



## Qantas details new Perth Airport T3 'international terminal wing'

Qantas has pulled back the covers on its upgraded T3 international terminal at Perth Airport ahead of this month's launch of non-stop flights between Perth and London. Those flights, along with other Qantas services to Singapore and Auckland as of March 24, will run from a new international wing at the otherwise-domestic Terminal 3, which abuts Terminal 4 as part of what the airline likes to call its Qantas Terminal Precinct. T3's international zone sports its own immigration and customs area, duty-free store, cafes and bars, along with three 'swing gates' gates which can be used for international and domestic flights as needed.

### Air News



## Qatar's new Qsuite planned

Qatar Airways has announced that it is shifting its focus to the next generation of its business class Qsuite product. The updated product will be designed for the airline's A380 superjumbos and world-first Boeing 777X jets due in 2020. Fitted in a 1-2-1 configuration, the new Qsuits will be at least 22% lighter than the current seats.



## New QF in-flight menu

Qantas has unveiled the menu for its 787 Dreamliner Perth-London Heathrow service. The menu is designed to specifically reduce jetlag and increase hydration. The menu includes probiotic infused Botanica cold pressed juice shots, an herbal tea developed to encourage relaxation and dishes which feature ingredients that promote hydration such as green leafy vegetables, cucumber, strawberries and celery. The new menu will be on offer from 24 March 2018.

## Emirates first all-women crew

An Emirates crew made solely of women has completed a flight service from Dubai to San Francisco, made possible by over 75 women from more than 25 nationalities. Labelled the 'Superwomen flight', the world's largest plane was piloted by Canadian captain Patricia Bischoff and British first officer Rebecca Lougheed. Along with the cockpit and crew being entirely female, all aspects involved were run by women from technicians and engineers to security officers. The special service ran in tribute to International Women's Day.





## **New Qantas Business Class lounge for SYD**

Qantas will begin construction on its Sydney International Business Class lounge in the third quarter of this year. The multi-million-dollar upgrade will increase lounge capacity by 30%, and include an all-new dining experience from resident chef Neil Perry. Led by David Caon, developer of the Qantas Dreamliner cabins and International Transit Lounge in Perth, the lounge will be designed to provide 'ample space, privacy and ambiance', in line with feedback from Qantas customers. The lounge will be completed in stages to allow ongoing lounge access, targeting completion at the end of 2019.



## **Emirates ditches middle seat in new Boeing 777 business class**

Emirates has debuted a newly designed Boeing 777 business class cabin, removing the middle seat to make space for wider business class seats. All ten of the Boeing 777-200LR jets will switch to a 2-2-2 layout as a part of an update which will also remove the first-class, the revamp also includes a new 'mini lounge' with a self-serve bar with snacks. The central overheads have also been removed which will limit carry-on space.

## **Virgin to expand its US reach**

A request to expand Virgin Australia and Air Canada's codeshare partnership is awaiting approval from authorities, with plans to offer more options for passengers flying between Australia and the United States. The VA code is already featured on Air Canada's flights between Toronto, Calgary and Montreal from LAX, but hopes to include even more North American routes that connect with VA's services into Los Angeles.

## **Virgin's Melbourne-Hong Kong schedule change**

The midyear launch of Virgin's Sydney-Hong Kong service will see the Melbourne-Hong Kong service cut back. The service will be cut back from daily to just 5 flights a week with no flight on Wednesday or Friday.



## **Big switch: Qantas changes London stopover from Dubai to Singapore**

It's "goodbye" to Dubai and "hello again, old friend" to Singapore as Qantas next weekend ditches the Emirates hub and returns to Singapore as the stopover point for its Kangaroo Route to London. The Gulf city will see its last Qantas flight on Saturday March 24 – almost five years to the day that the Qantas-Emirates alliance saw the long-standing Singapore stopover axed in favour of Dubai.

## **Malaysia Airlines increase ADL-KUL flights**

As of 5 July 2018, Malaysia Airlines will increase its ADL-KL service to five per week as it continues its Australian growth. It will depart KL at 10:20pm on Wednesdays and arrive at 7am the following morning which will then return on Thursdays to reach KL at 2:30pm that afternoon.



## **Cathay Pacific new lounge 'The Deck' opening March**

Cathay Pacific's new lounge, The Deck is set to open 22 March 2018. The new lounge is located near Gate 16 in Terminal 1 of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and has been designed in line with their signature lounge style. The space will allow travellers to enjoy signature dan-dan noodles, drinks and a view from The Terrace and a relaxing and refreshing space for pre-flight prep.



## **Qantas to delay Airbus A330 Wi-Fi**

Qantas has announced that it will push back the installation of inflight Wi-Fi on its domestic Airbus A330 fleet until 2019. QF initially pegged the fast and free satellite-based Wi-Fi service to be in the air from early 2017, which was then pushed back to early 2018.



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### **Hotel News**

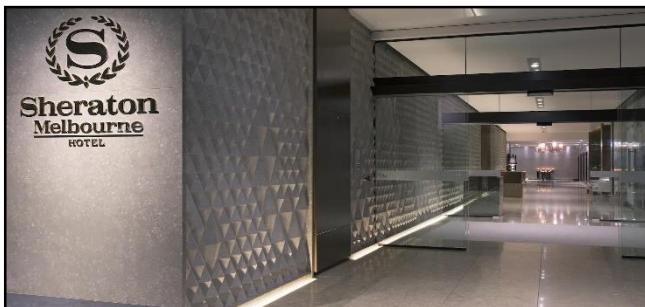
## **Crowne Plaza Adelaide**

The Crowne Plaza hotel label is due to return to Adelaide in 2020. InterContinental Hotels Group has an agreement with Kyren group to open the Crowne Plaza Adelaide as a part of a mixed-use development on Frome Street. The 326-room hotel will be set within Adelaide's tallest tower, Frome Central Tower One with check in being situated on the 10th level. There will be 83 residential apartments.



## **Qatar acquires Sheraton Melbourne**

Qatar Airways has expanded its hospitality portfolio, with the acquisition of Sheraton Melbourne Hotel. The 174-room hotel joins the likes of the Sheraton Skyline Hotel at LHR and the Novotel Edinburgh Park in Edinburgh, who are owned under Qatar's Dhiyafatina Hotels brand.



## **TFE Hotels adds hotel in Canberra**

TFE Hotels has added another excellent apartment hotel to its rapidly expanding portfolio, with the addition of Adina Serviced Apartments Canberra Dickson, formerly Aria Hotel Canberra. On 1 March, TFE Hotels takes over management of the hotel, which is consistently ranked Canberra's third best on TripAdvisor. The hotel has an appealing contemporary design, with 128 apartments in studio and one-bedroom format set over eight levels, some with large private balconies and spa baths. The hotel's light-filled rooms and modern décor make it an appealing stay for leisure or business trips. There is grab and go café open for breakfast in the hotel's airy central atrium.



## **Marriott International re-launches The Le Meridien Hotel in Australia**

Scheduled to open in 2020, the 235-room hotel will re-introduce the brand to Australia. Le Meridien will be built on the site of Burke Street's former Palace Theatre. Le Meridien has recently had openings in Italy, South Korea, China and the US over the past year.

## **ACCC gives Accor go-ahead for Mantra acquisition**

The ACCC has announced it will not oppose the planned purchase of Mantra Group by AccorHotels, citing sufficient competition from the other hotel groups in the local market. There are over 125 Mantra properties in Asia Pacific area set to join AccorHotel's portfolio, giving it the Peppers, Art Series, Mantra and Breakfree brands.

## **New Vibe Hotel North Sydney**

TFE Hotels is set to open its new Vibe Hotel North Sydney in Northpoint in April 2018. Guests will have access to a rooftop bar and pool and Northpoint's new exciting eat street. Along with 187 rooms the hotel also offers four meeting rooms providing a conferencing capacity of 120.

### **Other News**



## **Obama set to visit Oz**

Former US President Barack Obama is set to visit Australia and New Zealand in March to speak at an event held by the New Zealand-United States Council. The event will take place in Auckland on 22 March and Sydney on 23 March with Air New Zealand a major event supporter.



## **Australia's largest trial of biometrics**

Sydney Airport's international terminal will be trialling a 'passport free' airport experience with Qantas. By the end of the year, passengers will be able to pass through the six steps of check in, bag drop, boarder processing, security screening, airport lounge and boarding gate after only showing their passport once. If the trial is successful it is expected to extend to other airlines quickly.

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