

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Luxury Holidays

Lay on the luxury with our picks.

MORE IN...

Agent Bulletin

The latest training and incentive opportunities. **Pg. 7**

Puzzle Bulletin

Win a £20 M&S voucher with our prize Sudoku. **Pg. 9**

Far East

Far-flung picks from a destination that's back on the radar. **Pg. 19**



Agent Insight

Nicola Szymanowski from Blue Bay Travel with a host of Far East and Luxury tips. (Pg. 8)

Travel
bulletin
SHOWCASES

INVITES YOU TO A

Cruise showcase

AGENT NETWORKING EVENING

Tuesday 20th June
Manchester

Travel Bulletin is excited to announce our latest Cruise Showcase, a fun and informative agent networking event focused on leading cruise suppliers. Agents, you will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of cruise lines and their ships, extraordinary onboard entertainment and accommodation options available in this increasingly popular sector. You will enjoy delicious food and drink, great entertainment and a fabulous free prize draw with a number of fantastic prizes to be won!

Timings

Registration 6:00PM	Travel Bulletin Welcome 6:25PM	Client Presentations 6:30PM
Hot Dinner 7:30PM	Client Presentations 8:15PM	Product Quiz & Free Prize Draw 9:15 - 9.30PM

Sponsor



Featuring



Abercrombie & Kent



VOYAGES



To confirm your place at this amazing event, email the name, company and contact details by Tuesday 13 June to:
events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: 020 7973 0136

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.

THIS
WEEK

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**NEWS**

Keeping you in the loop with updates from across the industry.

07

**AGENT INSIGHT**

Nicola Szymanowski from Blue Bay Travel on Far East and Luxury potential and insider tips.

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**PUZZLE BULLETIN**

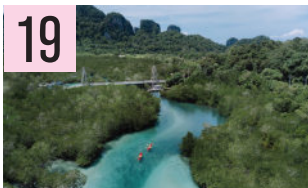
Be in with a chance to win a £20 M&S voucher.

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**LUXURY HOLIDAYS**

The high life awaits with a choice of picks to give your clients a taste of luxury.

19

**FAR EAST**

Hotel expansions, bucket list excursions and more.

PUTTING THE LOWEST FOOTPRINT FORWARD

Travelport's research has identified that travellers are inclined to spend more on sustainable travel options to limit their carbon footprint.

UNITING ENVIRONMENTAL mindfulness with a passion for travel can be a tricky combination, but according to a recent study conducted by global technology company Travelport, it can be a winning one for eco-conscious consumers.

Being aware of individual carbon footprints is a key consumer consideration at the moment, with climate change now becoming a regular topic of discussion. According to the survey, 60% of the 2,000 people asked would prefer to take longer, indirect travel routes to their destination in order to save on carbon emissions, and nearly half (49%) would even be willing to spend more money on lessening their footprint and experiencing destinations that put the environment first.

The study highlighted that consumers want travel businesses to be upfront about environmental impacts associated with travelling and help them make the best sustainable choices, with 71% of leisure and

80% of business travellers wanting more information on carbon impacts to help them assess their journey options and do their part in protecting the environment.

Tom Kershaw, chief product and technology officer at Travelport, said: "When it comes to making eco-friendly travel more accessible and easy to understand, we have a long road ahead; but it's exciting to finally see the needle starting to move across the industry. We're taking this challenge head-on and understand the importance of driving forward change. We're committed to delivering the tools to empower agents and help companies maintain their sustainability commitments."

Travel Bulletin want to recognise the strides the industry is taking in adopting sustainable practices and reducing emissions, so for the first time, the award for the Star Sustainability Initiative is up for grabs at *Travel Bulletin's* hotly contested Star Awards. Nominations are now open.

Travelbulletin

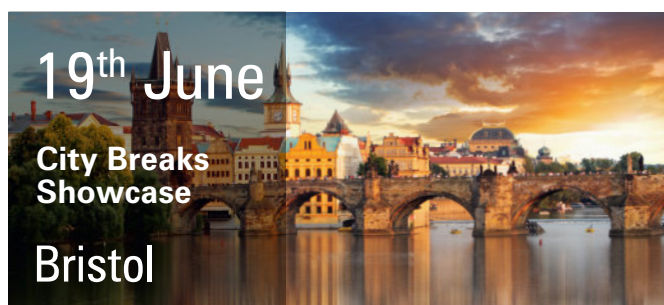
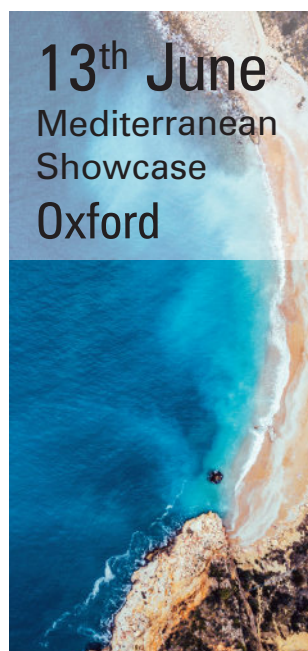
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Classic unveils Canary compilation

CLASSIC COLLECTION has unveiled its latest Canary Islands brochure, highlighting more than 80 properties across Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, La Palma and La Gomera, with 23 adult-only, 25 family-friendly, and 29 all-inclusive options.

The operator is offering a full roster of flights from 24 UK regional airports along with an extensive

selection of properties.

Alex Gavalda, director of internal sales, product and commercial, said: "We've listened to our trade partners and brought a varied selection of new products to the market. Our new brochure showcases the comprehensive range of properties that the Canary Islands has to offer."

www.classic-collection.co.uk



Embark on a Grand Voyage with RSSC

REGENT SEVEN Seas Cruises has launched five brand new Grand Voyages for its 2025-26 collection.

The 'Grand Arctic Adventure', 'Grand Cultural Quest', 'Grand Continental Sojourn', 'Grand Asia Exploration' and 'Indian Ocean Odyssey' voyages range from 61- to

117-night itineraries, sail across five continents and will collectively offer guests up to 589 onshore excursions as well as a choice of overnight port stays.

Prices start at £34,829 per person.

www.rssc.com

Jet off to Vienna this winter as Jet2 adds additional services

AN AUSTRIAN wonderland awaits this year as Jet2.com has expanded its Winter 23/24 programme with exclusive services to Vienna for the entire season.

Marking the brand's 12th city break destination on sale this winter, travellers can depart from either Birmingham or Manchester airports between September 2023 and May 2024, offering agents and customers choice and flexibility when it comes to booking a winter getaway.

Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2.com and Jet2Holidays, said: "We are seeing strong demand for city breaks this winter, with more people than ever wanting to visit their favourite city break destinations."

The airline has also added new flights and city breaks to Prague and Krakow for the full winter season.

www.jet2.com



50 years of the Bernina Express.

One of the most popular panoramic trains in the world is celebrating its birthday: 50 years ago, the first Bernina Express ran from Chur to Tirano. It is without a doubt the most spectacular way to cross the Alps.

Since labeled a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2008, the Bernina Express route offers a unique panoramic railway experience taking passengers from Switzerland to Italy, from glaciers to palms.



**Bernina
Express**

50

JAHRE
YEARS
ANNI

LANDWASSER VIADUCT



Rhaetian Railway's famous landmark, the Landwasser viaduct is an architectural masterpiece.

The 65 metre high bridge disappears into a steep rock-face shortly before Filisur station.

Discover this remarkable landmark up close; the Landwasser Express takes passengers from Filisur station directly to the pillars of the Landwasser viaduct.

ALP GRÜM

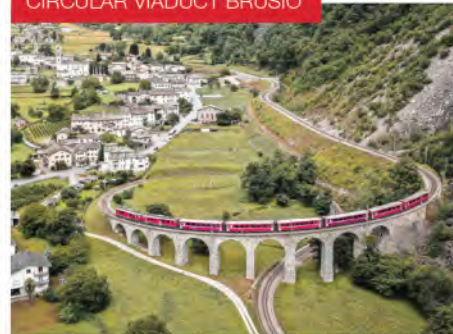


The next highlight is Alp Grüm, whose claim to fame is being the one Swiss hotel and restaurant that is accessible only by rail.

Here the magnificent Palü glacier dominates the view, and the train stands still beneath it.

Enjoy a short stop at Alp Grüm and capture this unforgettable moment forever; the photo spot will help you get the perfect shot.

CIRCULAR VIADUCT BRUSIO



The train continues downwards following bends and curves towards the valley of Puschlav.

Not long after having experienced the cold majesty of the mountains you are heading for a Mediterranean climate.

Before reaching Tirano another fascinating construction will emerge: the circular viaduct near Brusio.

To book, order brochures
or talk anything Switzerland

CALL: 020 7420 4900

sales@stc.co.uk

switzerlandtravelcentre.com

MORE TO EXPLORE

Recently we hosted "The Malta Academy" with over 50 of the best agents from the UK & Ireland arriving in Malta.

We visited classics like the city of Mdina, the Citadella in Gozo and enjoyed a sunny boat ride around the fishing village of Marsaxlokk.

New products like the Gozo Picnic and wine tasting at Ta'Betta complimented amazing gastronomic experiences at Michelin Star establishments.

**Malta truly has
More to Explore!**

For more info contact
Peter Green,
peter.green@visitmalta.com
malta-training.com



CROSSROADS MALDIVES is rolling out a fun-filled calendar of activities at both the **Hard Rock Hotel Maldives** and **SAii Lagoon Maldives, Curio Collection by Hilton**. From **July 1st to August 31st, 2023**, both properties will run a choice of activities to keep youngsters engaged and active on their holidays. Summer rates start at approximately **£914 per night**.
www.crossroadsmaldives.com

Travel Counsellors recruitment reaches record highs

MARCH ALONE saw 27 new Travel Counsellors join the community, totalling over 100 new franchisees since November 2022.

The impressive growth marks a 45% increase on the same period in 2022.

In good news for the industry at large, many of the joiners (around a third) are experienced agents returning to the industry after putting their travel careers on hiatus because of the pandemic or otherwise.

Jim Eastwood, global sales director at Travel Counsellors, explained: "We are seeing a significant increase in interest from experienced travel professionals and budding entrepreneurs from a range of backgrounds with a shared passion for travel... we also now have record numbers of new Travel Counsellors then joining the community, far-exceeding anticipated levels."

www.travelcounsellors.com

Qatar Airways celebrates 20th Manchester anniversary

AFTER LAUNCHING in 2003 with four weekly flights, Qatar Airways celebrated its 20th anniversary of services from Manchester Airport last month.

The airline now operates 18 weekly services to its global network of over 160 destinations.

Chris Woodroffe, managing director, Manchester Airport, said: "We're delighted to join with Qatar Airways in celebrating two decades of services from Manchester to Doha. To have served three million passengers in that time shows the importance of the route."

www.qatarairways.com / www.manchesterairport.co.uk



Explora Journeys names adventurous ambassador

EXPLORA JOURNEYS has announced the renowned adventurer Mike Horn will join as a brand ambassador. Mike will head aboard several voyages to share insights, including the inaugural 'Arctic Geyser, Calving Glaciers, and Fiery Lands of Ice' sailing departing Reyjavik on September 9th, 2025.

www.explorajourneys.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- **REGENT SEVEN Seas Cruises** has unveiled an exclusive trade incentive: 'Sell Three, Sail Free'. The incentive offers agents the chance to set sail for themselves in 2023, with any trade partners who make three bookings by June 30th, 2023 on select Mediterranean and Northern Europe itineraries sailing this year rewarded with a free luxury suite. *All requests must be submitted at [www.rssc.com/2023-sell-and-sail-by-June-30th, 2023](http://www.rssc.com/2023-sell-and-sail-by-June-30th-2023).*
- **IN CELEBRATION** of Classic Collection's new Balearic Islands brochure, agents making bookings with the operator will be rewarded with incentives of up to £1,500 per booking, payable via the Classic Black Card, a reloadable Visa card. *E-brochures of the new collection are downloadable at www.classic-collection.co.uk and printed copies can be ordered through Tradegate.*
- **PLAYA HOTELS & Resorts** continues to offer a choice of cash incentives or free stays with select bookings. A minimum of 30 points or a cash reward of £1.50 per room/per night is on offer, with up to 100 points or £5 per room/per night on 'high' category rooms. Free stays are available at Wyndham, Jewels and Seadust properties from 700 points per night, Hyatt and Hilton from 1400 points per night, and Jewel Grande from 1700 points per night. www.playarewards.com
- **AZAMARA'S NEW** trade loyalty platform offers a £10 reward per booking. David Duff, managing director for the UK, said: "Our trusted trade partners have always been, and will always be, integral to our sales success at Azamara." www.azamararewards.com

AGENT BULLETIN



45 FRANCHISEES FROM Travel Counsellors joined Uniworld to step aboard *S.S. Joie de Vivre*. Janet Wittingham, head of cruise at Travel Counsellors, celebrated the event, explaining: "Franchisees were able to immerse themselves in the river cruising experience... river cruising is a key focus for the future at Travel Counsellors."

Travel bulletin

WEBINAR

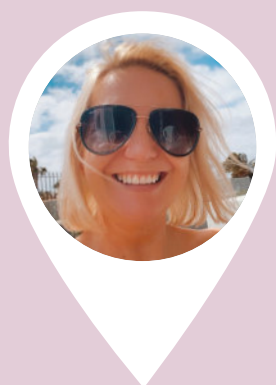
Join *Travel Bulletin* and a host of Mediterranean suppliers for our Virtual Showcase on May 25th!

Find out more at:
www.travelbulletin.co.uk/webinar

AGENT TRAINING



- **THE UTAH Office of Tourism** has launched its new Utah Specialist Academy, encouraging agents to elevate their destination experience. The course focuses on everything that makes Utah a welcoming destination to visitors from all backgrounds, cultures, and group sizes. Agents who complete the training by July 31st, 2023 will be in with a chance of winning a spot on a UK & Ireland fam trip to Utah in spring 2024. www.visitutahspecialistacademy.com
- A **DEDICATED** agent training session will take place at the 10th edition of LATA Expo in London this year. Agents who sign up for the dedicated programme on June 21st 2023 will enjoy an interactive session with flagship Latin American destinations, as well as business development representatives from trade-friendly tour operators from across the region. The session will be followed by an evening of networking with Latin America-themed food and drink. www.lataexpo.travel/travel-agents/
- **COMPLETE THE** New Smyrna Beach training course this month to learn all about the Floridian hotspot and earn a place in the prize draw to win a £50 High Street shopping voucher. The destination is home to a number of hotels bookable through the trade, as well as a choice of guest houses and holiday homes. www.tourismgivesback.com/course/travel-agents
- **SANDOS SMART** Agents, the agent programme from Sandos Hotels & Resorts, equips agents with all they need to know to become certified Sandos Specialists, as well as a new rewards system, the best offers and agent assistance. www.sandosmartagents.com
- **COMPLIMENTARY PASSES** are available to agents who complete the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex's UK agent training programme. www.onlinetraveltraining.com/free-courses/providers/KennedySpaceCenter



AGENT INSIGHT

NICOLA SZYMANOWSKI

PERSONAL TRAVEL CONSULTANTS/ BLUE BAY TRAVEL

CARIBBEAN PRICES have soared post-pandemic and two of our most popular resort brands are now unaffordable to many: this is good news for the Far East and we have seen a surge in interest as a result. Flight prices in Asia have increased with a business class rate to Bali now at around £6,000 (almost double last year's price) which is why we're seeing diversification with people considering destinations such as Vietnam and Cambodia.

Trips tend to be fewer but longer with many going abroad for three weeks or more.

With reduced capacity, many are willing to fly indirect to reduce cost. Whilst, generally, flight costs are up, overall luxury is more affordable. Most holidaymakers are motivated by experiences over All-Inclusives, opting for B&B accommodation so they can truly take in the culture. The experience has become paramount and the proof is in the booking: one of our biggest sellers at the moment is a tour of Sri Lanka concluding with a relaxing beach break.

Bali is proving popular with many taking a trip to the Monkey Jungle before finishing on the beach. Families are far more willing to travel long-haul than I've seen before and we've seen an uptick in multigenerational trips.

Here are a few of my top tips and tricks to optimise reach and sales in the Luxury and Far East markets:

- Look at routes for customers to travel from regional airports - there are some great options
- Social media presence can really increase sales
- Many who have historically travelled short haul to Europe will now consider longer trips so don't be afraid to upsell
- Added value seems to create a real incentive to book (e.g. free driver/champagne on arrival or room upgrades).



Oh, what a night! Just Go! Holidays adds West End breaks

JUST GO! Holidays has added a new programme of London theatre breaks and attractions to its product range for the first time.

Two-day theatre breaks are available now, with departures from mid-August 2023. In November and December, added additional Thursday departures will join the selected Saturday departures to meet demand for festive breaks. Prices for the theatre breaks start from £159 per person.

A host of 'New Year in London' packages, with a show on December 30th, are available from £329 per person, along with two-day attraction breaks from £169 per person.

www.justgoholidays.com/agents

News Bites

- INTREPID TRAVEL has partnered with MEET to unveil its first stand-alone trip to Albania: a nine-day expedition exploring parts of the country rarely visited by tourists. Departing from September 2023, prices start from £1,145 per person.
- AMBASSADOR CRUISE Line has unveiled its 2024/25 season, with hand-picked itineraries spanning the UK, Caribbean, Canary Islands and more.

For all the latest updates, head to www.travelbulletin.co.uk.



HEAD BEHIND the Scenic with 'Maritime Masters: Expedition Antarctica', a new docu-series from Warner Bros. Discovery spotlighting life aboard Scenic Eclipse. Set to air on the Discovery Channel in mid-May, the series shows all aspects of life on board, from gastronomy to helicopter rides and deep dives in a custom submarine. www.scenic.co.uk/maritime-masters

SUDOKU

WIN A £20 M&S VOUCHER IN THE *Travel* bulletin SUDOKU PRIZE PUZZLE

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains the digits 1-9. Once you have completed the puzzle, simply identify the numbers that relate to the letters, A, B, C and D then e-mail the solution, with your name, company name, and full postal address plus phone and ABTA number if applicable to:

competition@travelbulletin.co.uk

Closing date for entries is May 18th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

The winner for April 21st is Alison Woodrow from Addison Travel Ltd.

April 21st Solution: A=8 B=6 C=9 D=4

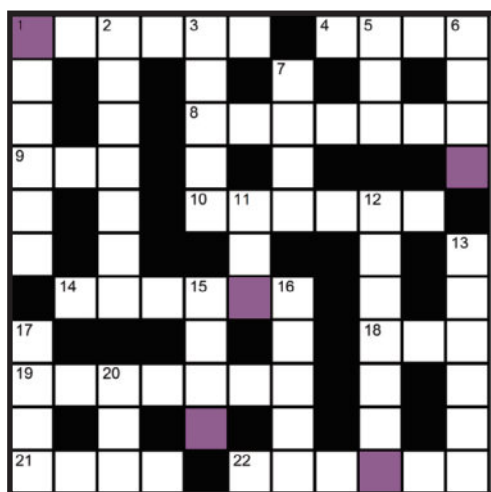
A	9	8				7	1		3
	6					4	7		9
	7				9		8	2	
B	3		8			5			
				2		3			
C				1			2		5
		1	4		3				2
	2		7	4				9	
D	5		6	7				8	4



WHERE AM I?

Ranked 35th in the world's most popular cities in 2021, this South Korean metropolis sees skyscrapers, high-tech subways and pop culture meet Buddhist temples and palaces.

FILL IN THE CROSSWORD TO REVEAL THE MYSTERY LOCATION HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PURPLE SQUARES.



Across

- 1 Carrier with main hub at Sydney airport (6)
 4 Singer Michael who recently presented the TV series, Wonderful Wales (4)
 8 Castle venue for the upcoming coronation concert (7)
 9 Cairo international airport code (3)
 10 Capital of the Campania region (6)
 14 The largest island in French Polynesia (6)
 18 Lanzarote Arrecife airport code (3)
 19 Dual-island nation linked with Nevis (2,5)
 21 Flows through the city of York (4)
 22 Prince who will be a Page of Honour at his grandfather's coronation (6)

Down

- 1 Charles and Camilla have chosen this dish for their special coronation lunch (6)
 2 Country in Southern Africa (7)
 3 Egyptian city and tourist centre on the Nile (5)
 5 Amsterdam Schiphol international airport code (3)
 6 Currency of Turkey (4)
 7 Could be a photo or a card game (4)
 11 Canberra is the capital, initially (3)
 12 South American country (7)
 13 DFDS operate from Newhaven to this Normandy port (6)
 15 Willie Walsh is Director General of this travel association, initially (4)
 16 A Big one is sold on the street (5)
 17 Scandinavian capital city (4)
 20 Popular Dodecanese island (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: QATAR, Where am I: SEOUL
 Across: 1 QANTAS, 4 BALL, 8 WINDSOR, 9 CAL, 10 NAPLES, 14 TAHITI, 18 ACE, 19 ST KITTS, 21 OUSE, 22 GEORGE.
 Down: 1 QUICHE, 2 NAMIBIA, 3 ASWAN, 5 AMS, 6 LIRA, 7 SNAP, 11 ACT, 12 ECUDOR, 13 DIEPPE, 15 IATA, 16 ISSUE, 17 OSLO, 20 KOS.



MOVERS & SHAKERS



AMBASSADOR
CRUISE Line
has bolstered
its distribution
arm with two
new hires, Sam
Richardson as
business



development manager -
Trade, and Alan Rennie as
business development
manager - Group.



**S HOTELS &
Resorts** has
appointed
Ludovic

Gallerne as vice president of
Global Commerce, managing
the group's portfolio of hotels
and resorts in Thailand, the
Maldives, Fiji and the UK.

Blue Bay Travel launches multi-centre adventures

CLIENTS CAN enjoy two holidays for the price of one as Blue Bay Travel has unveiled a selection of crafted multi-centre holidays, blending adventure with relaxation.

Blue Bay's new versatile options mean guests can explore the beaches and jungles of Bali, get a sense for Sri Lanka, discover Dubai or take a moment to relax in Mauritius all on one holiday.

The 'Dubai & Mauritius – City to Beach' option offers a 10-night twin-centre break, blending the Dubai cityscape (staying at the Holiday Inn Dubai Festival City) and beaches of

Trou-Aux-Biches in Mauritius (at the Casuarina Resort & Spa). As well as the stays, the itinerary offers 25% off spa treatments and food and beverages in Dubai with a 'Kids Go Free' option, a free 20-minute 'Jet Lag Spa Massage' and free 'Romantic Premium Dinner' per person, per stay in Mauritius, and a 50% Spa discount in Mauritius.

All the new multi-centre breaks can be secured with a deposit of £99 per person, with prices for the 'Dubai & Mauritius – City to Beach' option starting from £1,649 per person. www.bluebaytravel.co.uk



Star Clippers expands regional options

STAR CLIPPERS is amplifying opportunities for regional agents and clients to set sail, with an increase in fully-packaged sailings from London, Manchester, Bristol and Edinburgh airports for summer 2023, starting from £1,789 per person. www.starclippers.co.uk

Unforgettable doubles down on trade trajectory

AFTER LAST month's announcement of Unforgettable Travel Group's dedicated trade team, *Travel Bulletin* heard from the recently-promoted Promotions manager, Pietro Molica Lazzaro, on the newly-created team, upcoming trade portal, and more.

"We've certainly seen that in the last three years, with no dedicated business development team, we've successfully managed to build nearly £4m of annual business with the trade. Part of that is due to the growth of small ship cruising and

our position in the market... now feels like the right time to proactively work with the trade and introduce them to a very strong product.

"We're looking at a variety of ways to build our trade business including attending trade events and getting out on the road to visit agents. Part of why we've been successful is because we treat our agent partners like they are part of the Unforgettable family. We're all about personality, personalised service and going one step further

than the rest.

"There is a lot we are working on but the main areas we are looking to focus on is education, marketing support and incentivising on-going bookings. We've increased the size of our marketing team to help build a content platform... we're also working on our loyalty club which we feel will make us really stand out."

Head to the *Travel Bulletin* website to read the full interview: www.travelbulletin.co.uk

Hire power as Avis partners with Disneyland Paris

AVIS HAS been appointed the official car rental company of Disneyland Paris, offering



guests a fleet of modern, hybrid and electric cars.

Guests with park tickets and those staying in a Disney Hotel will benefit from reductions on car rental, and annual Passholders can upgrade to the Avis Preferred Membership.



Newmarket Holidays savings to float clients' boats

ESCORTED TOUR specialist Newmarket Holidays is offering up to £800 per person off nine European river cruises across the Rhône, Rhine, Seine, Moselle and Danube. Tours featured in the offer include 'Splendours of the Majestic Danube', a 15-day holiday aboard *A-ROSA Flora*, visiting Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and more lesser-known highlights. Discounts are available on premium all-inclusive packages (including meals, drinks, transfers, and return flights to Munich), with the itinerary starting from £3,395 per person, saving £800 per person. The offer is available until May 31st, 2023. www.newmarketholidays.co.uk

Hainan Airlines brings back regular flights to Beijing

PASSENGERS WILL once again be able to choose from four flights a week between Manchester and mainland China with Hainan Airlines.

Initially launched in 2016, the service was paused due to Covid-19-related travel restrictions, until a single weekly flight resumed in August 2022.

Due to the service's popularity, Hainan has now increased the service to four times a week, marking the

first time such a busy schedule has operated since before the pandemic.

Chris Woodroffe, Manchester Airport's managing director, said: "It has been hugely exciting to see services like this return to full strength."

Flights now operate from Manchester to Beijing on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. www.hainanairlines.com/CN/GB/Welcome

Image Credits: Right: Avis. Right: Newmarket Holidays.

Shearings

leger

HOLIDAYS

For every Shearings and Leger Holidays booking you make during May, you will be entered into a weekly prize draw to win a **£500** shopping voucher. All entries will also automatically go into the ultimate 'May Madness' prize draw, with **£2000** worth of shopping vouchers up for grabs!

It couldn't be simpler!

To enter, simply log all your Shearings and Leger Holidays bookings made in May and email retailsales@leger.co.uk with the following information:

Subject: May Madness

- Full name • Contact details • ABTA number
- Booking ID • Date of booking

The winner of each week will be contacted directly and announced on our Facebook trade pages. The monthly winner will be announced by 5th June 2023 via email and our Facebook trade pages.

The more bookings you make, the more entries you receive into the prize draw!

Good luck!

ORDER YOUR BROCHURE SUPPLIES AT BP TRADE-GATE

Terms and Conditions: 1. The prize cannot be exchanged for cash, there is no cash alternative. 2. The prize cannot be transferred. 3. Winners agree to have their image used for any potential PR purposes. 4. Any bookings cancelled within the incentive period will not be included in the prize draw. 5. Only one entry per booking reference will be accepted. 6. Prize can only be accepted by the person who made the booking. 7. Leger Shearings Group are not responsible for any lost vouchers and will not replace them once received and signed for. 8. Any bookings made and submitted outside of the incentive period will not be included. 9. The promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of the same value should this prize for any reason become unavailable. 10. Bookings must be logged via retailsales@leger.co.uk to be included.



Caribbean Showcase

Travel Bulletin brought a taste of the Caribbean to Dorking on April 17th, joined by headline sponsor **Jamaica Tourist Board** and Grenada Tourism Authority, Sandos Hotels, JetBlue Airways, Resort Marketing International Ltd., Coconut Bay & Serenity, Carnival Cruises, British Virgin Islands and Travepack.

After an evening of speed networking and food and drink, lucky winners left our Prize Bingo with a collection of Jamaica's finest rum, gift bags, hotel stays, hampers, gift vouchers and more.



Hungry for a slice of the [#TBSHOWCASES](#) action? Our next event is the Family Holidays Showcase in Reading on May 9th and Stratford-Upon-Avon on May 10th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

FROM NOUGHT TO LUXURY

Ultimate Travel Company has curated new high-end experiences including a bucket-list Ferrari holiday..



THE ULTIMATE Travel Company has introduced six new curated itineraries for foodies, families, art and nature lovers, music enthusiasts and Ferrari fans looking for the ultimate European escape this summer.

The highest-paced luxury experience on offer is the six-day Ferrari self-drive

in Italy where guests can drive a Ferrari around Tuscany, the Northern Lakes or the Amalfi Coast. Prices lead in at £21,745.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Pablo Picasso's death, the operator has curated a unique itinerary in Madrid offering an insight into parts of the artist's life with prices from £876 per person for three nights, including flights and transfers.

Foodies will be thrilled to hear about the seven-night Malta experience where guests will be treated to a stay at the Relais & Chateau Hotel Phoenicia Malta, which has a Michelin-star restaurant and direct access to the renowned sites of the city. The art-deco boutique hotel is the perfect spot from which to explore the many culinary delights that

Valletta has to offer. Prices for seven nights start at £1,990 per person.

For nature lovers, there's an escape to the Italian Lakes to explore Lake Maggiore, Borromean Islands and Monte Mattarone. Prices start at £2,062 per person.

For music fanatics, there is the option to see Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli during a three-night stay in his hometown of Lajatico, Tuscany. Prices lead in at £3,130 per person.

Finally, for families, there's a 14-night stay at the Bahia del Duque hotel, which is fashioned after a 19th-century Spanish villa. Prices start at £12,160 for two adults and two children.

All packages include flights, accommodation and transfers.

www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

Angsana opens three resorts in Vietnam

HOTEL ART Ritz-Carlton, in Barcelona, home to two-Michelin-starred restaurant Enoteca Paco Pérez, has unveiled a new dining option with a speakeasy feel.

The Secret Pantry, hidden behind a secret entrance behind the shelves of The Pantry – also a new concept – offers a menu that spotlights the flavours of the Catalan region with sharing-style dishes.

"We aimed to showcase the essence of local gastronomy and celebrate the hard work of local farmers, fishermen and other trusted partners of Hotel Arts Barcelona," said Andreas Oberoi, general manager.

Prices start at £310 per night for the new 'Stay and Dine' package, which includes breakfast for two people, and a tasting set menu at The Secret Pantry. www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/spain

Great Rail Journeys on track in India

GREAT RAIL Journeys has added a 16-day experience on board the ultra-luxury Maharajah's Express, which includes visits to Delhi, Jaipur and Shimla and concludes with a six-day journey on the opulent train, which has been voted the World's Leading Luxury Train for seven years running.

Prices lead in at £10,995 per person for the 16-day journey across India.

www.greatrail.com/tours/the-maharajas-express





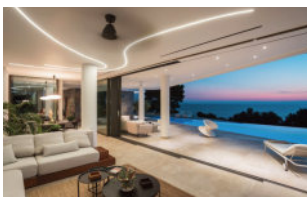
Yi Hotel opens on island of Mykonos

A NEW boutique hotel, Yi Hotel Mykonos, has opened on the hilltop of Elia Beach on the Cyclades island of Mykonos, overlooking the Aegean Sea.

Yi Hotel Mykonos has 42 rooms and suites, all with private pools and hot tubs. The hotel, which also offers a public pool, spa and gym, offers a detox from everyday life and concierge service.

A 30% Grand Opening offer is available for a limited time on all room and suite categories.

www.yihotelmykonos.com



OB Escapes adds luxury Greek villas

OLIVER BERNARD Escapes has added two luxury villas in Greece to its programme. There's the four-bedroom Villa Christina in Corfu with prices for a seven-night stay from £16,788. The five-bedroom Beach House in Halkidiki costs from £17,317 for a seven-night stay at The Beach House based on 10 people sharing.

www.obprivate.co.uk/greece

Luxury aplenty in ancestral Sardinia

IS ARENAS overlooks a 5km stretch of sandy beach, surrounded by a protected environmental area.

The hotel offers 136 rooms across four room categories: Classic Room, Superior Room, Junior Suite, and Family Suite.

The on-site facilities include a central restaurant, beach restaurant, three bars, and a wellness area with a gym.

Guests can expect attentive quality service, ideal for those looking to relax and get a taste of luxury among nature.

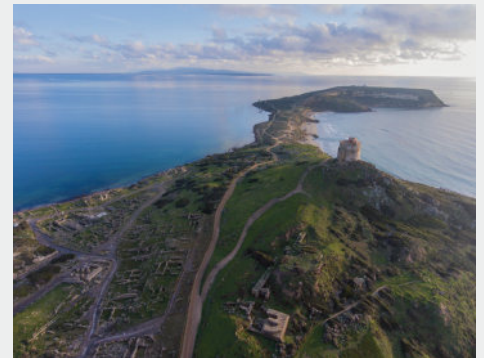
For golf enthusiasts, the hotel tees off with an adjacent 18-hole, par 72 golf course, designed by renowned architect Robert Von Hagge, Smelek & Baril. The prestigious Rolex Guide place it in first place in its ranking of Sardinian courses.

Staying at the hotel also offers access to a choice of programmes immersing

guests in ancestral Sardinia, from learning about the 'Giants of Sardinia', statues dating back three thousand years, or the region's role in cementing the Mediterranean's ancient wine-making traditions.

Stays in May 2023 start from approximately £1,060 in a Classic Room, £1113 in a Superior Room, and £1,193 in a Junior Suite.

www.isarenas.it



Leela launches curated palace trail

LUXURY INDIAN hotel group The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts has launched 'The Leela Palace Trail', a curated itinerary that celebrates India's palatial grandeur.

The trail offers multi-day itineraries to six award-winning palaces and resorts in New Delhi, Jaipur, Udaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kovalam.

Guests will be given the opportunity to marvel at the ornate Vijayanagara-inspired architecture of The Leela Palace Bengaluru, learn the culinary secrets of Rajasthan at The Leela Palace Jaipur, discover the grandeur of the royal heritage of the land of the Mewars at The Leela Palace Udaipur perched on the banks of Lake Pichola, explore lively city bazaars with The Leela Palace New Delhi, or restore inner balance with the ancient science of Ayurveda at The Leela Kovalam.

Nightly rates at The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts start at £140.

www.theleela.com

Dive into TRS Coral Hotel.



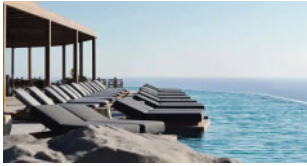
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RIVIERA MAYA (MEXICO) and IBIZA (SPAIN).



Magma Resort opens in Santorini

THE FIVE-STAR Magma Resort Santorini opened its doors recently as part of The Unbound Collection by Hyatt – the first Hyatt-affiliated resort in the Greek Islands. The 59-room property brings a sanctuary of privacy and relaxation to Santorini with features such as the largest subterranean spa on the island, private pools and a restaurant by two Michelin-star chef, Arnaud Bignon. Magma Resort Santorini is located in the quiet Vourvoulos region.

www.hyatt.com



Escape to Secret Bay for multigen stay

SECRET BAY on the Caribbean island of Dominica has put together an ultra-luxury summer Island Time travel package. The package starts at £40,109 for a seven-night stay in a Clifftop Villa Estate and includes all food, transfers, snorkelling trips, horseback riding, sea and nature experiences, concierge services and kids' entertainment. The package is commissionable and positioned for multi-generational travel.

www.secretbay.dm/package/island-time/

Sandals Halcyon adds 25 butler suites in St Lucia

SANDALS HALCYON Beach Resort in St Lucia has added to its accommodation offering with the opening of 25 butler suites.

The expansion also includes 20 Joli Beachfront Suites built right on the edge of the shore, offering a combination of luxurious rooms with walkout beach access and private pools, and second-storey accommodations with balconies featuring Tranquillity Soaking Tubs.

Five new Koko Rondoal Villas have also been intertwined among the resort and are a first for Sandals Halcyon Beach. These new suites will focus on bringing the outside in with windows that span nearly the entire wall, giving the illusion that the villa extends on to the private patio complete with a plunge pool.

Sister brand Beaches has added 12 new butler suites at its Negril, Jamaica property.

The new additions include six Firesky Reserve Villas, each with four bedrooms, private oceanfront plunge pools and rooftop decks with dining terraces. The villas can accommodate up to 10 guests.

Finally, the icing on the 2023 cake for Sandals is the opening of the Dunn's River resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica on May 24th. The 260-room property will include three new accommodation categories, 12 Global Gourmet restaurants and nine bars.

www.sandals.co.uk



Barcelona beach club with skyline views

PUROBEACH BARCELONA has rolled out its prices for the summer 2023 season.

Located on the second-floor terrace of the Hilton Diagonal Mar Barcelona, and described as an urban oasis, the luxury beach club boasts a rooftop saltwater pool; teak wood single, double, Balinese and Nomad style sunbeds; a menu of international cuisine and cocktails; a spa; two kids' pools; the Glasshouse Lounge; and views of Barcelona's skyline. The beach club also has monthly events. The pool area can accommodate 171 guests and the restaurant 56. The Glasshouse Lounge can host events for up to 500 people.

Agents are advised to pre-book day passes for sunbeds ahead of their guests' visits, and prices for 2023 lead in at £75 for a single sunbed and includes towels, free parking and a welcome tray with a smoothie, snack and mineral water. The day pass also includes two cocktails or two mocktails.

A Moët & Chandon Cabana costs £885 and includes towels, a welcome tray with a smoothie, snacks and mineral water for eight people, a Veuve Cliquot Magnum, one bottle of Grey Goose and 16 soft drinks.

www.purobeach.com/en/beach-club-barcelona

From the silver screen to Sicily

INSPIRING TRAVEL has seen an increase in demand for holidays to Sicily, particularly from families, following the second season of popular HBO series *The White Lotus*, which was filmed on the island.

The operator said that some of the luxury properties perfect for families offer discounted deals, for example, Verdura Resort in Sicily is currently offering 15% off accommodation and has a number of activities for families, including a children's football academy throughout the season, junior golf, tennis, fencing and karate all aimed at kids. The resort also hosts cooking classes for the whole family.

Also popular with families is The Annabelle in Cyprus, particularly because it has clubs for children from four months to 17 years old. The Ritz-Carlton Abama in Tenerife is also doing well due to its history as a tried and tested family brand.

The operator has also seen Ikos Resorts start 2023 off very well with its new summer openings – Ikos Porto Petro in Majorca and

Ikos Odisia in Corfu – being highly anticipated.

Agents can contact Inspiring Travel's dedicated Agent Sales Team on agentenquiries@inspiringtravel.co.uk or 01244 355500.



Wild Frontiers adds Albania cultural tour

WILD FRONTIERS has added a 12-day 'Albania Encompassed' cultural tour which combines the best of north and south.

Highlights include the Ottoman citadel of Gjirokastrë, the ancient ruins of Butrint, visits to a winery and discovering the country's heritage of mussel farming and the bunker-based art galleries of Tirana. Prices start at £2,295 and includes all meals, transport, accommodation, and entrance fees. Flights are not included in the lead-in price.

www.wildfrontierstravel.com



COMO Hotels rolls out 2023 Journeys

COMO HOTELS and Resorts has launched a series of COMO Journeys for 2023. These include the six-night 'A Leica Photo Journey' through Bhutan with Michael Turek from June 15th to 21st based at COMO Uma Paro, the 14-day 'Holistic Wellbeing Experience' with Koya Webb at COMO Cocoa Island from August 14th to 28th and the six-night 'Ground Yourself with The Curry Sisters' at COMO Castello del Nero, Tuscany from October 22nd to 28th. www.comohotels.com

Coral Tree Travel offers luxury Uganda experience

CORAL TREE Travel has put together a luxury package to celebrate 30 years since the start of gorilla tourism in Uganda.

The seven-night experience includes one night in Entebbe, three nights in the Crater Lake District near Kibale National Park and three nights in Buhoma, bordering the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Activities included are a Ugandangorillas and chimps

safari in Kibale National Park, gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest walking through pristine rainforest, followed by an hour spent in the company of a gorilla family.

Prices lead in at £4,995 per person based on two adults sharing the best value accommodation in low season.

www.coraltreetravel.com





Australasia & Pacific Islands Showcase

We headed Down Under with headline sponsor **Virgin Voyages** and Cook Islands, Travepack, Tourism Fiji, Sydney.com (Destination NSW), Fiji Airways, Tourism Australia and the Samoa Tourism Authority on April 18th in Exeter.

Prizes included a place on a fam trip with Tourism Fiji, champagne, goodie bags, beauty products and more.



Hot on the heels of our Family Holidays Showcase, we're bringing a taste of Luxury to Cheshire on May 15th and Southport on May 16th. To confirm your place or find out when we will be hosting our next event near you contact events@travelbulletin.co.uk

THAI SKY VIEWS

Two new luxury hotels are set to open in northern region of Thailand this year.



TWO NEW hotels are opening in Chiang Mai this year.

Aleenta Retreat Chiang Mai has opened as a member of The Leading Hotels of the World. This is the third property under the Aleenta brand from Thailand-based luxury boutique hotel specialist AKARYN Hotel Group. The property features 44 rooms and suites, a restaurant, bar, spa and wellness

centre featuring tailor-made wellness programmes and retreats.

Alongside complimentary daily yoga, Qi Gong, meditation and mindfulness classes, the menu of holistic wellness retreats and tailor-made programmes includes: mind balance; detoxification; total immersion yoga; healthy living; self-love; and mindful vipassana meditation. Rooms start from £182 per night for a Deluxe Balcony Room.

www.aleenta.com

As part of the strategic partnership between IHG Hotels and Resorts and Thailand's leading integrated lifestyle

real-estate group, Asset World Corporation, InterContinental Chiang Mai Mae Ping will start welcoming travellers this summer.

A contemporary escape in the heart of Chiang Mai's historic district, InterContinental Chiang Mai Mae Ping will feature 240 elegant rooms and suites, five restaurants and bars.

The hotel will curate bespoke culture-centric activities from traditional toy and umbrella-making classes to pottery workshops to further immerse guests into the indigenous Lanna culture.

www.ihg.com

Heritage Expeditions sets sail with Japan voyage

HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS has added a new cultural and art-focused exploration of Japan cruise to its 2024/25 season.

The new voyage, 'Japan's National Parks, Art and Culture', offers a circumnavigation of Japan's main island, exploring the wilderness, culture and rich history as well as the country's arts scene.

'Japan's National Parks, Art and Culture' sails from May 24th to June 8th, 2024, roundtrip from Kobe. Prices start from £10,670 per person.

www.heritage-expeditions.com

The Sarojin in Khao Lak launches multigen package

THE SAROJIN in Khao Lak has launched a new holiday to meet the rising demand for multi-generational stays.

The seven-night 'Summer Family Fun' package is bookable in a Jacuzzi Pool Suite for up to four people sharing, or a two-bedroom Pool Residence for up to six people sharing with up to 30% off additional rooms.

Prices start at £2,850.

www.sarojin.com





Banyan to double global footprint

THE SINGAPORE-based Banyan Tree Group ended 2022 with 63 properties across its global portfolio. With the addition of eight newly-built hotels, the brand is on track to double its footprint by 2025, expanding its presence into 23 countries.

"Our development pipeline to 2025 will deliver 50 new hotel openings or conversions, bringing the Group's global portfolio to 113 hotels," said Eddy See, president and chief executive officer.

www.banyantree.com



Japan expands sustainable fleet

JAPAN AIRLINES has finalised an order for 21 fuel-efficient 737-8 jets in order to strengthen its domestic and regional network as passenger traffic continues to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The 737-8 will provide the airline with greater range and fuel-efficiency, reducing fuel-use and carbon emissions by 15%, as well as lessening its noise pollution compared to the previous aircrafts. www.jal.co.jp

Experience southern Thailand with SAii

SAII RESORTS offers guests an experience-oriented holiday, creating a gateway for curious travellers to discover different cultures, explore new environments and try activities they had only dreamed about.

The eco-sensitive SAii Phi Phi Island Village is nestled in 70 acres of tropical gardens on Koh Phi Phi Don in southern Thailand. Wildlife and nature lovers can take part in 'Save Our Sharks' initiatives, where they can incubate eggs and release juvenile sharks back into the wild, while active travellers can head out and explore the enchanting marine environment, with mangrove expeditions and expert-led boat trips. Prices for the resort start at around £123 per night.

The free-spirited SAii Laguna Phuket resort is jam-packed with activities the whole family can enjoy, including a water sports hub, floodlit tennis courts, swimming pools, waterslides, archery ranges, and mountain bike rentals, among many more.



Children can also partake in the Mafeung & Mafaiis Junior Beach Club & Camp, where they can release their energy in Thai boxing and Zumba classes, and get creative with canvas painting and cookie making. Prices for the resort start at around £108 per night.

www.saiiresorts.com

JW Marriott debuts in ancient China

JW MARRIOTT has announced the opening of the brand's latest hotel, JW Marriott Hotel Xi'an, taking residence in the ancient Chinese city of Xi'an.

Incorporating the beauty of the city that is home to six UNESCO World Heritage sites and the sophistication and luxury of the JW Marriott brand, the hotel will commit to holistic well-being practices and empower guests to revitalise their mind and body.

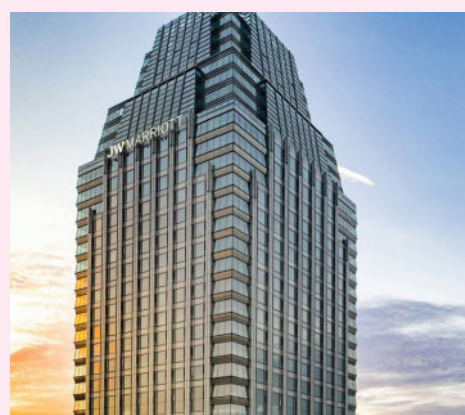
"We are thrilled to debut JW Marriott Hotel Xi'an and expand the JW brand portfolio into a destination where history

and culture combine with a forward-looking modernity," said Bruce Rohr, vice president and global brand leader, JW Marriott.

"We look forward to welcoming our guests to explore and discover beautiful Xi'an, one of China's Four Great Ancient Capitals with its fascinating blend of timeless culture, as they foster meaningful connections and experience every moment to the fullest."

The hotel features 333 guest rooms, including 13 suites, all of which feature floor-to-ceiling windows to take in the panoramic views of the Qin Ling Mountains overlooking the city. There are also two dining options available for guests: the Jin Wei Courth Chinese Restaurant, showcasing the finest of Cantonese cuisines, and the JW Kitchen, offering an à la carte- and buffet-style dining experience.

www.marriott.com





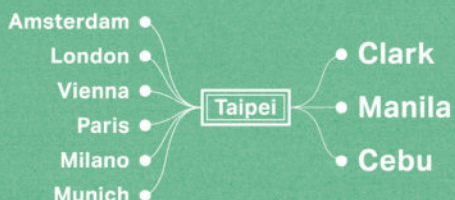
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Aqua offers intimacy and immersion

TO AQUA Expeditions, every day is a chance to celebrate Earth Day. The small luxury ship expedition company offers guests the chance to witness some of the world’s most biodiverse regions, including the Mekong River in southeast Asia and the Coral Triangle in eastern Indonesia.

The five-ship fleet prides itself on offering its guests intimate, exclusive and immersive experiences unlike anywhere else on the planet, and with a 1:1 ration of crew-to-guests, each experience is ultra-personalised and tailored to fit the needs and desires of the traveller.

Aqua has paved the way for sustainable river and sea exploration by educating crews, guests and locals on how to protect the ecosystems while experiencing them to the fullest. The company strives to combine the joy of travelling with the

preservation of the landscape, so alongside the full roster of snorkelling, hiking, kayaking, and paddleboarding activities, Aqua also urges guests to take part in initiatives such as wildlife conservation, fish rehabilitation, turtle releases and reforestation, in order to give back to the planet.

www.aquaexpeditions.com



The free spirits of the Socialtel

SOCIALTEL KOH Samui invites travellers to experience a new style of hospitality in its 272-bed property. The design-led, adults-only property is located in the beating heart of Samui’s entertainment district, ideal for travellers wishing to party the night away. Guests can unleash their inner child in the SandBox, an outdoor playground for grown-ups, complete with pink sand and bubbling foam parties. The property is also home to Socialtel’s Powder Room, Samui’s first and only speakeasy for guests who aren’t ready to stop the party.

www.socialtel.com

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TIMINGS

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6:00 ^{PM}	6:25 ^{PM}	6:30 ^{PM}	7:30 ^{PM}	8:15 ^{PM}	9:15 - 9:30 ^{PM}

THESE EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY
and will be booked on a first come first served basis with limited space available.



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events@travelbulletin.co.uk or Telephone: **020 7973 0136**

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