

Travel bulletin

Giving agents the edge

Spa & Wellness

A whole new generation of travellers are looking to relax and indulge: what is out there for wellness seekers?



MORE IN...

Solo Travel

More travellers than ever are willing to brave it alone: but what awaits on a solo escape? **Pg. 13**

Industry Insight

LATA's chairman kicks off our *Latin America* feature with the latest regional insights **Pg. 19**



How this Hays Travel agent is making the most of the solo travel rise **(Pg. 10)**



Brilliant
For You

PUT SOME WINS IN YOUR SAILS

Celebrating First Mate Appreciation Month

At Virgin Voyages, we're indebted to our incredibly hard working First Mates who bring us the best Sailors on the high seas. July is First Mate Appreciation Month and we'd love to express our gratitude for your dedication beyond our Brilliant For You incentives. Every booking made this month for a 2024-2025 voyage earns you £50 plus enters you in a once a week raffle (drawn 4 times) to win even more cash.

**Your sales fill our sails (and our hearts)
and we couldn't be more honored to work with you.**



FIRST
MATE | *Loat*
LOTTO
BY VIRGIN VOYAGES

LEARN MORE AT [FIRSTMATES.COM](https://firstmates.com)



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Every update and development in the travel trade world to keep you in the loop.



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Win a £20 M&S voucher by playing our sudoku!



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The very best solo soirées from around the globe.



INDUSTRY INSIGHT
Martin Johnson celebrates a year as LATA chair with a roundup of regional insights.



20 LATIN AMERICA
From Mexico to Montevideo and everything in between.

BREAK AWAY FROM THE UK

Research has found that more Brits than ever before are looking to travel abroad this year.

WHETHER IS it the loss of the Euros hanging in the air or the poor UK weather threatening the summer ahead, research conducted by travel insurance company AllClear has found that a record number of British holidaymakers (83%) are looking to travel abroad this season.

Data was collated from more than 2,000 adults who are considering a trip overseas this summer; the results found that beach holidays (45%) and hotel/pool stays (30%) remained a firm favourite as people seek to get away from everyday life. It was also noted that cruise holidays remained a popular choice for over 55s (11%).

Similarly documented was the vast shift in travel styles this year, particularly in regard to the resurgence of short and city breaks. The holiday type hit a two-year high this summer, up from 17% in 2022 to 30% this year. In

relation, it appears a lot of the increased demand stems from couples wanting a whirlwind weekend of love as romantic breaks also show an year-on-year increase, up from 8% to 13% over the last two years.

Beyond city breaks, walking holidays are also increasing in popularity, up to 15% this year compared to 6% in June 2022; and travelling for music festivals and events has witnessed a boost, rising from 4% to 9% in two years.

And where are the Brits hoping to travel this summer? The Mediterranean remains the dominant choice, however, AllClear did note a rise in popularity for cooler temperatures. Interest in Scandinavian countries has doubled over the last two years (from 7% to 14%), and the allure of Eastern Europe is also rising, rising from 5% to 10% this summer.

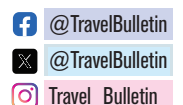


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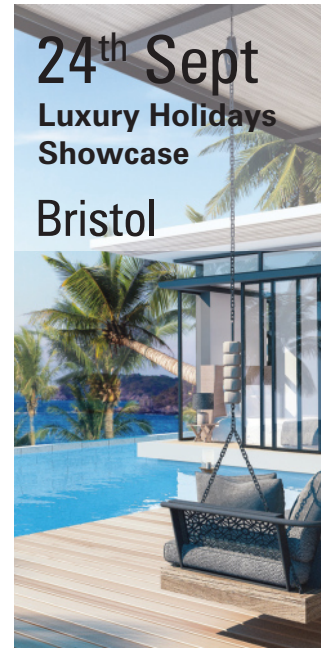




16th Sept
Adventure & Activity Showcase
Manchester



23rd Sept
Luxury Holidays Showcase
Exeter



24th Sept
Luxury Holidays Showcase
Bristol



17th Sept
Adventure & Activity Showcase
Nottingham

Danube debut for TUI River Cruises

NOVEMBER 2025 will see *TUI Maya* make TUI River Cruises' debut on the Danube, with a range of four- and five-night itineraries available throughout the festive season. Katy Berzins, TUI River Cruises' head of river cruises, said the winter programme is "giving customers the chance to explore even more cities during the festive period for the very first time. By

introducing the new four-night sailings down the Danube and Rhine, it will offer a chance for new-to-cruise customers to experience our fleet for the first time for a shorter duration."

Itineraries went on sale on July 18th, 2024, alongside Marella Cruises' winter 2025 programme.

www.tui.co.uk/river-cruises



Classic Collection welcomes Caribbean addition

AFTER CEMENTING its place as "a 100% trade-focused operator" with its recent brand alignment, Classic Collection's Caribbean portfolio has welcomed the addition of 13 three-, four- and five-star hotels across seven resort areas in Aruba.

Si Morris-Green, the operator's B2B director, noted that, "Aruba is one of those slightly under-the-radar Caribbean destinations, but one which really piques the interest of our travel agent partners and their customers." www.classic-collection.co.uk

Manchester Airport Terminal 2 nears 30 million flyers

THE FIRST flights from Manchester Airport's new-look Terminal 2 departed three years ago this month; it has since welcomed 29.2 million flyers through its gates.

21 airlines now operate flights from the refurbished terminal, which was expanded by over 150% in the first phase of its £1.3 billion transformation project.

Those 21 airlines serve 109 destinations from Terminal 2; new routes to Las Vegas and Shanghai have launched in the last few months alone.

Chris Woodroffe, the airport's managing director, described Terminal 2's growth as "incredible" since the refurbishment. "We're proud of the high-quality experience it delivers – reflected in a recent independent survey where 86% of passengers considered their experience to be good, very good or excellent."

www.manchesterairport.co.uk

42% sales increase and 15 new recruits for PTCs

THE PERSONAL Travel Consultants in partnership with Blue Bay Travel has celebrated a 42% increase in sales between January and June (against 2023) and has already recruited 15 new homeworking members.

Summer sales so far appear to show a strong late-booking market, with 50% of sales made up by late bookings in the last three months.

Abbie Heaton, The Personal Travel Consultants in Partnership with Blue Bay Travel's group manager, described the hard work of homeworkers as "transformative and instrumental," continuing, "It's an exciting time for the business and it is really rewarding to see our consultants reaping the financial rewards of the robust, personal relationships they have built with their clients."

The consortium's next two induction rounds are already filled.

www.personaltravelconsultants.com



Audley Travel uncovers promising research on luxury clientele

AUDLEY TRAVEL'S exclusive, invitation-only Audley Private Concierge label has commissioned market research into the booking habits and trends evident among high net-worth individuals (HNWIs), with promising insights for luxury sellers.

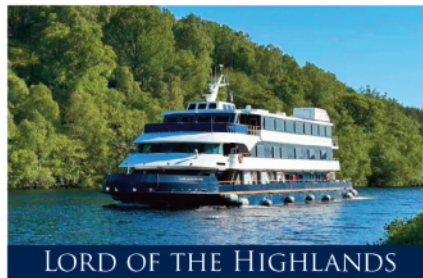
50% of HNWIs plan to take two or three international holidays in the next year. Only 3% have no intentions of travelling abroad. Younger individuals appear to be more inclined to head abroad; 12% of 18-to-34-year-olds and 15% of 35-to-54-year-olds plan to travel six or more times. That figure is almost halved (8%) for over-55s.

Despite the variety in intention, almost two in three HNWI households (64%) spend over £40,000 annually on travel. More than two-thirds (69%) spend over £25,000 per person.

Again, younger individuals appear to be more willing to stretch their pound and splash more on travel: 40% of 55-and-overs spend less than £9,999; 15% of 18-to-34-year-olds spend more than £50,000 per person. www.audleytravel.com

Image Credits: Canva Pro

PIONEERS OF SMALL SHIP CRUISING



Hebridean Island Cruises, the luxury Scottish cruise operator, has launched a new training platform hosted by OTT (Online Travel Training).
For your chance to win a cruise for two on any Hebridean vessel, scan the QR code and complete the training course by the 30th September 2024.



Inspire My Holiday team makes trade commitment

INSPIRE MY Holiday's new trade site, which according to founder Olly Lomas the brand has "always had... on the roadmap," invites agents to quickly match clients' needs to destinations and showcases bookable trade partners.

Building on the success of



its consumer site which matches holiday type, season and duration with the ideal destination for those categories, the new trade hub is free to join and not only connects needs to suitable matches but also showcases current offers and incentives.

Partner brands accessible on the site include Gold Medal, Riviera Travel, Wendy Wu Tours, Fred. Holidays, Windstar Cruises and Latin Routes.

Lomas continued, "With so many new recruits to the industry it felt like the perfect time to launch."

"Registering for the site will be free for agents and we are committed to supporting all travel sales professionals whether they're part of a high street agency or an independent homeworking travel agent."

Prizes worth up to £1,000 will be given away to agents registering this month.

www.inspiremyholidaytradehub.com



DISNEY ENCHANTED Christmas will return to the Disneyland Paris from November 9th, 2024 until January 6th, 2025. Bringing a whole host of classic festive traditions to the park, the celebration will see no seasonal stone left unturned with decorations adorning Main Street U.S.A. and beyond. www.disneytravelagents.co.uk

Journey Latin America unveils North American brand

AFTER ANNOUNCING the brand earlier this month, Journey Latin America's North American brand, Journeyscape, has launched its range of USA and Canada tours to agents.

Over 60 itineraries are available at launch, curated by the West London-based team of experts.

Journeyscape's business development manager, Laura Rendell-Dunn, said, "I'm incredibly excited and proud to showcase

Journeyscape's extraordinary variety of innovative holidays to our trade partners, and with an ever-increasing appetite to visit the USA and Canada, I look forward to supporting the trade with their enquiries."

The first 10 agents who book Journeyscape holidays worth £2,000 per person or more by December 31st, 2024 will win a case of premium Californian wine.

www.journeyscape.com

TTC closes century-long family-owned chapter

APOLLO, A private equity firm, and TTC have entered into a definitive agreement for Apollo-managed funds to acquire TTC.

The transaction spans 18 leading brands under the TTC umbrella, including Uniworld, Trafalgar, Contiki and more. The Red Carnation Hotel Collection and others will remain under the Tollman family's ownership.

TTC chairman Brett Tollman said, "The time has come in our strategic succession plan to select a new owner with a proven track record and who shares in our vision and customer-first values." www.ttc.com



Avani celebrates Frankfurt's techno history

AVANI FRANKFURT City Hotel has introduced four new experiences (mixology classes, art lessons, walking tours and water bike rides) celebrating Frankfurt's musical history. Experiences start from £25 per person for the Silent Techno Walking Tour.

www.avanihotels.com

AGENT INCENTIVES

- CUNARD'S INCENTIVE** sees agents earn double points on any transatlantic and Caribbean sailings departing next year. Running until midnight on August 12th, 2024, agents must register on Shine Rewards and 'play' any and all Cunard Fare bookings to double their points and be in with a chance of winning a sailing of their own. www.ShineRewardsClub.com
- AMAWATERWAYS IS** offering agents booking a French itinerary during the Olympic/Paralympic Games the chance to win a free European river cruise of their own. All agents need to do to enter is make a French river cruise booking; qualification is automatic and the winner will be chosen at random. A second place prize (a case of French wine) will be awarded to an agent booking in the same period. Andrea Stafford, AmaWaterways' sales director, said, "The agent community has a great opportunity to capitalise on France's high profile and not only earn themselves commission but win prizes." www.amawaterways.co.uk
- P&O CRUISES** is doubling Shine rewards points on bookings until August 16th, 2024. Ruth Venn, the cruise line's sales director, said, "We know our agents love to get onboard our ships and enjoy their own P&O Cruises experience, which is why we're excited to bring back our 'Holiday with Shine' offer and make booking even more rewarding." www.ShineRewardsClub.com
- CIVITATIS IS** celebrating the contributions of agents to the platform with a wealth of prizes worth over £16,000 on offer to agents booking until September 15th, 2024. www.civitatis.com/en/agencies/



TRAVEL BULLETIN saw in the summer with the Cyprus Deputy Ministry of Tourism at the Cyprus High Commission!

AGENT TRAINING

A MONTHLY £50 voucher will be rewarded to an agent registering for New Smyrna Beach's training course and completing modules one and two. www.tourismgivesback.com/courses-archive/nsb-insider/

HEBRIDEAN ISLAND Cruises' new training course features the chance to win a cruise for two aboard any of the cruise line's ships when completed by September 30th, 2024. Those who aren't lucky enough to win are guaranteed unmatched insights into the luxury line. www.shorturl.at/MyMjq

WUNIVERSITY GIVES agents access to a host of modules to get up to speed with all things Wendy Wu Tours. Completion of all modules earns agents a 'Wendy Wu Specialist' pin badge and digital logo. www.wendywutours.co.uk/agents/login.htm

Travelbulletin SHOWCASES

Celebrate Australia with Travel Bulletin and Tourism Australia, plus the finest suppliers from down under!

Find out more at www.travelbulletin.co.uk/events/agents



A suite of advisor tools including an expanded advisor site, learning platform and marketing assets.



CONFIDANT LEARNING

Inclusive Collection online educational platform and webinars



CONFIDANT RATES

Inclusive Collection discounted travel advisor rates



Become an Inclusive Collection *Confidant*.

<https://confidant.hyattinclusivecollection.com/en/>



Discover The Palm Beaches reports 12% UK visitor increase

TRAVEL BULLETIN recently sat down with Discover The Palm Beaches' associate vice president of global leisure sales, Erick Garnica, to discuss the success of the board's in-house trade training portal and how that correlates with the booming post-pandemic surge



in British visitors.

"From the UK specifically, we had 37,000 British travellers in 2023. That was an increase of 2.3% compared to 2019," Erick stated.

"We do have the numbers for the first quarter of 2024, so we are happy to report that so far from January to March, there has been 11,800 UK visitors, so that is nearly a 12% increase compared to the same time last year."

To capitalise on this growth, Discover the Palm Beaches launched a dedicated trade training portal earlier this year. We think a platform like this is important for educational purposes. A lot of people still don't know what the Palm Beaches is, so it has been a lot of education over the years. It is important advisors have the right tools available, understand what we are as a destination so they can continue to give us that increase in visitation.

Read the full interview at www.travelbulletin.co.uk



DUSIT INTERNATIONAL has revealed that flagship property Dusit Thani Bangkok will reopen its doors on September 27th, 2024, with an elevated new look which promises to enhance guest experiences. All 257 guest rooms now boast uninterrupted views of Lumpini Park. www.dusit.com

APT launches inaugural small group travel style

APT HAS launched its 2025 Worldwide Touring Brochure, with the latest iteration featuring the inaugural Small Group Journeys travel style and four brand-new destinations.

The new collection has been carefully curated to offer more intimate and immersive experiences for the 16 travellers who embark on these itineraries. The touring style has also allowed APT to expand into South Africa for the first time, as well as reinstate options in

Sri Lanka, Japan and India.

To celebrate the launch, APT is offering £500 savings per person on all new Small Group Journey package bookings made before October 31st, 2024.

Laura Hughes, APT & Travelmarvel's touring product manager, said the new product aims to "connect guests more deeply with each place they visit."

www.aptouring.co.uk

Newmarket launches Wimbledon 2025 tours early

SERVING OFF the back of a successful Wimbledon 2024, Newmarket Holidays is hoping to help agents get an early advantage for next year's tournament by launching its escorted tour packages for 2025.

Two- and three-day options are on offer for Wimbledon 2025; the 'Classic' options include reserved No. 1 Court seats with bed-and-breakfast accommodation on the outskirts of the city, while 'London Break' packages blend tickets with a central London hotel. Prices lead in at £279 per person, with a 10% early booking saving and guaranteed best seat reservations until August 15th, 2024 when using the code 'WIMBLEDON'.

www.newmarketholidays.co.uk



Jet2 brings forward Bournemouth launch

DUE TO popular demand, Jet2.com and Jet2holidays have brought forward the launch of flights from Bournemouth Airport to early 2025, allowing travellers the chance to enjoy the winter sun in the Canary Islands from February 4th, 2025. www.jet2.com

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 Thursday, July 25th. Solution and new puzzle will appear next week.

July 12th Solution: A=3 B=8 C=4 D=7

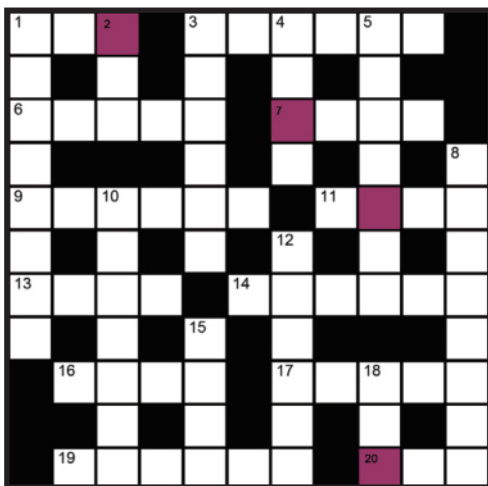
A	2	1					9		5
	7	8				3	4		1
			5	7	2	1		3	
B						8	2		9
			9	2		5	8		
C	8		4	3					
		5		1	4	2	3		
	3		2	5				8	4
D	9		1					6	2



WHERE AM I?

TRAVELLERS TO this destination are encouraged to remain en-garde as duelling remains a legal practice here, but don't let it distract from discovering the abundance of wildlife and picturesque scenery.

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



- Across**
- 1 Spanish owned Hotels and Resorts company (3)
 - 3 Coldplay vocalist Chris ____ (6)
 - 6 The ____ is London's iconic landmark and the tallest building in Western Europe (5)
 - 7 Lome is the capital (4)
 - 9 Small emirate nestled between Iraq and Saudi Arabia (6)
 - 11 Somerset city and tourist attraction, sounds just the place to soak up some history (4)
 - 13 One of Cunard's Queens (4)
 - 14 Merseyside beach area famous for Antony Gormley statues (6)
 - 16 Famous Paris fashion house (4)
 - 17 Country on the West Coast of Africa (5)
 - 19 Capital of North Macedonia (6)
 - 20 Plymouth park where Sir Francis Drake is said to have played a legendary game of bowls (3)

- Down**
- 1 Known for his Extreme World programmes and presenting Bridge of Lies (4,4)
 - 2 Country comprising 50 states, initially (3)
 - 3 Popular European capital city-break destination (6)
 - 4 Singer/songwriter and judge on The Masked Singer ____ Ora (4)
 - 5 Tour operator and part of the Hotelplan Group (7)
 - 8 State capital of Wyoming (8)
 - 10 English city and famous medieval castle on the river Avon (7)
 - 12 Czech Airlines city HQ (6)
 - 15 A journey or a stumble (4)
 - 18 Bahrain international airport code (3)

CROSSWORD

Mystery Word: UTAH
Down: 1 ROSS KEMP, 2 USA, 3 MADRID, 4 RITA, 5 INGHAMS, 8 CHEYENNE, 10 WARMWICK, 12 PRAGUE, 15 TRIP, 18 BAH.
Across: 1 RIU, 3 MARTIN, 6 SHARD, 7 TOGO, 9 KUWAIT, 11 BATH, 13 MARY, 14 CROSBY, 16 DIOR, 17 GABON, 19 SKOPJE, 20 HOE.



AGENT INSIGHT

RYAN EVANS

HAYS TRAVEL KEEL SQUARE

IN RECENT years, solo travel has expanded from a relatively niche form of holidaying to an incredibly popular and accessible way of seeing the world for a variety of travellers. Tour operators have noticed the demand in the post-Covid market; travellers are increasingly interested in bucket-list holidays. In previous years, an extortionate single occupancy supplement would often dissuade customers from travelling alone, but this is changing as tour operators look to accommodate solos. Whether through the promotion of solo traveller discount codes or the provision of dedicated rooms for single occupancy, tour operators are looking to ensure that travel can be accessible to all demographics.

These measures are becoming increasingly common throughout the travel industry, with operators such as TUI and Jet2 offering discounts ranging from £30 to £100 for solo travellers. Elsewhere, operators such as Titan and Newmarket are offering dedicated solo traveller dates. This allows individuals to experience even the most far-flung destinations, such as Japan and India, while in the safety and company of a group of fellow solo travellers. These accommodations have opened up the world to many who may have previously been daunted by the prospect.

I've found that a notable favourite for solo travellers lies within the cruise industry. The sociable nature of cruising, as well as the vast availability of single occupancy cabins, ensures comfort, reassurance, and affordability for those looking for their first solo trip. Many of these passengers form lasting friendships, and it's not uncommon for people to arrange future holidays with one another.

There is little doubt that this trend will continue to be recognised by tour operators and, as travel agents, we take great comfort in knowing that we can always find the ideal holiday for our solo travelling customers.



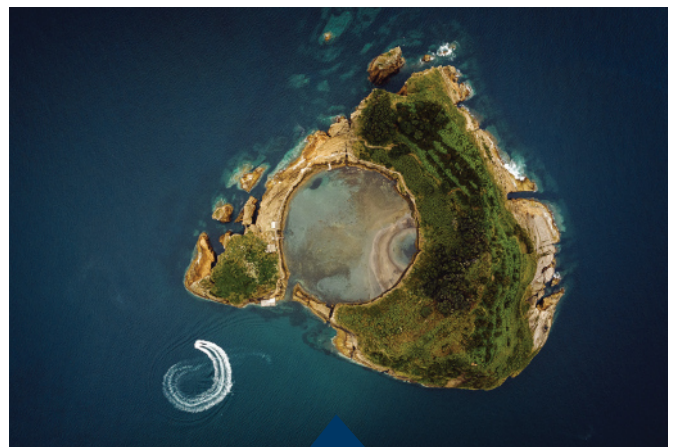
Ras Al Khaimah set to welcome new Hilton in 2026

HILTON'S FLAGSHIP brand is set to arrive in the northernmost Emirate in Q4 2026, adding 350 keys and expanding its 80-hotel Middle Eastern portfolio. 315 spacious king rooms and 35 suites will adorn the Hilton Marjan Island Beach Resort & Spa when it opens, along with six restaurants and bars and a whole host of facilities overlooking the Arabian Gulf. The property will bring Hilton's UAE presence to a 36-hotel-strong one, with five in Ras Al Khaimah alone.

www.hilton.com

News Bites

- NATIONAL HOLIDAYS has doubled capacity on its "all but sold out" range of Harry Potter tours
- DISNEY HAS announced an agreement with the Oriental Land Co., the current operators of the Tokyo Disney Resort, promising to build a Japan-based cruise ship by the end of the decade
- MSC CRUISES' fly-cruise range for next summer has seen 30% extra capacity, with flights from a range of UK bases



ORIGINAL DIVING'S new collection of 'Short Break Dives' allows guests to dip their toes into the world of diving on four- and five-day itineraries to short-haul dive spots in the Azores, Iceland, Gozo, Oman and Egypt. Each trip blends both sub-surface diving and a bucket-list trip above land, from whale-watching to geothermal pool bathing.

www.originaldiving.com

MSC Cruises reports last-minute booking surge as Brits escape the weather

MSC CRUISES has reported a 30% surge in last-minute bookings for August and September compared to the same period last year as the dreary British weather continues to drive late summer bookings.

Antonio Paradiso, VP of international sales and managing director of UK & Ireland, said, "Our sailings from Southampton are always in demand, but this year's dismal UK weather has driven even more Brits to seek an

immediate escape. Those looking for a quick getaway should book soon as the sailings are selling fast."

MSC Cruises offers an array of August departures aboard *MSC Virtuosa* to destinations seeped in the sun, including the Iberian Coast, Canary Islands, Madeira, Northern Europe and Morocco, as well as an itinerary to the Norwegian Fjords.

www.msccruises.co.uk



Riviera wins the Euros with bookings boost

WHILE THE Euros left a sour taste across the country, Riviera Travel were the real winners as the operator reported a 20% rise in German river cruise bookings during the 2024 tournament.

Will Sarson, Riviera Travel's product director, said, "While the end result was not the one all England fans were hoping for, it is clear that many who tuned into the games over the last four weeks were also thinking about their next holiday while the action was taking place."

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



P&O Cruises announces two-day mini break

P&O CRUISES has announced its ship *Iona* will offer a brand new two-night sailing from Southampton on October 23rd, 2025, allowing travellers to enjoy a mid-week escape on the high seas.

Guests will spend two nights onboard the vessel where they can take advantage of 30 restaurants and bars, four pools and 10 entertainment venues. For an elevated experience, *Iona* features more than 20 suites which feature a full-size whirlpool bath; butler service; a welcome service with champagne; priority check-in and boarding; and access to an exclusive restaurant for breakfast.

The two-night sailings lead in from £249 per person based on two people sharing an inside cabin, and £649 per person based on two people sharing a suite. Prices include access to the children's clubs, full-board meals and entertainment. www.shinerewardsclub.com



Virgin Limited Edition joins Legend Collection

PREFERRED HOTELS & Resorts has announced a strategic partnership with Virgin Limited Edition to promote its Legend Collection with immediate effect. The collection boasts properties from around the globe that offer guests an unparalleled stay that features high-end accommodations, intuitive personal service and opulent dining experiences. www.preferredhotels.com

AIUla earns milestone Destination International accreditation

THE ANCIENT city of AIUla has been rewarded with a milestone achievement as it becomes the first destination in the Middle East to be accredited by Destinations International.

The accreditation falls under the Destination Marketing Accreditation Programme, an industry standard for 'quality and professionalism' among destination organisations.

Phillip Jones, chief tourism officer at the Royal Commission for AIUla, said,



"Completing the DMAP is a significant milestone for AIUla as we strive to develop a tourism industry and eco-system that is best-in-class and future-thinking."

www.experiencealula.com



Travel Bulletin
CELEBRATE LUXURY

Gran Canaria PURE GRENADA GB THERMAE HOTELS
The Spice of the Caribbean Albano Terme, Italy

SO/ MALDIVES

ZEUS GRECOTEL
HOTELS & RESORTS WORLD OF HYATT
Inclusive COLLECTION



Celebrate Luxury

THE SECOND in our brand-new series of Celebrate Luxury events invited some of Surrey's top-selling agents to Great Fosters in Egham for an activity- and networking-packed day.

Our luxury supplier partners included Gran Canaria, Pure Grenada, GB Thermae Hotels, SO/ Maldives, Zeus International Hotels & Resorts, GrecoTel Hotels & Resorts and World of Hyatt Inclusive Collection.



TIMELESS TREASURES

Solos Holidays is offering single travellers the chance to embark on a journey through Ancient Egypt.



IT IS time to transport your clients way back in time to discover the treasures of Ancient Egypt with Solo Holidays. Guests will be encouraged to embrace the past and travel on a journey through time and grandeur while uncovering the mysteries of the land. Meet up with likeminded history buffs

Solo supplements celebrate Ama-versary

AMAWATERWAYS IS celebrating its 22nd year of operation by announcing a series of exclusive offers across its 2024 and 2025 sailings. Travellers can enjoy up to 20% off across 46 European itineraries departing in 2024 and 2025, with savings of up to £2,215 per person up for grabs, and solo travellers can also benefit with single supplement offers ranging from 0% to 25% on select departures. The offers are available on any new bookings made by August 31st, 2024. A further 100 departures are also eligible for the 'Summer Trip Savings' which combines three offers into one. www.amawaterways.co.uk

or those who simply want to see a corner of the world where the sands of time stopped still.

Travellers will witness the ancient wonders of the Great Pyramids of Giza, explore the Valley of the Kings and have the chance to soak up the winter sun by the Red Sea. Travellers will spend some time in the modern-day city of Cairo before flying to Aswan to embark on a tour of the Temples of Isis at Philae.

Afterwards, guests will be treated to a three-night cruise along the Nile to Luxor, where they will walk through the Valley of the Kings and learn the history of the royal burial ground that is home

to at least 63 tombs for the past Pharaohs of Egypt – including Tutankhamun, Ramses II and Seti I.

The nine-night 'Timeless Treasures of Egypt Tour' will depart on November 5th, 2024, with prices leading in from £2,429 per person. The package includes return flights and transfers, Solos board, a double twin room in Cairo and Hurghada, the three-night Nile cruise with a main deck cabin, guided tours of Cairo, Aswan and Luxor, and an accompanying Solos tour leader who specialises in Egyptian history.

www.solosholidays.co.uk

Final call on Wendy Wu's free single supplements

IT IS the last chance to take advantage of Wendy Wu Tours' free single supplement offer for solo travellers on select tours to Japan in October and November 2024.

Travellers can save up to £1,900 per person across an array of itineraries, including the 17-day 'Japan Uncovered', the 21-day 'Japan by Rail', the 11-day 'Jewels of Japan', and the 13-day 'Japan & the Scenic South'. www.wendywutours.co.uk





Solo cruise: not just a short-haul affair

SOLO TRAVELLERS can now discover the captivating beauty of French Polynesia and Tahiti with no single supplements as Variety Cruises is offering exclusive rates and discounts for a selection of Tahiti cruises.

Guests can depart on the seven-night 'Tahiti & the Pearls of French Polynesia' cruise from £1,000 per person on a round-trip voyage from Papeete port. Travellers will uncover the world-famous Society Islands of French Polynesia by small ship, including visits to Bora Bora, Taha'a, Moorea, Huahine and Raiatea.

The shore excursions available include the 'Le Truck' tour in Bora Bora, the opportunity to discover the Faaroa River in Raiatea, and an island tour of Moorea, with a stop at the Belvedere lookout. Departures for the cruise run from July to October 2024, with the no single supplements offer included on all departures.

www.varietycruises.com

Just You and Europe

EXPLORE MORE of Europe for less with Just You offering up to £200 off for a selection of its 2024 popular solo travel experiences.

Some of the itineraries included in the offer are the eight-day 'Secret Slovenia' tour, now priced from £1,799 where guests will take guided tours of Kranjska Gora and Ljubljana, take a pletna boat ride to Lake Bled's island, and enjoy a cable-car ride up Mount Vogel.

The eight-day 'Discover Sicily' itinerary takes guests on a journey through the island's gems, including a cable-car ride up Mount Etna, the chance to try Palermo street food, and visits to the Greco-Roman theatre in Taormina, the Monreale Cathedral in Palermo and the seaside town of Cefalu. Prices lead in from £1,849.

For a festive period with a twist, the eight-day 'Andalucia at Christmas' tour allows guests to spend the jolly season in Spain. Guests can discover Picasso's birthplace,



visit the clifftop town of Ronda, and discover the hilltop Frigilana village in the Almirajara Mountains. Prices lead in from £1,999, with a festive meal provided on Christmas Day.

www.justyou.co.uk

Solo in Scotland with Shearings

AS PART of Shearings latest batch of tours announced last month, four new Solo Traveller UK tours were introduced for Scotland, the Lake District and Devon, as well as new tour in Europe.

The five-day 'Loch Ness and Inverness' itinerary will take guests on a journey of the Scottish Highlands, with highlights including a cruise of the famous Loch and a train journey through the Cairngorm National Park. Prices lead in from £659 per

person, with no single supplement.

Travellers can take in the beauty of the Lake District on the new five-day itinerary, including a cruise of Lake Windermere and visits to Keswick and Grasmere gardens from £659 per person. In Devon, the five-day 'Delights of the British Riviera' will showcase the very best of the English Riviera, with a cruise from Plymouth harbour and a spot of Devon cream tea, with a special visit to Torquay. Prices lead in from £579 per person.

The new European itinerary, the nine-day 'Italian and French Riviervas' tour takes guests along the sandy beaches and windy streets of Alassio along the Italian coast, before they have the chance to explore Monte Carlo and Monaco, Portofino and Menton. Prices lead in from £1,369 per person.

www.shearings.com



Time's almost up on Swan Hellenic's select solo savers

IT IS your last chance to take advantage of Swan Hellenic's exclusive offers for selected holidays, including the 15-night 'Canadian Arctic & Northern Lights' voyage which is only available through phone bookings. Until August 2024, single supplements have been waived for this itinerary.

Guests will sail from Greenland through the iceberg capital of the world and witness the ice caps and fjords in all their glory during peak season. Travellers will be able to watch out for polar bears and caribou on the northern Canadian coast, as well as hear about the region's rich cultural history first-hand from the Indigenous Inuit people while wandering through ancestral homelands.

Guests will visit Kangerlussuaq, Qeqertarsuaq, Disko Bay, Sisilmiut, Nuuk, IQALUIT-NU, Lady Franklin Island, Torngat Mountains National Park, Hebron, L'anse

aux Meadows and Bonne Bay, before ending the voyage in Halifax. Prices for the voyage lead in from £3,812 per person, including return regional flights to the port, one-night pre-cruise accommodation, full board during the voyage, lecture programmes with experienced expedition teams and guest speakers, and one selected shore excursion per port.

www.swanhellenic.com



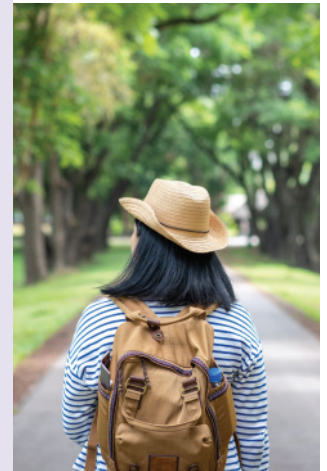
Luxury liner set to welcome solos from 2028

EXPERIENCE CRUISE line Crystal has commissioned the construction of two high-end luxury vessels. The 690-passenger ships will host an array of innovative designs and amenities, including all-suite accommodation with private verandas, as well as the popular single occupancy

category with verandas perfectly designed for solo travellers looking for that touch of private opulence on the high seas.

The delivery of the first ship is expected for spring 2028, with the second vessel following shortly afterwards.

www.crystalcruises.com



Female travellers rise the ranks

WOMEN ARE going it alone as new data collected by travel intelligence company Mabrian Technologies and The Data Appeal Company shows there has been a 14% increase in solo female travellers over the last year.

With European women leading the charge, data has found that over 30% of German and British travellers who have booked flights this summer are female solo holidaymakers. In terms of destinations, Germany, Italy and Spain round out the top three, with the UK, France, the US, Japan, Poland, Brazil and Australia following just behind.

Safety, alongside a variety of experiences available in the destination, are the key driving factors for female solo travellers. Due to this, urban and cosmopolitan cities are the most popular choice for this demographic as they offer a rich combination of wish-list attractions and cultural experiences.

www.dataappeal.io

Image Credits: Top Left: Swan Hellenic, Bottom Left: Crystal, Top Right: Adobe Stock

MINDFULNESS IN THE MALDIVES

Often deemed the most luxurious destination to escape, the Maldives promises guests a relaxing retreat away from the stresses of everyday life.



ARE YOUR clients looking for the ultimate journey of indulgence and relaxation? The Maldives has always remained a firm destination of choice for those wishing to steep their holiday in opulence, and resorts Baros and Milaidhoo promise their guests a serene retreat away from the everyday norm.

Baros prides itself on presenting a haven of 'unparalleled luxury and natural beauty' to its guests. The tropical resort is home to 75 villas framed by white sand and the blue waters of the lagoon, encompassed by a house reef. Boasting a rich history, this resort has spent decades honing its luxurious offering to cultivate an indulgent environment for

all. Guests can escape from reality with each villa offering a private infinity pool overlooking the Indian Ocean and rejuvenating spa treatments available throughout their stay. Prices lead in from £526 per night based on two adults sharing.

Luxury meets authenticity in Milaidhoo, nestled within the Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The resort promises guests a secluded haven of tranquillity, with 50 contemporary Maldivian-style pool villas, featuring private pools and ocean views. Each guest is assigned an Island Host to aid in any way they can and help curate meaningful experiences throughout the

duration of the stay. Activities available at the resort include snorkelling through the house reef, over-water spa treatments and sunrise yoga classes, encouraging guests to let go of their troubles at home and breathe in the sea air in paradise. Prices for the resort lead in from £850 per night based on two adults sharing.

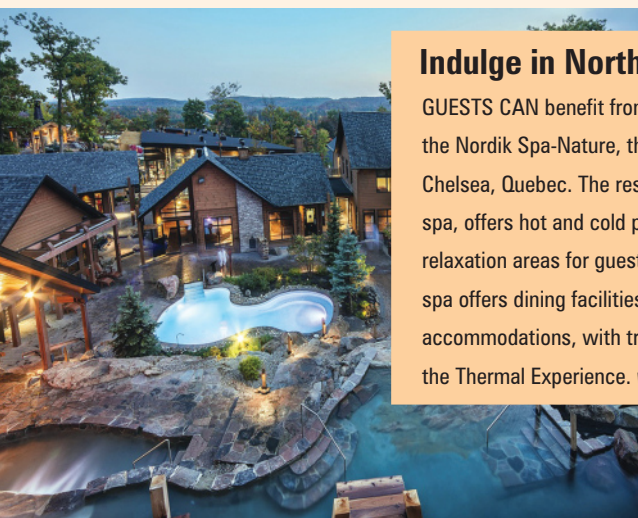
www.baros.com / www.milaidhoo.com

Wellness goes traditional at Nova

NOVA MALDIVES is putting the mind and body at the forefront in its latest retreat offering this November. Guests will be joined by Dr Lim Xiang Jun, an acclaimed Traditional Chinese Medicine physician and holistic health coach to offer guests the opportunity to experience a range of health and wellness treatments, including individual consultations and medical meditation. As the main focus of the resort is on mental and physical wellbeing, guests can enjoy menus inspired by mindful dining and natural ingredients in the resort's restaurants. www.nova-maldives.com

Indulge in North America's largest spa

GUESTS CAN benefit from the sensation of thermotherapy at the Nordik Spa-Nature, the Scandinavian-styled oasis in Chelsea, Quebec. The resort, known as North America's largest spa, offers hot and cold pools, different sauna experiences and relaxation areas for guests to unwind. Open year-round, the spa offers dining facilities as well as overnight accommodations, with treatments leading in from CAD\$94 for the Thermal Experience. www.ottawatourism.ca



Indian Ocean indulgence with Heritance

WITH THE Indian Ocean boasting an astonishing array of resorts fit for an indulgent getaway, Heritance Hotels has got your clients' spa needs covered.

For a family affair, Heritance Aarah offers bespoke experiences for all guests. The IASO Medi Spa boasts a range of packages, including the arrival package from US\$340 which includes a body scrub, a lower limb drainage massage and IV fluid treatments, or treat the children to a Kids Spa Experience complete with age-appropriate massages, nail painting and hair braiding from US\$130.

For those looking for a more private retreat, Heritance Kandalama's Coco Spa provides guests with unrivalled views of the national park's forest, lakes and mountains of the area, allowing guests to feel at one with nature while undergoing a vast array of treatments. Therapies available in the spa

include ancient Ayurvedic traditions and Balinese and Swedish aromatherapy massages, with prices leading in from US\$30.

Guests can embark on an authentic Sri Lankan spa experience at Sentido Heritance Negombo. Herbal therapies are the staple treatment, encouraging guests to increase their body's energy flow to become more centred while improving muscle circulation and flexibility. Treatments start from US\$60.

www.heritancehotels.com



The Sarojin gives back with yoga sessions

THAILAND'S LUXURY boutique residence, The Sarojin, has launched a new 'Yoga for the Community' initiative where guests are encouraged to take part in regular invigorating yoga classes to give back to the local community.

Costing approx. £8.60 per person, each

session is led by The Sarojin's expert yoga instructor twice per week, with the sessions including stretching and toning exercises designed to calm the body and mind. All profits from the classes will be donated to The Sarojin Community Care Fund.

www.sarojin.com



Revitalise in the waters of Mont Blanc

AFTER A long day skiing, guests can take advantage of the many spa treatments and facilities available at Aosta Valley on the doorstep of the slopes.

The spa, which has been a functioning staple for wellness tourism since 1800 at the base of Mont Blanc, features thermal pools, waterfalls and wood chalet-saunas perfect to fend off the chill from the mountains. Admission leads in from €44, including 38 wellness practices and an evening aperitif.

www.qcterme.com



Total body indulgence at Adaaran

NESTLED ON a lush ancient island, complete with its own house reef, Adaaran Select Meedhupparu invites spa lovers to embark on an unforgettable journey of relaxation in the heart of the Maldives. The Ultimate Indulgence spa treatment offers head-to-toe pampering from US\$369, including 2.5 hours of aromatherapy treatments, an ELEMIS facial and a traditional body scrub. www.adaaran.com

Image Credits: Top Left: Heritance Hotels, Top Right: Adobe Stock, Bottom Left: The Sarojin, Bottom Right: Adaaran Select



Yorkshire Travel Ball

It was a night of celebration at the 26th annual Yorkshire Travel Ball held once again at the Village Hotel in Leeds on July 18th.

The dance floor was in full swing after the raffle draw with prizes donated from more than 12 suppliers, with goodies such as luxury hampers, hotel stays and afternoon teas awarded to the lucky winners! It was a joyous night with generous donations to various animal charities across the world.





INDUSTRY... *insight by...*



Martin Johnson, who recently celebrated his first anniversary as chairman of the Latin American Travel Association (LATA)

“

We want to know your aspirations about the future of tourism to Latin America...”

IT HAS been a great first year as chair of LATA and we have many achievements to celebrate. We’ve seen just over 60 new companies join in the past 12 months, with our membership now standing at almost 400 members. I am

delighted that reports from members show continued increases in sales and revenue, with signs of returning to pre-2019 levels.

Earlier this year, we launched a redefined set of values, putting sustainability at the very heart of LATA’s ethos, with the new mission to responsibly promote Latin America as a leading tourist destination. Responsible and sustainable travel is essential to ensuring a prosperous future for our industry. I am fully committed to ensuring LATA is a part of this positive transformation.

Last month, we held our 11th LATA Expo, completely reimagined for 2024 and held as a fully-hosted residential three-day event. The sun shone for a rare three days, and we welcomed close to 300 delegates for one-to-one business meetings, conferences, and evening events.

At LATA Expo, we announced an exciting new project to put the new values into action working collaboratively as a whole LATA community to develop our industry and responsibly promote Latin America as a leading tourist destination. We are calling it the Latin America 2030 Project.

We held a thought-starter session discussing the power of telling their

community stories. It was so inspiring to hear from a variety of members how sustainable travel is just a part of what they are already doing and how they operate, rather than having to change their business.

The feedback has been excellent overall; this new format will be here to stay, with plenty for us to work on making it even better next year and beyond!

Following Expo, we had our second successful LATA Roadshow, with plans in place already for both events in 2025. We were joined by a mix of tour operators and tourist boards, who all showcased their product and destinations to travel designers and agents.

Over the next 12 months, we want the LATA community to come together and share their vision for our industry in 2030. We want to know your aspirations about the future of tourism to Latin America, ideas for how we can improve what already exists and hear concerns as well.

We believe it will make the LATA community stronger, more cohesive, and that the potential of what we could achieve would put travel to Latin America ahead of the rest of the world.

WOULD YOU BELIZE IT?

Latin Routes has welcomed two new destinations to its portfolio in recent months.



LATIN ROUTES continues to open up the continent for adventurous Brits and culture vultures, adding Belize and Guatemala to its product range this summer alone.

Senior product manager Cat Davies described Belize as “a country filled with incredibly diverse experiences, from Mayan archaeological sites, incredible wildlife spotting, inspiring community visits... our new range of itineraries showcase all these wonderful experiences and more.”

That range includes the ‘Highlights of Belize’ itinerary, ticking off the nation’s most storied and impressive locations.

2024 departures are available from £5,499 per person including international and domestic flights, 12 nights’ accommodation, select meals, transfers and a host of excursions.

Trade resources, including a How to Sell Belize guide, are available through the operator’s agent marketing hub.

Guatemala quickly followed suit in joining the Latin Routes portfolio weeks after Belize bolstered the offering. Cat said the addition of Guatemala offers the “perfect complement to our recent addition of Belize, allowing clients to explore the vibrant culture and natural beauty of several Central America

destinations in one trip.”

The 18-day ‘Route of the Maya’ itinerary combines the best of the two new additions plus Mexico from £7,399 per person. The package includes international and domestic flights, select meals, accommodation, and activities. www.latinroutes.co.uk

Following in Paddington’s pawprints

AS THE world awaits for the third instalment in the Paddington trilogy, ‘Paddington in Peru’, which will see the much-loved bear return to his Peruvian routes, the destination is taking the opportunity by the paws.

Inviting guests to follow in Paddington’s pawprints, guests can visit the bear’s dense jungle home by foot or boat in search of the wide biodiversity on show (sans bears) including herons, macaws, several species of monkey, and the elusive giant river otter.

Demand is expected to spike when ‘Paddington in Peru’ hits screens on November 8th, 2024. www.peru.travel

Quito: the adventure hub of Latin America

ECUADOR’S CAPITAL has emerged as an adventurous pick for travellers looking to push the boundaries of thrill on Latin American adventures. Four trails in the Yanacocha Reserve showcase the biodiversity of the area, with four tunnels transporting visitors through mountainous terrain from one landscape to another. www.visitquito.ec

Prime Peru and amazing Amazon

RIVIERA TRAVEL'S new escorted touring option, 'Grand Tour of Peru & the Amazon', traces history through the inspiring civilisation of the Incas to the Spanish Conquistadors' legacy and the colorful culture of modern-day Peru.

Nowhere is that technicolour culture better on show than in Lima, where the tour kicks off, exploring the complex colonial history behind the capital.

Onwards to the neo-colonial Arequipa, the nation's second largest city awaits.

The next stop ventures to one of the world's deepest canyons in Colca, heading to Condor Cross for the best views of the natural marvel. The views awaiting in Lake Titicaca must be seen to be believed, much like the beauty of Cusco (the tour's next stop).

Pisac, the home of the temple of Ollantaytambo, is next up en route to an

Explorer train journey to the iconic Macchu Picchu, before two nights in an eco lodge in the Amazon Rainforest.

Prices lead in from £4,799 per person (based on two sharing), with departures throughout October 2024 and September/October 2025.

A 'Signature Tour' upgrade adds a textile class teaching ancient artisan skills in the Sacred Valley plus a trip aboard the Vistadome train to Machu Picchu.

www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Ecuador doubles Galápagos fee

TRAVELLERS WILL soon have to pay a US\$200 entry fee to visit the Galápagos Islands. The US\$100 entry fee has applied for over 25 years.

Thomas Power, co-founder and CEO of Pura Aventura, said the increase is "long overdue," continuing, "If we are to protect nature effectively, we need to put a value on it. The Galapagos Park authority is uniquely well placed to do just that."

The charge comes into effect from August 1st, 2024.



Senderos celebrates sustainable certification

SENDEROS, THE representation organisation behind a host of eco-friendly Latin American destinations and operators, recently celebrated B Corp certification, which founder Simon Hayes has made the team "proud but also energised and committed to doing better... honesty telling the inspiring sustainability stories of our partners." www.senderos.co.uk



Marriott cements Riviera Maya plans

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL has partnered with Playa Hotels & Resorts to extend the Mexican footprint of The Luxury Collection brand. Paraiso de la Bonita, a Luxury Collection Adult All-Inclusive Resort is the result of the partnership; set to open in late 2024, 100 oversized, oceanfront suites will

span 14 acres of natural landscape on the Riviera Maya. Regional chief development officer Laurent de Kousemaeker promised the property "will continue to deliver on The Luxury Collection promise of providing access to the most fascinating and sought-after locations on earth." www.marriott.com

Image Credits: Top Left & Top Right: Adobe Stock, Bottom Left: Marriott International, Bottom Right: Senderos

Follow the Rainbow to beautiful Belize

IMMERSE INTO the lush wildernesses of Belize's national parks and rainforests with Rainbow Tour's dedicated 11-day three-centred 'Discover Belize' itinerary.

Guests will begin their journey in the Orange Walk District, with plenty of time to explore the jungle rivers and wildlife that are in abundance, before witnessing some of the country's most significant Mayan ruins.

After that, guests will head over to the Cayo District, renowned for its vast highland stretch of rainforests and extensive cave systems – allowing travellers the best opportunity to see everything from toucans, jaguars, butterflies and parrots in the wild.



To close out the trip, guests will take to the palm-fringed beaches of Ambergris Caye, where they can either sit back and soak up the sun or explore the world underneath the waves with world-class diving experiences on offer.

Prices for the package lead in from £4,995 per person, including return flights, accommodations and all activities and excursions.
www.rainbowtours.co.uk



SB Winemaker joins Virtuosa Group

SB WINEMAKER'S House & Spa Suites is the latest luxury property to join the coveted Virtuosa Hotels & Resorts Program, joining more than 1,400 hotels across 80 countries. The property, which opened in 2022, is nestled between the Andes and the vibrant city of Mendoza, offering guests bespoke spa suites and services, MICHELIN recommended dining at La VidA, and delectable wine experiences. Room rates lead in from US\$899 per night based on double occupancy.

www.susanabalbohotels.com

Best food you've had on holiday?

Jeanette Ratcliffe

Publisher

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Xtapodi in Santorini, Yam Talay in Thailand or Tuna Tartare in Malaga? Can't decide!!



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Pierogi in Toronto.



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Prego roll and piri-piri prawns in Mozambique.



Holly Brown

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Probably Thai food.



Leah Kelly

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Fish tacos in a floating shack on the water in Nanaimo.



Areti Sarafidou

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Vepro knedlo zelo (national dish of Czechia), made of pork roast, knedliky and sauerkraut.



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Saadiyat Island Roadshow

Travel Bulletin partnered with Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi to deliver two roadshows to showcase the luxury properties in this amazing part of the world.

We were delighted to be joined by some of Surrey and Wilmslow's finest agents across both events, plus the most indulgent properties from across Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi.



Jetset



Successfully launched 4th July



And this is just part 1...



www.jetsetholidays.co.uk