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LUXURY NEWS



LUXURY NEWS FIVE STAR KIDS INDUSTRY EVENTS

SPRING FLING RATES AT OTAHUNA LODGE

Spring is being celebrated in style at New Zealand's iconic **Otahuna Lodge**, with special rates now available before the start of the summer season.

From 1 October to 30 November this year, guests can enjoy rates that start at \$1350 pax (\$1600 double occupancy) for suite accommodation and \$1750 pax (\$2000 double occupancy) for Master Suites. This marks savings of over 20 per cent and includes a nightly five-course degustation dinner matched with New Zealand

wines, plus breakfast daily and laundry service.

The Lodge's renowned gardens will also be in full bloom during this time, providing lovely options for walks around the rambling rhododendron woodlands, shaded glades, the lake and orchard.

The property is in the Port Hills of New Zealand's Canterbury region, a 30-minute drive from Christchurch.

www.otahuna.co.nz

ETIHAD'S EARLY BIRD AIRFARES

Etihad Airways has released Early Bird Fares for 2015. These include a range of great value airfares across all classes to popular destinations in Europe, the Middle East and USA.

Business class highlights include Brisbane to Dublin from \$6856 return; Sydney to Rome from \$7021; Melbourne to Athens from \$7015; and Perth to Frankfurt from \$6922. Luxurious Private Suites in first class are available on a number

of routes, including Sydney to London from \$10,415 return and Melbourne to Paris from \$10,108. Convenient connections to Etihad's four gateway cities – Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth – are available with partner airline, Virgin Australia.

Prices valid until 31 October 2014 for travel between 1 February and 24 March 2015, or 1 and 31 October 2015.

www.etihad.com/au

SPRING SENSATION PACKAGE AT WOLGAN VALLEY

Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Australia's esteemed conservation-based resort, is offering a two-night Spring Sensation package to usher in the warmer months. It is available for stays from 16 September until 21 December 2014, and includes two nights in a luxury Heritage Suite with private swimming pool, gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, all non-alcoholic beverages, a select range of local wines and beer with meals, and two onsite

nature-based activities per day. Prices start from AU\$740 pax, twin share, which marks a saving of \$570 per couple.

Guests will also receive a 'Taste of Wolgan' collection hamper complete with a gourmet selection of regional produce, and those staying two nights or more midweek can also receive \$100 credit per suite for spa treatments in the Timeless Spa.

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INDUSTRY EVENTS

POLO WITH PACHYDERMS AT ANNUAL KING'S CUP

After four days of fun festivities and trunk-to-trunk action, the 13th annual **King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament** came to a close on Sunday. Sixteen teams of international players and 50 street elephants showcased skilful and memorable play, with the tournament resulting in new King's Cup champions.

Sunday's final, which was presided over by the King of Thailand's royal representative, saw King Power Duty Free and Audemars Piguet go head-to-head with a thrilling 'sudden

death' play-off finally clinching the win for King Power.

The tournament was introduced to Thailand in 2001 by Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas and has grown to become one of the biggest charitable events in Thailand, raising funds for projects that better the lives of Thailand's elephant population. Friday night's gala dinner at Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa hosted a gathering of top dignitaries, players, media and well-known celebrities.

www.anantaraelephantpolo.com



AQUA EXP TRAVMEDIA'S INTERNATIONAL MEDIA MARKETPLACE

The travel industry communed with media professionals on Sunday at **TravMedia's International Media Marketplace (IMM)**, an exhibition-style event that sees top travel writers meeting with the world's leading travel and tourism brands. A programme of appointments and networking events offered a prelude to luxury travel trade show, Luxperience, with which IMM is co-located. Among the

exhibitors present were Etihad Airways, the Lancemore Group, Luxury Lodges of Australia, One&Only Hayman Island, Preferred Hotel Group and Yasawa Island Resort & Spa, to name but a sample. Each event brought together tourism professionals with media to develop both new and existing relationships in a productive and meaningful exchange.

www.travmedia.com/immate

AQUA EXPEDITIONS EXPANSION

This week has seen representatives of **Aqua Expeditions** flown to Sydney to participate in Luxperience. Monopolising on their time in the area, the company also took the opportunity to reveal the details of the new *Aqua Mekong* itineraries through Cambodia and Vietnam. This was celebrated with a divine cocktail function at the exclusive Flying Fish restaurant at Sydney's Jones Wharf Bay. **LATTE** was fortunate to be among those

wined and dined, joining with other media representatives to mark the milestone and to listen to a talk from the company CEO, Francesco Galli Zugaro, detailing the exciting advancements ahead.

The beautiful new 62.4-metre vessel boasts an indulgent on-board experience, with a one-to-one staff-to-guest ration, able to cater for passenger quantities of no more than 40 at any given time.

www.aquaexpeditions.com

