

FEB 2007

# Travel World

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

NEWS®



## Vilnius Hosts **BTC 2006**

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### CARIBBEAN

Sun Village  
Resort and Spa –  
Getting It All In

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### LATIN AMERICA

Peru: New from  
Lima Tours, Amazon  
Expedition Voyages

Nicaragua:  
Central America's  
Largest Country  
Is On a Roll

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### MEDITERRANEAN

Louis Group Sails  
Into the Big Time  
Travel-Wise

Egypt: Timeless  
Hospitality at  
Le Meridien  
Pyramids Cairo

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### AFRICA

Southern Africa  
Offers Exciting Travel  
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Nigeria: Eco-Tourism  
Symposium Focuses  
on Tourism as  
a Tool for Peace



## Hungary

*Stimulate the  
Spirit, Soul and Senses at the  
Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal*

dunes have a colour here, *brilliant as gold.*  
skies have a colour here, *deeper than ink.*  
valour has a colour here, *on the faces of men.*  
beauty has a colour here, *in the swaying of skirts.*  
incredible india, *infinite rainbows.*



# Incredible india



# Travel World

The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists

NEWS®

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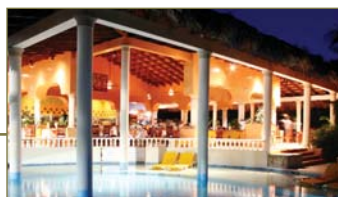
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# Successful BTC Conference In Vilnius Calls For Continued Expansion And More Joint Promotions

BY ANN CHARLES

The annual Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) that kicked off on October 8-10 in Vilnius, Lithuania was a smash success. The program organized by Thomas Mielke, Director of the BTC, in close cooperation with the City of Vilnius (the Vilnius Municipal Government Economic Department Tourism Division) was a well planned, information-packed program aimed at promoting tourism to and within Europe's Baltic Sea region.

Contributing to the success of this joint promotion was Air Baltic, the official airline for the BTC Conference, "Travel World News," The Magazine for Destination Travel Specialists, and Agora, a network for sustainable tourism in the Baltic Sea region. Continued expansion and more joint promotions are predicted for the future.

According to Niels Lund, President of the Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC),

"Vilnius proved the perfect venue for the annual BTC Conference. Having joined the organization as President, I could not have asked for a more welcoming city or well planned conference. However, it is the outcome for each participant that matters the most. As the region continues to attract worldwide interest – which is also reflected by the participants in our conference this year, it is very important for the BTC to continue to support every new initiative, as well as the heritage in the Baltics."

In his Welcoming remarks, Deputy Mayor Vitas Karciauskas of Vilnius Municipality stated that "one of the most important events in the industry was taking place in the capital city of Lithuania., and pointed out that in 2009, Vilnius, will be the "European Capital of Culture." He called Vilnius "a cozy and friendly city with excellent hotels, and modern, spacious conference halls in both the center and outskirts of the city."

Although the Conference was held at the Hotel Narutis, the Travel Agency West Express also booked hotel space at the Europa Royale Vilnius, and the Hotel Mabre Residence. and arranged a sightseeing tour of the Old Town and a BTC get-together at the restaurant Tores. There was also a gala evening of dinner, dancing and jazz at Vilnius Town Hall. Edmundas Kackus, Deputy Director, Vilnius Municipality, made the opening remarks.

Participants in the BTC Conference were primarily interested in exploring new business opportunities, and network-



Niels Lund, President of The Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC).

ing with their colleagues in the Baltic Sea region and abroad. Latvian Arturs Feists, an inbound tour operator for Express Travel in Riga, found the sightseeing tour by Asta of Travel Agency West Express to be especially helpful. The company he works for is a full service destination management company that provides ground services in Latvia and the Baltics and is a member of Inspiration Riga. According to Richard Baerug, Director, Communications & Markets, Inspiration Riga/Riga Convention Bureau aims to attract more international events to Riga and Latvia.

Environmentalists and educators were also in attendance. Bettina Meliss, Agora Project Coordinator, Greifswald Germany was ready to share information on her project, and Valeria Klitsounova, Belarusian Association Country Escape, of Minsk, Belarus drew attention to Green Holidays in Belarus. In addition, educators such as Jacek Podhordki of the University of Gdansk in Poland, and Lisa Lyck, Center Director, Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, were among the educators from the Baltic Sea region.

Attending the Conference in Vilnius, as well, was Aira Andriksone, Director of the Tourism Department, Ministry of Economics, Republic of Latvia in Riga. In addition, Erika Petersons, a Latvian-Canadian university student (Waningen University) and Kristine Tambovska of Empress Travel felt the BTC program was very worthwhile.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Workshop (Marketing In Distant Markets-North America, Asia) presented by Don Reynolds, Executive Vice President of the American Tourism Society (ATS), and Soren Leerskov,

Managing Director, Scandinavian Tourist Board, Asia & Pacific, STB, Japan. Don Reynolds emphasized the importance of niche travel, and stated that he was looking into the possibility of holding one of ATS's spring or fall conferences in Vilnius and Riga, with a post tour extension to Tallinn in '08. The Polish National Tourist Organization in the USA under the direction of Jan Rudomina, Vice President of the ATS, was also acknowledged for its joint promotions of Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The representatives of the Polish Tourist Office based in Warsaw, Wojciech Kodlubanski, and Anna Cichonska, Deputy Director, were in Vilnius for the BTC Conference, along with Sylwia Skwara, Tourism Division, City Hall of Gdansk, Department of Economic Policy, Gdansk, Poland.. In addition, there was a Workshop, "The Internet and Tourism" presented by Aleksandar Vucak, Managing Director, and owner, Comwel, Competence & Service MbH, Munich, Germany.

Besides the Workshops, there were Panel discussions on the Meetings Industry, Airline Business, Ferry Traffic in the Baltic Sea, "Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region," and a State of the Industry Debate. BTC members interested in the meetings, incentives, and hospitality market also profited from the expertise shared by Lars Christensen, Vice President, ICCA. And CEO International Conference Services A/S (INCON Group) Denmark. Christensen delivered a lively, spontaneous report on the Meetings Industry.

The panel discussion on the Airline Business was moderated by Kurt Hanschke, Director of Regional Management, German National Tourist Organization. Members of airlines included Elisabeth Milton Hemmingsen, Regional Manager Baltics, Russia, CIS, SAS, Vija Dzerve Vice President, Communications, Air Baltic, and Kimmo Rautiainen, Regional Manager, Baltic Countries Finnair.

Ferry Traffic in the Baltic Sea was the topic addressed in a panel discussion moderated by Putinas Bielskis, Krantas Travel, Klaipeda, Lithuania, Peter Roose, Sales and Marketing Director, Tallink, the Estonian shipping company and Arvydas Skuodas, Head of Passenger Marketing and Sales Group, Lisco Lithuania. During the discussion, Skuodas stated, "we are a floating hotel. You can arrive in one country and awake in another. And you can relax from the moment you step on board. "

A panel discussion moderated by Christensen featured Vita Gircyte, Chief, Convention Manager, Vilnius City Tourist Office and Convention Bureau, Kestutis Ambrozaitis, Director-General, Lithuanian Tours, Carl Jorgen Heide of Conbaltas, and Juha Mahonen, General Manager, Reval Hotel Lietuva, which is part of the hotel chain located in all three Baltic countries, namely, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The Workshop on the Cruise Baltic Project featured Signe Adamsen, and Professor Dr. Wilhelm Steingrube, Chairman,

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**BTC** FROM PAGE 5

Agora – a Network For Sustainable Tourism in the Baltic Sea region, University of Greifswald. The emphasis was on ONE region, but 19 destinations. The purpose of Agora is to create a network of 44 partners in ten countries all around the Baltic Sea region for developing sustainable tourism with focus on rural areas." In conclusion, the State of the Industry Debate with a report on recent development of incoming tourism was presented by Thomas Mielke of the BTC.

In addition, Alvitis Lukosevicius, Director, Lithuanian State Department of Tourism, and Nijole Beliukeviciene, Head of the Vilnius Tourism Division, and Evalda Siskauskiene, President, Lithuanian Hotel and Restaurant Association, shared their perspectives on the industry. Elizabeth Milton Hemmingsen, Regional Manager, Baltics, Russia, CIS-SAS and Hans Henrik Kjoelby, President and CEO, Via Hansa, participated in this portion of the program, as well.

**Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC),**  
**www.balticsea.com,**  
**Lithuanian State Department of Tourism,**  
**www.tourism.lt,**  
**Vilnius City Municipality, www.turizmas.vilnius.lt**

**ILTM REPORTS ON EMERGING MARKETS AND FUTURE LUXURY TRENDS**

Emerging markets and the future of luxury travel were the hot topics of debate at the fifth International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM), which took place in Cannes December 4-7. The show welcomed over 3,000 visitors through its doors reinforcing its position as the premier travel trade show targeting the luxury sector.

This year, ILTM focused on the newcomers to luxury and of the 1,244 exhibiting companies from over 80 countries, over 100 were brand new to the show. A carefully selected group of high-end buyers attended the show from 64 countries worldwide, which resulted in over 42,000 appointments taking place over the three days.

As part of their new proactive marketing effort in Europe, The Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board exhibited for the first time.

Also debuting were Virgin Limited Edition and Mallorca Farmhouses. Other newcomers included Ananda - a five star spa retreat in India, Nomads of the Sea – a new luxury expedition cruise in Patagonia and a luxury mountain resort operator in North America called Vail Resorts.

Emerging markets and luxury travel trends were further highlighted in the ILTM and Departures magazine Conference theme 'Broadening Horizons,' which welcomed panellists and speakers from hotel gurus to luxury goods marketers to provide thought provoking debate.

Some key emerging trends identified in the luxury travel market included: emerging markets in luxury travel including South America, India, Russia and the Middle East; luxury becoming a personal state of mind - more about having an authentic experience that engages the individual; people generally striving for 'worthy' holidays and learning experiences to give themselves 'conversational currency'. Encompassing discussions and seminars, the conference was hugely popular, drawing over 460 attendees. Speakers included Michael T. Londregan, Vice President for the Americas, Tourism Australia; Peter Greenberg, Travel Editor, NBC Today Show and AOL; Raymond Bickson, Managing Director, Taj Luxury Hotel Group; and Sophy Roberts, Editor-at-Large, Departures Magazine. The speakers covered topics such as the issues of private ownership, destination marketing, how luxury continues to redefine itself and the new emerging markets for luxury travel.

Debbie Joslin, Exhibition Director said: "The 2006 show was a great success with some very positive feedback from exhibitors and buyers alike. Their comments have reinforced that ILTM is the only truly global business-to-business luxury travel show and are in a unique position to provide acute insights into the evolving industry.

"Our aim is to carefully control the growth of the show to ensure we maintain the excellent quality of attendees each year. Ultimately this will result in a one to one ratio of buyer to exhibitor at ILTM. We carefully select newcomers from a huge number of applicants, ensuring only the very top-end suppliers are represented," she added. Next year's show is scheduled to take place December 3-6 in Cannes.

ILTM, [www.ILTM.net](http://www.ILTM.net)

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A three-course dinner immediately follows. At this time a one on one contact with supplier and agent is maximized and encouraged

The evening wraps up with a brief 3 – 4 minute presentation by each of our suppliers over coffee and desert.

## **SPRING 2007 SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK I**

Schaumburg, IL	02/20/2007
Milwaukee, WI	02/21/2007
Northbrook, IL	02/22/2007
Oak Lawn, IL	02/23/2007

### **WEEK II**

Nashville, TN	02/26/2007
Knoxville, TN	02/27/2007
Birmingham, AL	02/28/2007
Atlanta, GA	03/01/2007

### **WEEK III**

Houston, TX	03/05/2007
San Antonio, TX	03/06/2007
Austin, TX	03/07/2007
Dallas, TX	03/08/2007

### **WEEK IV**

Cocoa Beach, FL	03/12/2007
West Palm Beach, FL	03/13/2007
Fort Myers, FL	03/14/2007
Sarasota, FL	03/15/2007

### **WEEK V**

Philadelphia, PA	03/19/2007
Allentown, PA	03/20/2007
Bucks County, PA	03/21/2007
Cherry Hill, NJ	03/22/2007

### **WEEK VI**

Pompton Plains, NJ	03/26/2007
Bergen County, NJ	03/27/2007
New Jersey Shore Area	03/28/2007
Edison, NJ	03/29/2007

### **WEEK VII**

Troy, MI	04/16/2007
Grand Rapids, MI	04/17/2007
Toledo, OH	04/18/2007
Novi, MI	04/19/2007

### **WEEK VIII**

Pittsburgh, PA	04/23/2007
Harrisburg, PA	04/24/2007
Columbia, MD	04/25/2007
Washington, DC Sub.	04/26/2007

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# 2007 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS TRAVEL WORLD NEWS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<b>MARCH</b>			
2-4	Vivattur 2007	Vilnius, Lithuania	www.visusplenus.lt
3-4	Adventure Travel Expo	Washington D.C.	www.adventureexpo.com
7-11	Discover America Pavilion at ITB 2007	Berlin, Germany	www.discoveramericapavilion.com
7-11	ITB 2007	Berlin, Germany	www.itb-berlin.com
11-12	METTS 2007	Abu Dhabi, UAE	www.mettsprogramme.com
12-15	GIBTM	Abu, Dhabi, UAE	www.reedtravelexhibitions.com
12-15	Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention	Miami Beach, Florida	www.cruiseshipping.net
15-18	Salon Mondial Du Tourisme	Paris, France	www.mondialtourisme.com
16-17	No Frills Travel & Technology Expo	Bergamo, Italy	www.nofrillsexpo.com
20	Moscow M.I.C.E. Forum	Moscow, Russia	www.miceforum.ru
21-24	MITT	Moscow, Russia	www.mitt-moscow.com
21-24	Discover America Pavilion at MITT 2007	Moscow, Russia	www.discoveramericapavilion.com
22-25	TUR 2007	Gothenburg, Sweden	www.nemonet.swefair.se
22-25	WTF 2007	Shanghai, China	www.worldtravelair.com.cn
22-25	Discover America Pavilion at TUR 2007	Gothenburg, Sweden	www.discoveramericapavilion.com
23-25	ITM 2007	Chandigarh, India	www.indiatravelmart.com
23-25	Beneath The Sea	Secaucus, NJ	www.beneaththesea.org
23-25	The Boston Globe Travel Show	Boston MA	www.bostonglobetravelshow.com
25-29	IDE- Asia 2007	Jeju, Korea	www.astanet.com
29-30	MITM euromed	Tunisia, Tunisia	www.mitmevents.com
30-Apr 1	CLIA's cruise3sixty 2007 Conference	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	www.cruise3sixty.com
<b>APRIL</b>			
12-14	DATE 2007	Punta Cana, DR	www.drdate.net
15-21	Mountain Travel Symposium	Whistler, BC	www.mtntrvl.com
17-19	IMEX 2007	Frankfurt, Germany	www.imex-frankfurt.com
19-21	BITE 2007	Cuenca, Ecuador	www.bitecuador.org
19-22	SITC	Barcelona, Spain	www.saloturisme.com
19-22	TPOC Conference & Trade Show	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	www.tpoc.org
19-22	SATTE Open World	New Delhi, India	www.satte.org
25-27	TREX 2007	Belize City, Belize	www.trexca.com
26-28	KITF 2007	Almaty, Kazakhstan	www.kitf.kz/en/2007
26-28	NTA Tour Operator Spring Meet	Kelouwna B.C., Canada	www.ntatravel.com
26-29	IFT 2007	Belgrade, Serbia	www.ift-belgrade.com
27-29	Miami Travel Expo	Miami, FL	www.miamitravelexpo.com
27-30	JAPEX 2007	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	www.jhta.org
<b>MAY</b>			
1-4	Arabian Travel Market	Dubai, UAE	www.arabiantravelmarket.com
4-6	Travel Expo 2007	Baku, Azerbaijan	www.sadixovexpo.com
6-11	ATA Congress	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	www.africatravelassociation.org
10-12	MIT 2007	Tunis, Tunisia	www.mit-tourism.com
10-12	WTTC Global Travel & Tourism Summit	Lisbon, Portugal	www.globaltourism.com
13-18	EXPOTUR - The Costa Rica Travel Mart	San Jose, Costa Rica	www.expotur.com
14-16	BITTM 07	Beijing, China	www.bittm.com
14-16	COTTM 2007	Beijing, China	www.bittm.com
14-16	Global Ecotourism Conference	Oslo, Norway	www.ecotourismconference.org
15-16	Premium Travel 2007	London, England	www.premiumtravel2007.com
17-20	MITF 2007	Moscow, Russia	www.mitf.ru/en
<b>JUNE</b>			
14-16	ITE HK 2007	Hong Kong, China	www.itehk.com
18-21	Asia Luxury Travel Market	Shanghai, China	www.reedtravelexhibitions.com

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# Stimulate The Spirit, Soul And Senses – In Budapest

BY FRAN LEVINE

**L**ong a favorite destination of visitors from Great Britain and Germany, the Belle Epoque city of Budapest is poised to welcome increasing numbers of American travelers.

New construction abounds in the gorgeous Hungarian capital, a mélange of Neo-Gothic, Renaissance, Art Nouveau, Secessionist and Classical architecture bisected by the famed river Danube.

Hotels, offices, restaurants and conference and arts centers are currently in various states of completion. Increasingly bi-lingual, multi-cultural and commercially diverse, this is a city moving into the 21st Century -- while respecting its 19th Century heritage.. Restoration of picture postcard landmarks traversing Budapest's history, from medieval to fin-de-siecle to post World War II eras, signifies that the stunning ambience of this modern fairytale of a city will endure even as it grows.

Clients will find most of the 1.8 million residents of Budapest polite and receptive to American guests. The city's cleanliness and safety –both in terms of the volatile world stage and on its own local streets—are also very appealing. The climate is similar to that of any European city, now including the warmer winters of the past years. Costs of food and entertainment and tourism are very moderate. Lower priced hotels are still scarce, with five-star hotel charges are on a par with those of other cosmopolitan areas. Packages that offer air, hotel, transfers, sightseeing and meals are available from a wide selection of U.S. wholesalers and offer great value.

A member of the European Union since 2004, Budapest may be a city in



Chain Bridge with Royal Castle.

LITHUANIAN STATE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

the midst of a growth spurt, but its charm is only heightened by its seamless interface between the old and the new. Sweeping boulevards meld jaw-droppingly beautiful examples of the city's early 19th Century glory days with Euro-cool Internet cafes, exotic new restaurants and youth-dominated bars and clubs. Majestic palaces, parks and public edifices thread harmoniously among edgy art galleries, and shopping plazas are studded with luxurious imported goods as well as local handicrafts. Sixty museums and 40 performance venues satisfy the culturally inclined; world-class (but little known) Hungarian wineries offer tastings, mysterious caves are open for exploration and spectator and participant sports of every type are available in the city or just beyond. And the thermal bath and personalized spa culture in Budapest is unparalleled – a must-do experience for every traveler to Budapest.

Getting around the 100 square mile city by public transportation – via trolley, tram, bus or the Metro – is inexpen-

sive and quick. Taxis are readily available at hotels and touring areas. Strolling the cobblestoned streets, pedestrian walkways and elegant and commercial avenues alike may also be recommended.

The layout of the city is simple: Budapest was created with the construction of the elegant Chain Bridge across the Danube in 1873, uniting the cities of Buda, Pest and Obuda.

The original, hilly "Buda" district, now largely residential, is to the right of the Danube, and contains Castle Hill and the Fisherman's Bastion walkway (both, with Andrassy Boulevard, are Unesco World Heritage Sites) and Gellert Hill and the Royal Palace.

Flat "Pest" is on the left of the river, boasting a mélange of 19th Century Eclectic and 20th Century Art Nouveau architecture, including the neo-Gothic Parliament (1902), the Italian Renaissance Opera House (1884), the neo-Renaissance Basilica of St. Stephen, Budapest's largest church.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

**BUDAPEST** FROM PAGE 9

Other famed sites in Budapest are the Central Synagogue, Holocaust Memorial Center and Jewish Museum, testaments to Budapest's past and present minority history, and the huge City Park. A dip in the thermal baths at the Gellert, (1850s, later restored) a coffee and pastry at the Ruszwurm Cafe (opened in 1827) and a visit to a modern spa will round out a client's visit, short or long.

**The Royal Spa in the Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal**

Perhaps the only facet of Budapest city life that has remained unchanged for centuries is the embracing of water, massage and calibrated applications of heat and cold as remedies for health and well-being. Diehard believers think that the sulfurous minerals in the 120 natural springs serving the bath houses of Budapest can cure everything from



Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal.

LITHUANIAN STATE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

rheumatism to kidney stones to psychological distress. So imbued is this view that the Hungarian health system pays for all or part of the modest entrée fee to the bath houses, most of which date from the 1800s.

In recent years, Budapest's modern spas have added new refinement to the old ideas, stressing advanced body and facial treatments, quality products, and offering luxury and serenity to the otherwise raucous communal aspects of the old bath houses.

The Royal Spa in the Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal is an outstanding example of the exquisite experience of such a spa. Following an \$8 million dollar restoration, the hundred year old bathing center reclaims its classical Neo-Romanesque beauty. Soft gold and bronze colonnades circle its exquisite indoor pool, while a balcony swirling in wrought iron provides relaxation areas. Thirteen therapeutic treatment rooms, a Niagra Bathtub, Bichy Shower, Tropical Rain Shower, Electric Wellness Bed, Dry Floating Bed, Jacuzzis, Steam Bath and Sauna are the setting for this most prestigious Spa.

The Royal Spa uses only the finest

Algotherm beauty products. Made from seaweed and other active marine ingredients, each product used during a treatment is specially mixed for the client, satisfying the needs of her skin and the body, hand or facial treatment she or he is about to enjoy. Royal Spa estheticians are the finest in their professions, selected for their treatment skills, their understanding of the client, and their versatility. An opulent spa, world class professionals and exclusive products – such is the experience at the Royal Spa.

But of course the Royal Spa is as gracious and luxurious as the hotel in which it is housed.

The five-star Corinthia Grand Hotel Royal, with more than 400 superb rooms, a state-of-the-art Executive Club, superb restaurants, bars and shopping atrium, a Grand Ballroom that lives up to its designation, and conference and meeting rooms, is a legend in Budapest. Originally opened in 1896 as one of the great grand old European hotels, the Grand Royal was completely restored in 2003.

**Corinthia Hotels,**  
**www.corinthiahotels.com**



**Relais Villa Petrischio**

**Delightfully located** on the very highest hill between Montepulciano and Cortona in the gorgeous Tuscan countryside. Your clients can unpack once for any number of days to enjoy an abundance of attractive services.

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**www.villapetrischio.com**

## JIM MORRISON APPOINTED VICE-PRESIDENT AIR, GOWAY TRAVEL



JIM MORRISON

Goway Travel has announced the appointment of airline veteran Jim Morrison to the position of Vice-President Air. Jim previously served as Manager, Leisure Sales, with Air Canada and has held senior positions within the aviation industry over his 30-year extensive career.

"Jim is a great asset to Goway and we are delighted to have him on board," commented President and founder, Bruce Hodge. "Jim has a proven track record in

the airline industry and will be the driving force behind this area of our company."

In the role of Vice-President Air, Jim is responsible for the overall contracting and negotiations for Goway's worldwide air product, aviation industry liaison and product development.

GOWAY Travel Inc., 800-387-8850, [info@goway.com](mailto:info@goway.com), [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com)

## EXPERIENCE EUROPE BY EURAIL – BOOK EARLY TO GET AN EXTRA TRAVEL DAY FOR FREE

Due to the success of its 2006 end of year campaign, The Eurail Group is extending its special offer, giving an extra day of rail travel on all six-, eight- or 10- day Eurail Select Passes purchased between February 1 and March 31 2007. After purchase, customers have up to six months to start traveling, giving them the freedom to plan their trip at leisure. The Eurail Select Pass allows customers to choose three, four or five connecting European countries in which to travel. Adjoining countries can also be linked by Eurail's bonus partner shipping lines, resulting in some unexpected but interesting combinations like France and Ireland, Germany and Sweden and Spain and Italy. With 23 countries to choose from, there are over 750 possible combinations, giving customers true freedom and flexibility. Countries participating in the Eurail Select Pass offer are: Austria (including Liechtenstein), Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France (including Monaco), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Taking the train is the easiest, most relaxed way to experience Europe. Europe's rail network is extensive and trains are frequent, taking travelers from city center to city center quickly and efficiently, avoiding long check-in lines and waits at airports or driving and parking hassles. One of the main advantages of taking the train is actually being able to see the country you're traveling through; the train is your window on Europe's diverse scenery and cultures.

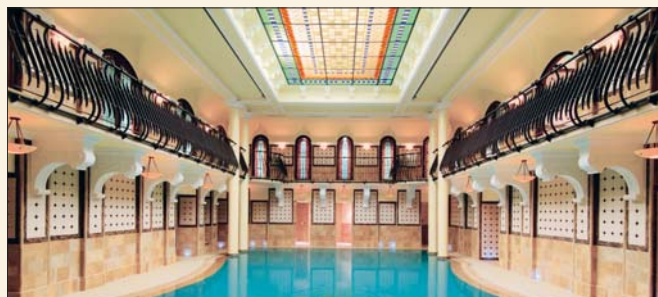
The EURAIL Group comprises 27 railways and shipping lines, as well as several bonus partners.

Eurail, [Eurail.com](http://Eurail.com)

## CONSORTIUM OF HOTELS ON LAKE MAGGIORE CREATED

The Piemonte Region in Northern Italy has many beautiful, historic and interesting areas and sites to see and explore. One of them is the Southern portion of Lake Maggiore and especially the town of Stresa and its surroundings.

Using Stresa as a home base, one can explore magnificent towns like Lugano, Como and even Zermatt in Switzerland or a day of shopping and discovering Milan either by car or train which is only about 90 minutes away. 18 of the Stresa and surroundings 5, 4 and 3 star hotels have banded together and created the Consorzio Alberghi Lago Maggiore (Consortium of Hotels on Lake Maggiore). Among them is the 5-star Grand Hotel des Iles Borromees which is located in a neo classical building on the shores of the lake with its spa/wellness center and own boat landing. There is also the upper 4-star Hotel Regina Palace, an old world allure building on the shore, and the 4-star charming Astoria Hotel fronting the lake. For budget minded persons the 3-star garden property Lido La Perla Nera with its indoor pool is a block from the lake. This hotel is also a member of the worldwide Minotel hotel chain with its unique voucher system. A color brochure is available which showcases all 18 hotels and seven golf courses, as well as providing information on the famous Rovellotti winery in Ghemme. B.Z.B. International Inc., 800-365-3346, 954-964-5490, [benny@bzbi.com](mailto:benny@bzbi.com)



### „ROYAL REVIVAL“ WINTER SPA PACKAGE

VALIDITY: 1 NOV 2006 – 31 MARCH 2007

THE LEGENDARY 110 YEARS OLD CORINTHIA GRAND HOTEL ROYAL OFFERS YOU A SPECIAL PACKAGE:

Four nights accomodation with breakfast  
Executive floor upgrade with executive lounge access  
Transfer from and to the airport  
Facial Treatment (45')  
Body Scrub (30')  
Deep Blue Massage (50')

**Package Price:**

1215 USD/person for double room  
Single supplement: 472 USD

**Extra night:**

188 USD/single room  
and 213 USD/person for double room

The offer is subject to availability.  
Early check-in and late check-out upon availability.



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GRAND HOTEL ROYAL  
BUDAPEST

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## UNPACK ONCE TO DISCOVER ALL OF TUSCANY AT RELAIS VILLA PETRISCHIO



Delightfully located on the very highest hill between Montepulciano and Cortona in the Tuscan countryside, your clients can unpack once at the 4-star Relais Villa Petrischio for any number of days to enjoy Full and Half Day excursions throughout the region.

Halfway between Rome and Florence just off the A-1, Relais Villa Petrischio offers easy access to outstanding destinations. As a sample, drive times (in minutes) to neighboring towns are: Cortona: 15; Montepulciano: 15; Pienza: 25; Siena: 45; Assisi: 55; and Deruta: 50.

### Easy Driving Trips from the 4-star Relais Villa Petrischio

Southern Tuscany: Montepulciano; Pienza; Montalcino; Sant'Antimo, Chiusi; Monte Oliveto Maggiore; San Quirico d'Orcia; Asciano; Bagno Vignoni, Buonconvento; Western Hill Towns: San Gimignano and Volterra; Northeastern Tuscany: Arezzo, Cortona, Licignano, Monte San Savino, Castiglion, Poppi; Northern Umbria: Assisi, Gubbio, Perugia, Deruta; Florence or Rome: Easy access by train in Cortona. Park free all day and find trains running several times an hour.

### Full and Half Day Excursions

Market Days: On the first Saturday and Sunday of each month, the historic city of Arezzo hosts Fiera Dell'Antiquariato, perhaps the best antiques furniture fair in all of Italy ([www.arezzeriaantiquaria.com](http://www.arezzeriaantiquaria.com)). The cornucopia of markets from which to choose include:

SAT: Arezzo, Asciano, Buonconvento, Cortona, Perugia, Cetona; Monday: Foiano

della Chiana; Tuesday: Monteroni d' Arbia; Wednesday: Siena; Thursday: Camucia, Montepulciano, Papolano Terme, San Gimignano, Cetona; Friday: Castiglion Fiorentino, Pienza

### Hot Air Balloon Rides

Float above Tuscany's rich landscape in colorful Italian balloons. Trips depart near Siena or Arezzo for an estimated one-hour ride. Prices from approximately \$411 for up to four people include insurance, refreshments, commemorative flight certificate, photo and CD.

Available year around.

### Chianti Castles, Cooking and Wine Tasting Classes

Travel along "Chianti Castles Road," route 222, to tour the Chianti Classico area between Siena and Florence. Visit wine cellars at historic Rocca di Castagi Perano Castle, San Donato Perano Castle, and Meleto Castle. Lunch in a local trattoria then see Radda and Castellina.

Sample Tuscan cuisine and wine as you learn the art of Italian cooking. Classes are easily available in classic Tuscan cooking classrooms or in your own villa. Look for more information in the March issue of Travel World News.

### Steam Engine Train Tours

Enjoy truly historic touring during the spring and fall near Siena. Choose from three departure times: 8:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. or 3:45 p.m. Trains stop at the beautiful towns of Asciano, Monte Amiata, and Monte Antico.

### ATV/QUAD Tours

An excellent way to discover hidden Tuscan treasures; ride ATV/Quads on your own or with a guide. A driver's license is not required. Approximately \$450 for each quad per day includes a guide, full tank of gas, helmet and insurance. Two people on one quad is approximately \$226 per person per day. Departs 10:00 am just 13 km from Relais Villa Petrischio. Book 20 days in advance (minimum). Subject to availability.

### Truffle Hunting

In Umbria near the city of Nocera (a 90-minute drive) meet with an expert truffle hunter (Cavatore) and his fully-trained dog. You will head to the National park of

Monti Sibillini for a scenic search for these "black diamonds" used in Italian cuisine. Lunch in a local restaurant and enjoy a truffle-based feast. Spend the afternoon visiting the beautiful town of Norcia where you will also find a cheese making school. Pricing: Minimum of two people each approximately \$139; four people approximately \$103 per person.

Prices include two hours on the hunt plus the truffle-based lunch with drinks included. Please note that it is forbidden to hunt for truffles during the months of May and September.

### Crystal and Alabaster Artisans

Visit Colle Val d'Elsa, one of the most important European centers for the production and manufacture of crystal. Enjoy a guided visit to a craftsman laboratory where real works of art are created. Watch the crystal glass blowing process followed by a short tour through the beautiful medieval town.

After lunch in a local trattoria visit Volterra, whose subsoil is full of alabaster, to observe techniques used in making alabaster objects.

### Etruscans at Chiusi

The National Etruscan Museum at Chiusi houses one of most comprehensive archaeological collections in Italy. Enjoy a guided tour of the town, including its duomo (cathedral) and lunch in a local trattoria. In the afternoon visit the "cunicoli di Porsenna," beautiful underground passages only recently discovered.

### Booking Arrangements and Documentation Made Simple

All of our excursions can be enjoyed from your own car, without a doubt the most interesting and pleasant way to discover these Italian territories, or choose to hire a car and driver/tour guide. When your excursion has been confirmed you will receive meticulous and easy-to-use directions, contact names and phone numbers of people who will be waiting for you and who are at your complete disposal so that your client's trip will be perfect and unforgettable.

Relais Villa Petrischio,  
888-867-2251, [bobkark@msn.com](mailto:bobkark@msn.com),  
[www.villapetrischio.com](http://www.villapetrischio.com)

## THE IKE GOLF COURSE REOPENS AT PACIFIC PALMS

One of two courses at the Industry Hills Golf Club, the championship Dwight D. Eisenhower (The Ike) golf course at Pacific Palms reopened its links November 2006 after undergoing a multi-million dollar refurbishment.

The fairway turf has been completely replaced with hybrid Bermuda Tiffway II grass, commonly used on major PGA courses. The green complexes on holes 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18 have been reconstructed. The sand in bunkers has been replaced and a Toro watering system has been installed.

"The two reasons for truly appreciating a golf course are the quality of the layout and the consistency of the maintenance. This refurbishment guarantees both will be reasons to play 'The Ike' for years to come," says Dave Youpa, PGA Director of Golf at Pacific Palms.

Rounding out the Industry Golf Club is the par-71 Babe Didrikson Zaharias ('The Babe') golf course. The Babe reopens in spring 2007 after undergoing an extensive refurbishment project. Similar to the work done on the Ike, the Babe will receive new fairway turf, reconstructed greens, a new watering system, and reworked bunkers with completely new sand. The Pro Shop will also reopen this summer.

In spring 2007, celebrating the new Industry Hills Golf Club and other Resort highlights, guests will be invited to experience the refurbished golf courses, relax at the new Spa at Pacific Palms, and enjoy the new Elements Grill & Bar.

Pacific Palms Conference Resort, 626-810-4455, [www.pacificpalmsresort.com](http://www.pacificpalmsresort.com)  
Industry Hills Golf Club, 626-810-GOLF

## MANDARIN ORIENTAL MIAMI PARTNERS WITH CASA CASUARINA

Hotel guests can now enjoy Mandarin Oriental's legendary service at the hotel's private beach cabanas on South Beach and personalized amenities and services at Casa Casuarina, formerly the Mansion of Gianni

Versace located on South Beach's iconic Ocean Drive.

"We are delighted to partner with Casa Casuarina to provide our guests with luxury beach services on South Beach," said Jorge Gonzalez, General Manager, Mandarin Oriental, Miami. Guests will be granted exclusive access to Casa Casuarina's outdoor pool facilities and restaurants. For convenience, guests will be given signing privileges. Guests will be also be provided with custom-programmed iPods.

For luxury transportation to South Beach, guests can opt to board a 41' Sea Ray Yacht from the hotel to cruise the waters of Biscayne Bay to South Beach with a tour of the Miami waterfront. Luxury yacht transportation is \$100 per person for a one-way trip.

The Ultimate Beach Experience includes private beach retreat and Mandarin Oriental service on South Beach and use of Casa Casuarina's outdoor pool facilities, relaxation area and restaurants. There is also SUV Shuttle service from the hotel to South Beach. Cost is \$150 per person.

Mandarin Oriental, Miami, 866-888-6780, [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com)

## PRIVATE YACHT TRIPS WITH CORTEZ CRUISES



The maiden voyage of Cortez Cruises on December 17, 2006 marked a new concept in ocean travel by offering luxury, privacy and affordability.

Crewed by a captain and first mate, Cortez Cruises takes passengers to the unspoiled islands off the Baja Peninsula.

"What sets this cruise apart is that it's a completely private experience," said CEO Bill Atkins. "Spending a week on a private yacht used to be a vacation that only the

ultra-rich could afford. We're making that dream accessible to almost anyone."

There is room for up to eight guests on the 62-foot-long private yacht. The accommodations are perfect for a vacation with the extended family or a group of close friends. The ship is equipped with a state-of-the-art sound system, three flat-screen televisions, DirecTV, wireless internet access, two video game systems and a DVD library.

Passengers will enjoy gourmet dishes prepared by the on-board chef.

The itinerary includes visits to the port cities of Los Barriles and La Paz, home to the famous oceanfront promenade of Malecon. Back on the yacht, guests can take advantage of water sports equipment, including snorkeling gear, ocean kayaks, deep sea fishing equipment, a banana tube and more. A weeklong all-inclusive Cortez cruise starts at \$2,125 per person.

Cortez Cruises, 800-971-7117,  
[info@cortezcruises.com](mailto:info@cortezcruises.com),  
[www.cortezcruises.com](http://www.cortezcruises.com)

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## NEW PACKAGES BY DENALI PARK RESORTS



Denali Park Resorts, which operates four properties just outside Denali National Park, has introduced three new packages for 2007 offering visitors savings of up to 50 percent.

The "Twice as Nice" deal offers two room nights for the price of one. Between May 13 and June 6, 2007, guests can book one room night at any of Denali Park Resorts' four properties, including the McKinley Chalet Resort, Grande Denali Lodge, McKinley Village Lodge, or Denali Bluffs Hotel for \$199 and get the second night free.

For the 2007 summer season Denali Dreamin' and Discover Denali can accommodate varying travel plans.

Denali Dreamin' includes overnight accommodations at the McKinley Chalet Resort, admission to the nightly Alaska Cabin Nite Dinner Theater, and breakfast buffet for two. Total cost is \$148.99 ppdo, a savings of 30 percent off regular rates.

Distinctive Denali is a complete package that includes transportation, accommodations, park tours, and meals. The total cost is \$805 ppdo, a savings of 15 percent. The package features: GoldStar Service on the Alaska Railroad; The Park Connection Motor coach transportation; two nights deluxe accommodation at the McKinley Chalet Resort or Grande Denali Lodge; Tundra Wilderness Tour; dinner for two; tickets to Alaska Cabin Night Dinner Theater; and breakfast for two each morning.

Denali National Park and Denali Park Resorts, 800-276-7234, [www.denaliparkresorts.com](http://www.denaliparkresorts.com)

## NEW ORLEANS NAMED A TOP DESTINATION FOR '07

Orbitz and Travel + Leisure have named New Orleans as a top destination for travelers in 2007.

In naming New Orleans one of seven "hot spots," Orbitz said: "Continuing its remarkable comeback after hurricane Katrina, New Orleans is bustling and thriving once again. Events are plentiful in New Orleans in 2007 as the city welcomes travelers back for events like its always-outlandish Mardi Gras celebration in February and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in April."

In a preview of what travelers can expect in 2007 in its January issue, Travel + Leisure included New Orleans among its choices, with Alexandria, Egypt; Quito, Ecuador; and Istria, Croatia.

The magazine also commented on visitors growing interest in helping with the city's recovery, writing: "For travelers who want to play a more direct part in the Crescent City's renaissance, 'voluntourism' opportunities abound."

"These designations reflect a tremendous vote of confidence for New Orleans from two of the travel industry's most well-respected and well-received groups," says Stephen Perry, President and CEO of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau. "What their recognition tells the world is that New Orleans continues to be one of America's - if not the world's - most authentic, unique cities, and a top destination for visitors."

The New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau (NOMCVB), [www.neworleanscvb.com](http://www.neworleanscvb.com)

## KIDS FLY FREE TO DISNEYLAND ON ALASKA AIRLINES

Alaska Airlines Vacations has launched its "Kids Fly Free to Disneyland Resort" program, offering savings on family travel to the resort during its "The Year of a Million Dreams" celebration.

The promotion offers free airfare for children ages two through 11 with the purchase of an Alaska Airlines Southern California Vacations package. The offer is valid to one

of six Southern California airports, including Los Angeles, Long Beach, Burbank, Ontario, Orange County and San Diego.

Examples of package pricing include Seattle to Long Beach \$697; Portland, Ore., to Los Angeles \$761; Spokane, Wash., to Los Angeles \$735; and Anchorage, Alaska, to Long Beach \$965. Sample package pricing is for one adult and one child, and includes roundtrip airfare, four-night hotel stay, airport transfers and five-day Disneyland Resort Park Hopper Bonus Tickets. Vacation packages also are available for shorter or longer time periods, and from most cities served by Alaska Airlines or its sister carrier, Horizon Air.

The packages are on sale through March 20, 2007, and apply to travel January 3 through June 28, 2007.

Alaska Airlines, [www.alaskaair.com](http://www.alaskaair.com)

## "LEGENDARY" SPRING TRAINING PACKAGE AT QUORUM HOTEL-TAMPA

The Quorum Hotel-Tampa is offering a vacation package for baseball fans to enjoy Spring Training at Legends Field. Guests can see the 2007 New York Yankees take the field, and then enjoy themselves at the newly-renovated Quorum Hotel-Tampa.

The Tampa Legends package begins at \$169 (Friday - Saturday) and \$259 (Sunday - Thursday) and includes a one-night stay for up to four guests. The package also includes one autograph kit complete with baseball, Sharpie and a disposable 35mm camera, and breakfast buffet for two at the Blue Water Grill. The package is available during the months of April and May - the Spring Training season.

The host hotel for the "Fourth Annual Derek Jeter Celebrity Golf Tournament," The Quorum Hotel-Tampa offers an outdoor pool and therapeutic spa and fitness center. After a day at the ballpark, guests can unwind with a complimentary seated massage during the evening manager's cocktail reception held every Monday through Saturday.

Quorum Hotel-Tampa, 877- 4-QUORUM (478-6786), 813-289-8200, [www.QuorumTampa.com](http://www.QuorumTampa.com)

**ANGUILLA**

Carimar Beach Club in Anguilla is offering a special travel agent rate beginning May 1 to November 15. Rate is \$130/night in a one bedroom beach view unit (two persons max.) and \$230/night in a two bedroom (four persons max).

Both are subject to taxes and a \$1 per bedroom per night Gov./levy.

Carimar Beach Hotel, 800-235-8667,  
carimar@anguillanet.com, www.carimar.com

**BELIZE**

Almond Beach Belize, the luxury resort on the south coast of Belize is offering special rates to TA's from May 1 onwards to coincide with the opening of Butterflies, the first luxury destination Spa resort on the southern coast of Belize.

TA rates of 50 percent off are offered to travel agents who have a client base interested in Belize, Costa Rica and the Caribbean. Travel Agents will also be given the option of a jungle and reef familiarization trip that combines Butterflies Spa, the new accommodation at Almond Beach and a review of the new tree houses opened at their sister resort, Caves Branch.

Almond Beach Belize, abrbelize@yahoo.com,  
www.almondbeachbelize.com

**MEXICO**

Ceiba del Mar, Riviera Maya, Mexico is featuring a special offer. For \$442 (high season) or \$425 (low season) agents will receive a three night stay in a Deluxe room; \$100 Spa credit per person, per stay; roundtrip airport transfers; and in-room continental breakfast. Tax and service charge is included. Price is per person, per package in double occupancy.

Credit card guarantee is required and cancellations can be made three days prior to arrival without penalty charge. IATA number is required when booking.

Ceiba del Mar, reserve@ceibadelmar.com, www.ceibadelmar.com

**MEXICO**

The Reef Resorts, Playa del Carmen, Mexico is offering a special of \$95 per person per night for arrivals in February and March for travel agents.

Price includes a lobster dinner. Reservations for this special package price must be sent to reservations@thereefplayacar.com and must refer to the "TWN" package.

The Reef Resorts, reservations@thereefplayacar.com

**MOROCCO**

Oussaden Tours is offering a FAM Trip to Morocco's Imperial Cities, departing March 10, 2007.

Rates are \$1,345 for a travel agent and \$1,535 for a companion. Price includes round trip to Morocco, six nights at 4-star and 5-star hotels, three meals a day, escorted tour by motorcoach, monument entrance fees, and one dinner with

Moroccan family. FAM land only is \$820 for agent and \$975 for companion.

Oussaden Tours, moroccotours@att.net, www.oussadentours.com

**MOROCCO**

Foreign Independent Tours is offering an eight day Morocco FAM March 3-10, 2007 for \$999 air and land. Companions are welcome. This package includes roundtrip non-stop air JFK to Casablanca on Royal Air Maroc; six night accommodation in 5-star hotels (one night in Rabat, two nights in Fez, two nights in Marrakesh, one night in Casablanca); breakfast and dinner daily; comprehensive sightseeing, including entrance fees and guidance; all transfers within Morocco with local hosting; and service of an English-speaking guide. Sightseeing and transportation provided in a modern air-conditioned motorcoach. Price excludes airport taxes and fuel surcharges.

Foreign Independent Tours, 800-248-3487, www.fittours.com

**NEW YORK**

To celebrate the opening of the 230-room Hotel Mela on January 8, 2007, travel professionals can enjoy deluxe accommodations at a \$149 exclusive introductory rate from January 8 through the month of February. Introductory rates are based on availability excluding February 2 - 11, 2007. Hotel Mela, exuding the rich culture and history of New York and the high style and fine art of Italian living, will be the first new construction to be erected on what is considered "Hotel and University Club Row" in over 20 years.

The hotel is situated on West 44th Street and is within walking distance to Times Square, Broadway and other city landmarks and entertainment district.

Hotel Mela, 877-452-6352, www.hotelmela.com



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\* Offer of extra travel day valid for all 6, 8 and 10 day Eurail Select Passes. Purchase to be made between February 1 and March 31 2007. First day of travel must occur within 6 months of purchase.

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Eurail is giving an extra travel day for free to all customers purchasing a Eurail Select Pass (valid for travel in 3, 4 or 5 adjoining countries) by March 31, allowing your customers to discover more of Europe for less.

Welcome to Europe by Eurail!



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For enquiries and purchasing, please contact one of the following authorized Eurail GSAs:



eurail.com



1-866-9-EURAIL  
acprail.com



1-866-WORLD-51  
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gta-travel.com



1-800-4-EURAIL  
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