition to these remarkable achievements, Malshi Rebecca Ludowyke's talent and expertise in mixology shone through as she was recognized as the Most

Outstanding Overall Mixologist. Malshi's extraordinary skills earned her 1 Top Gold, 1 Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals, highlighting her creativity and mastery in crafting exquisite and innovative cocktails.

Not to be outdone, Heritage Kandalama

made an impressive mark at the Culinary Art Competition, with several talented individuals recognized for their exceptional skills. Madushanka Rajapakse achieved the remarkable feat of being named the 1st Runner-up for the Most Outstanding Chef category. Additionally, Bandula Harischandra secured the 1st Runner-up position for the Most Outstanding Artist category. Thuminda Kumarasena's expertise in creating novelty cakes earned her the recognition for the Most Outstanding Novelty Cake.

Aitken Spence Hotels' overall clinched a



total of 138 wins with 1 Gold with Excellence, 26 Gold, 41 Silver, and 70 Bronze medals.

"We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our team at the Culinary Art Competition," stated Stasshani Jayawardena, Head of Tourism & Leisure, and Chairperson of Aitken Spence Hotels. "These prestigious accolades not only showcase our unwavering dedication to culinary excellence but also highlight our relentless pursuit of innovation. We continue to push the boundaries of gastronomic

creativity, ensuring that each dining experience at our hotels is a feast for the senses, filled with exceptional flavours, and artistic presentations."

Aitken Spence Hotels continues to elevate the culinary landscape in Sri Lanka's hospitality industry, setting new standards of excellence through their remarkable achievements and innovations. Their success at the Culinary Art Competition serves as a testament to their dedication to providing unforgettable dining experiences to guests.

Qatar Airways Group Reports Record Revenues with Strong Profits as Expansion Continues

TTA BULLETIN

Qatar Airways Group has again reported a strong financial performance as the Official Airline Partner of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ publishes its annual report for 2022/23. The airline credits the positive results to its successful strategy during an extraordinary year for the Group as FIFA's Official Partner and Official Airline of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ along with its premium product focused on delivering world-class customer experience as well as the commitment of its worldwide employees.

Qatar Airways Group reported a net profit of QAR 4.4 billion (US\$ 1.21 billion) during the fiscal year 2022/23. Overall revenue increased to QAR 76.3 billion (US\$ 21.0 billion), up 45 per cent compared to last year. Passenger revenue increased by 100 per cent over last year, on a capacity increase of 31 per cent driven by nine per cent higher yields and a load factor of 80 per cent – both highest in the airline's history, resulting in a sustainable increase in market share. Qatar Airways carried 31.7 million passengers, an increase of 71 per cent over last year. The continued focus on customer experience, loyalty, digitalisation, and sustainability has placed Qatar Airways on a strong platform for the future.

Privilege Club, the Qatar Airways loyalty programme, also witnessed significant growth in numerous new global and local partnerships, and enhanced proposition and revenues supported by the adoption of Avios as its currency. Privilege Club members now have the ability to access Qatar Airways Group using the Avios currency for payment in Qatar Duty Free, Discover Qatar, and Qatar Holidays, in addition to the existing list of leading global brands.

Qatar Airways Cargo maintained its position as the world's leading air cargo carrier throughout the 2022/23 financial year, forging ahead with a strategic focus on growth, sustainability and digitalisation, and supporting the continuity of global trade despite ongoing market challenges.

As the national carrier of the State of Qatar, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ proved to the world its agile response by transporting 1.4 million passengers to the hugely successful event on its network. Qatar Airways network grew to more than 160 destinations in 2022/23. nnectivity for



its passengers.

Minister of State for Energy and Qatar Airways Group Chairman, His Excellency Mr. Saad Bin Sharida Al-Kaabi, said: "I am delighted to announce that Qatar Airways Group has demonstrated another remarkable annual performance. Qatar's transportation sector is an emblem of its interconnectivity, connecting people from around the world and increasing business connections throughout the region. Qatar is proud to have hosted fans from around the world during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, delivering one of the best FIFA World Cups in history. Qatar has set an unparalleled benchmark for tournament security and safety, creating a family-friendly destination of choice."

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "This year's strong financial results are attributed to the strong passenger demand recovery and the team's ability to cater to this demand, aided by our continuing network growth, market leadership, and the operational efficiencies delivered by our world beating team. Profitability has been driven by a 100 per cent increase in passenger revenues in the last year. Load factors exceeding 80 per cent, and the current yield levels are the highest in our history. As the global travel recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we have managed to retain the high levels of trust, reliability and confidence with our customers. As a result, we maintained our position as the airline of choice for millions of passengers worldwide and our team carried 31.7 million passengers, which is an increase of 71 per cent over last year."

Qatar Executive (QE), the VIP charter jet division of Qatar Airways, has also seen significant Year-Over-Year growth. This has been represented by a tremendous increase in commercial sales revenue and total live flying hours, fleet growth, improvements made to better serve passengers flying with QE, and a record number of arrivals and departures at the Doha International Airport QE Premium Terminal.

Saudi Arabia's flynas firms up 30 more A320neo Family aircraft

TTA BULLETIN

flynas, the Saudi air carrier and a leading low-cost airline in the Middle East, has firmed up an order with Airbus for 30 new A320neo Family aircraft, taking the airline's total order with Airbus to 120 A320neo aircraft, including 10 A321XLRs.



The agreement was signed at the Paris Airshow by Bandar Almohanna, flynas

Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director and Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer & Head of International, in the presence of H.E. Saleh Al-Jasser Minister of Transport and Logistic Service, H.E. Abdulaziz Aldualji, President of General Authority of Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia, and Ayed Aljeaid, Chairman of the Board of NAS Holding.

Avani Hotels & Resorts Makes a Double Debut in Europe: Introducing Avani Alonso Martínez in Madrid and Avani Palazzo Moscova in Milan

TTA BULLETIN

Avani Hotels & Resorts, the upscale lifestyle brand of Minor Hotels, announces its debut in Spain and Italy with the opening of Avani Alonso Martínez and Avani Palazzo Moscova. Situated in the vibrant cities of Madrid and Milan respectively, these remarkable properties embody Avani's modern and functional approach. Featuring meticulously designed spaces that are smart, flexible and social, Avani's entrance into these cosmopolitan destinations marks an exciting new chapter for the brand.

Avani Alonso Martínez and Avani Palazzo Moscova have been designed for millennial-minded travellers, offering a host of hand-picked experiences that immerse guests in the local culture. Crafted with a forward-thinking approach and catering to the preferences of digital nomads and bleisure travellers, these properties provide state-of-the-art AvaniFit gyms for wellness enthusiasts to maintain their fitness routines, along with convenient grab-and-go dining options that cater to dynamic lifestyles.

Situated just steps away from the iconic central square that shares its name, this architectural gem dates back to 1919, featuring a captivating century-old façade adorned with wrought-iron balconies. Following renovation, this upscale hotel seamlessly combines its historic elegance with a fresh and contemporary design.

Every detail of Avani Alonso Martínez's interior draws inspiration from the vibrant city of Madrid. As guests enter, they are greeted by a magnificent sculpture of a yellow cat, an emblematic animal associated with the locals. The walls of the colourful lobby are enhanced with signs displaying typical Madrileño expressions, immersing visitors in the city's unique culture. The stairwell pays homage to the region's traditional dress with a series of elaborate Manila shawls hand-painted on the walls, adding a touch of artistry and charm. As part of the refurbishment, the hotel has expanded the breakfast area to provide guests with an enhanced dining experience. Additionally, guests can enjoy the convenience of The Pantry, offering a flexible solution with a selection of coffee, pastries, salads and sandwiches.

Avani Alonso Martínez Madrid offers 101 rooms that integrate modern technology with unrivalled comfort. Reflecting the essence of the Spanish capital, the décor showcases distinctive elements honouring the city's heritage. The bedcovers feature a stylish houndstooth pattern, reminiscent of the iconic print worn by traditional Madrileños known as chulapos. Headboards feature captivating cat designs, while vintage-style paintings depict local festivities like San Isidro. Lampshades elegantly display vintage maps of the city centre, immersing guests in the rich tapestry of Madrid's history and culture.

Guests can unlock the destination with an



innovative series of experiences, from thrilling Segway adventures to lesser-known spots that take in some of the city's most notable murals and graffiti displays, to picturesque picnics on the sprawling lawns of Retiro Park. In addition, guests can unleash their inner artist at Wine Gogh, a glow-in-the-dark painting workshop that entices both locals and tourists to come together to craft their personal masterpieces with neon paint. All the while, they can sip local wines and surrender to the rhythm of an eclectic soundtrack, igniting their artistic inspiration. For foodies, private dinners held in hidden galleries and studios offer a chance to taste authentic Spanish dishes in an artistic ambiance.

Avani makes its Italian debut in the vibrant city of Milan, perfectly positioned between two bustling districts: Porta Nuova, celebrated for its futuristic skyscrapers, and Corso Como, renowned for its nightlife. Housed within a neoclassical building that once stood as the city's first railway station, envisioned by the esteemed engineer Giulio Sarti, Avani Palazzo Moscova exudes timeless charm.

Avani Palazzo Moscova presents a collection of 65 thoughtfully designed rooms and suites, blending modern aesthetics with a minimalist touch in a palette of soothing white and beige tones. Each space within the hotel has been created to provide a haven of comfort and tranquillity, allowing guests to unwind and rejuvenate in style. every room and suite at Avani Palazzo Moscova ensures the utmost convenience and a seamless experience for discerning travellers.

In addition to The Pantry and AvaniFit gym, Avani Palazzo Moscova is home to the AmaTi Spa. Located within the captivating confines of the original vaults of the former railway station, guests can immerse themselves in a world of peaceful indulgence, courtesy of expert therapists, offering a personalised selection of treatments. The spa's serene atmosphere beckons guests to unwind and replenish their wellbeing in the sauna, hammam, and jacuzzi, providing a revitalising retreat for the senses.

In addition to the exceptional accommodations and spa experience, Avani Palazzo Moscova offers a gastronomic odyssey at its signature seafood restaurant, Forte Milano. Guests can indulge in a delightful terrace ambiance while savouring Mediterranean-inspired dishes influenced by the flavours of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Emirates Premium Cabin Experience - Indulgence in the Sky

TTA BULLETIN

In the realm of luxury air travel, Emirates Airline has become synonymous with opulence and extravagance. Renowned for its premium cabin experience, Emirates has set the bar high when it comes to providing passengers with an unparalleled journey of comfort, sophistication, and personalized service.

With Emirates, travelers to and from Sri Lanka are privy to the only international airline that offers the first-class cabin service on the fleet of Boeing 777-300 aircraft that operates between its hub in Dubai and Colombo.

As air travel evolves and the demand for luxurious and unforgettable experiences soars to new heights, Emirates is among the elite few that offers a premium cabin experience that is nothing short of extraordinary. From the moment passengers step foot on their flagship aircraft, they are greeted with a world of lavishness and comfort that sets a new standard for luxury travel.

tranquility and indulgence, designed to cocoon passengers in utmost comfort. From sumptuous lie-flat seats with adjustable settings to plush bedding and exquisite amenities, every element has been carefully curated to provide an unmatched level of relaxation. Passengers can unwind with the latest in-flight entertainment systems, personalized touchscreen controls, and noise-cancelling headphones, ensuring a peaceful and immersive journey.

Irrespective of it being a 4-hour flight, Emirates takes great pride in its culinary offerings, showcasing a dining experience that rivals the finest restaurants. I was treated to a symphony of flavors with a diverse range



of gourmet dishes prepared by award-winning chefs. From delectable appetizers to a selection of indulgent main courses, accompanied by a premium selection of wines and beverages, every aspect of the dining experience is tailored to satisfy the most discerning palates.

Emirates' premium cabins are a haven of

of gourmet dishes prepared by award-winning chefs. From delectable appetizers to a selection of indulgent main courses, accompanied by a premium selection of wines and beverages, every aspect of the dining experience is tailored to satisfy the most discerning palates.

Emirates goes beyond the traditional cabin layout, creating spaces that redefine luxury in the sky. The private suites on the Boeing 777 aircraft provide an oasis of exclusivity, featuring sliding doors, personal minibars, and private vanity tables, ensuring privacy and comfort throughout your journey. This trip was on the Boeing 777 aircraft, but I have also

seamless travel experience, Emirates' staff consistently surpasses expectations, creating a truly memorable journey for each passenger.

Emirates understands the importance of staying connected and entertained during flights. Passengers can choose from an extensive selection of movies, TV shows,



previously experienced the "Onboard Lounge" on Emirates A380 aircraft, a social haven where premium passengers can mingle, enjoy signature cocktails, and sample a selection of canapés, all while admiring panoramic views through floor-to-ceiling windows.

music, and games on their personal screens, offering hours of entertainment via more than 5,000 channels of content. Furthermore, the airline provides complimentary Wi-Fi for all premium passengers, enabling them to stay connected with loved ones or conduct business seamlessly while soaring through the skies.

At the heart of the Emirates premium cabin experience is the warm and attentive service provided by the cabin crew. With a commitment to delivering personalized care, the crew anticipates passengers' needs and provides assistance with unrivaled attention to detail. From offering tailored amenities and attending to individual preferences to ensuring a

Emirates' premium cabin experience is a testament to the airline's unwavering commitment to luxury, comfort, and exceptional service. From the moment passengers step, onboard to the time they disembark, every aspect of their journey is crafted with meticulous attention to detail. Whether it's the unparalleled comfort, gourmet dining, exclusive spaces, impeccable service, or cutting-edge entertainment options, Emirates leaves an indelible impression on its passengers, ensuring that their travel experience is nothing short of extraordinary. So, the next time you embark on a journey with Emirates, be prepared to be pampered and delighted as you experience the epitome of luxury in the skies.



Qatar Airways Touches Down its Inaugural Flight to Toulouse, France

The award-winning airline continues its global expansion, making Toulouse its fourth destination in France

TTA BULLETIN

Qatar Airways has begun its new direct service from Doha, Qatar to Toulouse, France, this July, marking Qatar Airways' latest efforts to expand its network in France. The highly anticipated inaugural flight becomes the fourth destination in France after the airline's recent additions of Nice and Lyon.

Passengers were greeted with French delicacies and music at the departure gate of Hamad International Airport (DOH). Onboard the inaugural flight, QR047 carried esteemed passengers including Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, as well as the Ambassador of France to the State of Qatar, His Excellency Mr. Jean-Baptiste Faivre. The flight was received by the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to France, His Excellency Sheikh Ali bin Jassem Al Thani, and the Chairman of the Board of Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, Mr. Philippe Crébassa.

The new direct service to Toulouse is operated by an Airbus A330-200, with 24 Business Class seats and 236 Economy Class seats. Synonymous with excellence, the inaugural flight included a French curated dining menu to all its passengers,

as well as a box of the luxurious Pierre Hermé macarons and various other giveaways at both the departure and arrival gates to celebrate the new route.

A press conference was held by Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, H.E. Mr. Akbar Al Baker, and by the Chairman of the Board of Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, Mr. Philippe Crébassa to announce the national carrier of the State of Qatar's expansion in the French market, as well as future collaborative opportunities between both exciting cities.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "Qatar Airways' expanded footprint into France will serve to strengthen the trade, tourism and commercial links between our two countries and, of course, set the stage for future opportunities. Our new routes such as Toulouse, Nice and Lyon consolidate Qatar Airways' position as one of the leading carrier in France in terms of destinations.



Chairman of the Board of Toulouse-Blagnac Airport, Mr. Philippe Crébassa, said: "The opening of this route to Doha today is a proud moment for Toulouse-Blagnac Airport. We are delighted that Qatar Airways, one of the best airlines in the world, has chosen Toulouse to accelerate its development. Travellers from the south-west of France now have a direct route to the Middle East.

"The Doha hub will facilitate connections with Asia, Africa and Oceania for our French and international customers. This opening also creates new opportunities for international air freight transport from

Toulouse.

I would like to thank all the tourism promotion and economic development institutions in Toulouse and the Occitanie region that have worked with us on this project."

The vibrant city of Toulouse is another must-visit destination in France. This city holds over 2,000 years of history carrying many musical and artistic traditions, creating a lively and energetic city to visit. Travellers can explore nature, art, history, sports, and most notably, its distinct architecture.

IATA Agents Association of Sri Lanka (LAASL) & the Travel Agents Association of Sri Lanka (TAASL) Annual Indoor Premier League Cricket Tournament



AIRLINES

Omni Air International is now operating European routes for MIAT Mongolian Airlines

TTA BULLETIN

Omni Air International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Air Transport Services Group, Inc. has announced that it has begun operating scheduled routes between Asia and Europe under an ACMI service agreement with MIAT Mongolian Airlines, the national airline of Mongolia. The agreement runs from June 20 through August 14, 2023.

An Omni-operated Boeing 767-300ER will connect Chinggis Khaan International Airport (UBN) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with Frankfurt Airport in Germany and Istanbul Airport in Turkey, each three times a week.



"We are pleased that MIAT has selected Omni's Airline Capacity Management Integration services to maintain their route network during the peak summer season while they await delivery of a Boeing 787-9 aircraft," said Robert Jared, vice president of business planning and strategy at Omni. "This is an example of how our revolutionary 360-degree solution makes it easy for airlines to augment their fleet on short notice and with no disruption in service."

Thai Airways International adds four Airbus A320s due to increased demand

TTA BULLETIN

Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) recently welcomed four Airbus A320 aircraft to its fleet in response to growing travel demand of customers.

The aircraft, offering only Economy class, will be operated on the international routes which are Bangkok - Delhi v.v. (TG323/324) starting July 1, 2023 and Bangkok - Mumbai v.v. (TG351/352)



starting July 2, 2023.

The addition of Airbus A320 will enhance the airline fleet efficiency and improve aircraft utilization as well as strengthen THAI route network to support the rising travel demands.

SpiceJet signs Interline Agreement with Hahn Air

TTA BULLETIN

SpiceJet recently signed an interline agreement with Hahn Air. Since 2016, SpiceJet has already been available under Hahn Air's H1 code in all major Global Distribution Systems (GDSs). With the new interline agreement, the airline will be additionally available under their own SG code in the Amadeus GDS. Travel agents around the world can issue SpiceJet flights on the insolvency-safe HR-169 ticket by choosing Hahn Air as the validating carrier. In addition, travel agents using the Amadeus GDS can combine SpiceJet's flights with other Hahn Air partners' flights on one single ticket.

SpiceJet is an Indian low-cost carrier headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana. The airline serves various destinations in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. In 2022, SpiceJet earned several accolades, including Safety Performer of the Year by DIAL and Wings India Aviation Innovation Award 2022. Most recently, SpiceJet received the Bronze Stevie® Award for Customer Service Department of the Year. SpiceJet's fleet comprises of 27 Boeing and eight DHC Q400 aircraft.

"We are proud to extend our partnership with SpiceJet", says Kimberley Long, Vice President Agency Distribution at Hahn Air. "By providing a wealth of destinations and excellent service, this award-winning



airline is very popular with travellers. We are excited to now give the travel agent community various options to easily access this carrier, even in markets where SpiceJet does not grant ticketing authority for SG or where the airline is not a member of the local BSP or ARC."

Shilpa Bhatia, Chief Commercial Officer, SpiceJet, said, "We are delighted to partner with Hahn Air for distribution of our flights to over 190 markets that will help international passengers to seamlessly travel across various parts of India with ease and beyond. The interline agreement with Hahn Air and the strong distribution network of 350 airlines will positively benefit SpiceJet to increase its global reach under its own SG code."

Hahn Air is a German scheduled and executive charter airline. Since 1999 it offers indirect distribution services to other airlines and thus provides ticketing solutions to 100,000 travel agencies in 190 markets. With more than 20 years of experience, the company has established itself as the market leader. Today, Hahn Air's partner network encompasses more than 350 partner airlines.

Emirates and Sydney Symphony Orchestra extend their two decade partnership and plan to take performances across the globe

TTA BULLETIN

Emirates has further solidified its commitment to supporting arts and culture in Australia by extending its 21-year partnership with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra until 2025. A cornerstone of its ongoing support to music and arts around the world, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra is the airline's longest-running non-sports partnership.



the Sydney Symphony will work with Emirates to expand the global audience through the Orchestra's Sydney Symphony on Demand digital platform which features full-length concert experiences. The platform also presents special chamber music recordings with the finest musicians making new Australian work available to

audiences around the world. The platform, launched in partnership with Emirates in 2020, provides free access to a catalogue of great performances.

The partnership will also continue to offer ticket and hospitality experiences, Presenting Partner positioning for the Orchestra's popular Emirates Master Series, as well as branding and promotional opportunities, among other benefits.

Music is a big part of the content offered on Emirates' in-flight entertainment system, with over 6,500 channels that include diverse genres like classical, opera, jazz, among others.

Emirates' support of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will help deliver world-class entertainment experiences to customers in Australia, connecting music lovers across the globe to the symphony's innovative digital concert series. The partnership will also deliver the classical masterwork of one of the world's finest orchestras to millions of Emirates passengers through the airline's in-flight entertainment system, etc. The sponsorship will continue to offer ticket and hospitality experiences, presenting partner opportunities for the symphony's popular concert series, as well as branding and promotional opportunities, among other benefits.

Over the two decades of partnership, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra has performed to over 4 million people across almost 3,000 live performances. Emirates' renewed partnership comes as the Sydney Symphony Orchestra enters a new artistic period, highlighted by its return to a reopened Sydney Opera House Concert Hall in July 2022, under the direction of Simone Young, the Orchestra's internationally renowned Chief Conductor.

Craig Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, adds: "We thank Emirates for its continued support and sharing the Sydney Symphony's vision for creating musical experiences that are amongst the world's finest. Emirates has been a significant partner in the Orchestra's long history of bringing the greatest artists and extraordinary musical experiences to the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House. Emirates' support has also allowed us to continue an ambitious program of commissioning and recording new work by Australian composers. We are looking forward to sharing our performances on Emirates' global platform, where the unique nature of our performances will be available to audiences around the world."

Barry Brown, Divisional Vice President Australasia at Emirates, says, "Like air travel, music has the power to lift our spirits, broaden our horizons and open up the world around us. We're proud to continue our support to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which is home to exceptional standards of performance, outstanding musicians, and is regarded as one of the world's leading orchestras. Emirates is well-known for sponsoring the best in sports, but we're also passionate about growing global music, arts and culture to enrich the lives of the communities we serve. Our Sydney Symphony partnership, now well into its second decade, is Emirates' longest running non-sports sponsorship and we look forward to continuing our great work together."

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra has been present during many of Emirates' key milestones and initiatives over the years, including the launch of the airline's flagship A380 aircraft in Australia and more recently the launch of its new Premium Economy cabin in Sydney. Performing over 150 concerts a year to a live audience of more than 350,000 people,

With sponsorships spanning literature, film, art, culinary, music festivals and globally renowned orchestras, Emirates is dedicated to supporting the growth and reach of cultural activities in Australia and around the world.

Within Australia, Emirates also proudly sponsors the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, including its recent exhibition, taypani milaythina-tu: Return to Country. The partnership saw Emirates transport a precious Aboriginal object from Paris to Tasmania, 230 years after it was first removed. The artefact, a rikawa (kelp water carrier), is only one of two known to be in existence, and its new home at the museum will allow the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to reconnect with their cultural history. Emirates also has a longstanding sponsorship with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, now approaching 20 years.

Batik Air announces a new non-stop route from Kualanamu, North Sumatra to Chennai in India

TTA BULLETIN

Batik Air, a member of Lion Air Group, has announced the launch of a new direct route from North Sumatra via Kualanamu International Airport (KNO) to Chennai International Airport (MAA), India. The inaugural flight will take place on August 11, 2023 with Boeing 737-800NG aircraft.



Cricket Icon Wasim Akram On SriLankan Airlines

TTA BULLETIN

Pakistan cricket icon, Wasim Akram, travelled on SriLankan Airlines' flight UL 184 from Karachi to Colombo, yesterday (13 June 2023), and was even happy to pose for photos with the staff. SriLankan Airlines delighted in ensuring that the three-plus hour journey was just right, and that Wasim Akram was bowled over by his SriLankan experience.



Emirates takes off to Montréal

TTA BULLETIN

Emirates has taken off to Montréal, marking the airline's first passenger flight to Québec's culture capital, its second gateway in Canada. Emirates flight EK243 departed with 340 passengers, including a VIP delegation and media onboard at 0300hrs today.



popular amongst students from the Middle East, West and Central Asia and Far East.

Emirates executives onboard included: Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer; Salem Obaidalla, Senior Vice President of Commercial

Operations, Americas; and David Broz, Vice President Aeropolitical and Industry Affairs. Present at the airport to bid farewell to the delegation was HE Radha Krishna Panday, Ambassador of Canada to the UAE.

Commanding the inaugural flight to Montréal was Captain Talal Al Hammadi (UAE National), Captain David Reny (Canadian), First Officer Omar Alhammadi (UAE National) and First Officer Veljko Veljovic (Canadian).

Emirates will operate its three-class Boeing 777-300ER on the route, featuring eight private suites in First Class, 42 lie flat seats in Business Class and over 300 spacious seats in Economy Class for the daily service.

The new daily service to Montréal complements Emirates' seven weekly services to Toronto and takes the airline's North American network to 14 destinations and a total of 18 across the Americas. The service will provide travellers to Canada connectivity via Dubai from points such as Lebanon, India, Iran, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and South Africa.

Direct services between Dubai and Montréal are expected to meet demand from a diverse mix of demographics, including business and leisure travellers, in addition to visiting family and friends that consists of Canadians living and working in the UAE. With Montréal being home to a number of world-class universities, the route is expected to become immensely



David Broz, Vice President Aeropolitical and Industry Affairs; HE Radha Krishna Panday, Ambassador of Canada to the UAE; Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer; and Salem Obaidalla, Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations, Americas

Another First for SriLankan Engineering with Maintenance Check for Cebu Pacific Air

TTA BULLETIN

The Engineering division of SriLankan Airlines continued its streak of firsts with the recent completion of a heavy maintenance check on a Cebu Pacific Air Airbus A330 (Trent 700), marking a foray into providing Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services for wide-bodied aircraft from the Southeast Asian region. Cebu Pacific Air is the first Southeast Asian airline to sign up with SriLankan Engineering for heavy maintenance on wide-body aircraft, signifying the growing international demand and reputation of trust that SriLankan Engineering's MRO services have garnered in a short span of time.



have been nothing short of remarkable considering their relative newness to the business. SriLankan Engineering has especially established a reputation for on-time performance, short turnaround times and quality of workmanship among its expanding clientele from South Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Africa, and now Southeast Asia.

The heavy maintenance check on the Cebu Pacific Air aircraft was performed in SriLankan Engineering's dedicated European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approved wide-body hangar over a period of four days. It was also the third heavy maintenance by SriLankan Engineering for a customer airline during a busy May, with the other checks being carried out on two Airbus A330 (CF6) aircraft of Serene Air, who came aboard last year.

In this year alone, several new customers enrolled with SriLankan Engineering for line maintenance services in Colombo and the Maldives. The demand for base maintenance services has also been equally strong. Air-Sial and Salam Air enlisted for component maintenance services, while Cebu Pacific Air and Jazeera Airways became the newest customers of heavy maintenance services in 2023. The increasing demand for its MRO services has also resulted in an increasing dollar revenue for SriLankan Engineering, which saw a 35 per cent jump in earnings between the last two financial years. For more information on SriLankan Engineering visit www.srilankanengineering.com

SriLankan Engineering's achievements as a third-party base maintenance provider

Singapore Airlines named World's Best Airline at 2023 World Airline Awards

TTA BULLETIN

The 2023 World Airline Awards have been announced in a gala ceremony held in the iconic Air and Space Museum at the Paris Air Show. More than 350 guests attended the event from airlines across the world, with a large number of airline CEO's, Presidents and Senior Management present to accept their awards. As has become customary at the World Airline Awards, there were a lot of uniformed airline cabin crew showing off the airline corporate brands.



Widely regarded as 'the Oscars of the aviation industry', the World Airline Awards began in 1999, and remain totally independent and impartial with all of the customer survey costs and awards event paid by the organisers, Skytrax.

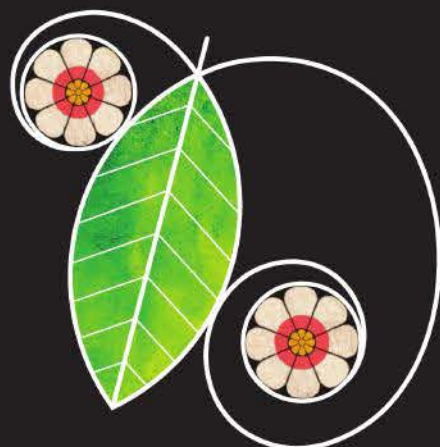
committed to innovating and investing in industry-leading products and services, and ensuring that SIA continues to offer our customers a world-class travel experience."

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, received the World's Best Airline award on behalf of the Airline in Paris on 20th June 2023. "This award is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our people, who worked tirelessly and made many sacrifices to ensure that SIA was ready for the recovery in air travel. That has allowed us to emerge stronger and fitter from the pandemic as a leading international airline," said Mr Goh. "We are very grateful to our customers for their enduring loyalty to and affection for Singapore Airlines. During the pandemic, their support and encouragement gave us the strength and determination to overcome the unprecedented challenges. Today, as we recover from the pandemic, we are firmly

The seven times winner of the prestigious Airline of the Year award, Qatar Airways, was ranked No 2 in the world for 2023, with ANA All Nippon Airways in third place, Emirates fourth, and Japan Airlines in fifth position, out of more than 325 airlines included in the survey results.

Edward Plaisted of Skytrax said: "It is a fabulous achievement for Singapore Airlines to achieve this World's Best Airline title for 2023. Singapore Airlines achieved excellent results in many of the award categories, with the highlight being recognition of their First Class cabin as the World's Best First Class. We congratulate Singapore Airlines on this success which should be a source of great pride and satisfaction for the airline management and staff."

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