

Your June 2012 Tourism & Hospitality Newsflash!

International Visitor Arrivals as at 6th May 2012

Total visitor arrivals are down by 9.6% compared to the same four week period last year.

Increase in visitor arrivals/departures:

Ups: China 75%, Korea 26%, Canada 1%,
Japan 57%, Malaysia 4%

Downs: Singapore -3%, UK -36%, Australia -21%,
Germany -11%, USA -8%,

NZ Resident Departures (short-term overseas trips) as at 6th May 2012

Total NZ trips abroad are down 13.1% compared to the same four week period last year.

Increase in visitor arrivals/departures:

Ups: USA 16%, Samoa 4%, Cook Islands 3%,

Downs: China -15%, Fiji -12%, Malaysia -38%,
UK -6%, Australia -13%, Thailand -24%,
India -1%

International Tourism Off to a Strong Start in 2012 - The first results of 2012 indicate that international tourism continued to show sustained growth in spite of challenging economic conditions. During the first two months of 2012, international tourist arrivals grew by an estimated 5.7 percent compared to the same period of 2011.

Source: UNWTO

Tonga Tourism on the move - A recent 11 day visit to the Kingdom of Tonga shows interest in hotel and resort purchasing by Hotel Chains and private investors, the first purchase being in Tongatapu by Scenic Hotel Group. Interest is also being shown in Tourism Accommodation, Hospitality and Eco/ Adventure Tourism businesses for sale by TourismProperties.com in Tongatapu, Ha'apai and Vava'u Islands.

Source: Adrian and Chrissy Chisholm, TourismProperties.com

Jetstar talks 30% lift in NZ domestic numbers to 30JUN12 (777,000) the number of domestic passengers travelling in New Zealand.

Source: Jetstar chief executive David Hall

The Rees Hotel, Queenstown adds pillow menu in all Executive Lake View hotel rooms and apartments. **It offers six choices**, including passion pillows infused with essential oils; pillows stuffed with lambswool and lavender; a 25% duck down version; and ones for those with allergies, sleep apnea, and even a tri-pillow for new mums. The Rees offers other special touches like schist-clad gas fireplaces in every apartment, custom-made Rees Super King or Twin King Single beds by Sleepyhead and iPod docking stations.

Self-drive rail cart tourist route on the mothballed railway line from Stratford through Whangamomona to Okahukura near Taumarunui will soon be New Zealand's first self-drive rail cart tourist route. Taumarunui-based Forgotten World Adventures has secured a 30-year lease on the line from KiwiRail and 12 modified electric golf carts will start rolling on Labour weekend in October. The Forgotten World Adventures operation will enable people to travel both ways between Stratford and Okahukura. Some of the 144km line's 28 hand-dug tunnels are more than a kilometre long. It has two viaducts, dozens of bridges and passes through a number of historic sites.

Source: Owner / Operator Ian Balme

Hotel prices drop in London ahead of Olympics - with around 2 months until the London Games - on the whole the average price of a London hotel room during the Olympics rise by approximately 93% year-on year to \$417 per night. However, historical data shows since March this year, the average price has actually decreased by almost \$25 a night.

Source: Hotelcom

Host supports new Qualmark sector split and has endorsed the new Qualmark motel and apartment sectors with its network of nearly 90 properties throughout New Zealand. Qualmark made the decision to split the 'Self-Contained & Serviced' sector into two separate sectors last year to promote better understanding with consumers. As a result, the names 'Motel' and 'Apartment' now represent the two new sectors.

Source: Chris Lee

Accor adds 43 hotels with purchase of Mirvac Hotel interests in Australia and New Zealand. Accor's network in Australia and New Zealand now totals some 240 hotels representing 32,000 rooms. It also makes Accor the first group in the Asia Pacific region to exceed 500 hotels. The deal particularly strengthens Accor's position in the upscale sector, in Australia and New Zealand, building on Accor's current leadership position in the mid-scale and economy sectors.

Source: Accor

TIA is calling for the Queenstown Lakes District Council to reconsider its plans to impose a targeted visitor rate. Most hotels are likely to see an average rates increase of nearly 12% on already significant rates bills. According to TIA calculations, a 250-room hotel will see an increase in its rates bill of about \$25,000, while an 85-room hotel will see an increase in its rates bill of around \$15,000. Motels and bed and breakfast establishments will not be spared, with increases of about 10%.

Source: TIA

Melbourne has officially been recognised as the number one city in Australia for conferences and congresses and also ranked 31 in the world!

Source: ICCA - The Country and City Ranking Report 2011

Extra-Virgin cooking oil? - Virgin Australia has launched a trial of environmentally friendly biodiesel in its ground service equipment. The initial trial involves using a biodiesel blend derived from locally sourced tallow and used cooking oil (split 20:80 conventional petro-diesel) in a baggage tug and a push-back vehicle at Brisbane Domestic Airport over an eight week period.

Source: Virgin Australia

Chinese carrier profits plummet - The combined profits of Chinese carriers were down 46% in APR12, and Chinese domestic airlines reported a net loss of CNY540 million in FEB and CNY180 million in MAR due to high fuel prices and the slowdown of market demand.

Source: China Newstory

Peppers Retreats and Resorts has added the multi-award winning Awaroa Lodge in Abel Tasman National Park to its expanding New Zealand portfolio. To be known as Peppers Awaroa Lodge when it re-opens on 26SEP after closing over the winter months, the new addition is one of six Peppers resorts and retreats located across New Zealand, following hot on the heels of the recent expansion into Martinborough.

Source: Ken Harris, Peppers NZ

Australian tourism needs more casinos – Australia’s flagging tourism industry can be saved by attracting the Chinese middle class to large casinos "It’s like saying how big a deal is the internet, the Chinese middle class is going to change the world. - Australia cannot rely on its natural beauty alone, because people are more drawn to man-made attractions. – a lot of Chinese tourists like man-made attractions as well as natural attractions - we need to have better hotels, better restaurants, better shopping - Las Vegas gets 40 million people a year”

Source: Crown chairman James Packer.

Emirates profit down 61% on its full-year profit as fuel costs rose and growth in European economies slowed. Net income in the 12 months ended 31MAR12 dropped to 2.31 billion dirhams (US\$629 million) from 5.95 billion dirhams a year earlier. Revenue increased 18% to 67.4 billion dirhams.

Source: Emirates

“Divorce Hotel” Coming Soon To Reality TV? - For couples in a hurry to end their marriage, there is apparently a new option: a 48-hour, weekend getaway divorce at a high-end hotel. The "Divorce Hotel" could be coming to American television. The Divorce Hotel is the brainchild of Dutch entrepreneur Jim Halfens, who currently offers the all-inclusive quickie divorce service in six hotels in the Netherlands but wants to bring it to the U.K., Italy, Germany, New York and Los Angeles. He is also apparently negotiating with two American television production companies to film Divorce Hotel (are you surprised?) as a reality show. According to the New York Times, it works like this: "Check in on Friday, married. Then, with the help of mediators and independent lawyers, check out on Sunday, divorce papers in hand, all for a flat fee." If a couple is accepted for the program, the fee ranges from \$3,500 to \$10,000 depending on how complicated your divorce happens to be. Halfens' website explains that "we work with a fixed team of professionals, including: lawyers, real estate agents, civil-law notaries, tax lawyers and company valuers."

Source: Robert Halprin