

The Alliance

Bulletin

Providing key information in a no-frills format for professionals who travel to write, edit, broadcast or create images.

June 2015

Ashley Gibbins

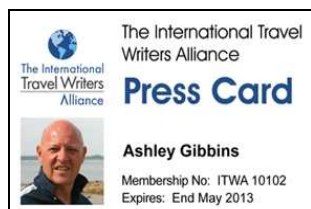
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The Alliance Bulletin

Issue 185 : June 2015

www.itwalliance.com

The Alliance press card



The International Travel Writers Alliance Press Card now provides Alliance journalists with formal recognition of their status and standing in the profession and a range of opportunities from Alliance travel partners.

Contact Ashley Gibbins at Ashley@itwalliance.com.

Job shop

The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop enables the Alliance's partners to place - and journalists to receive - information on in-house jobs, special assignments or one-off projects.

Addition services through Job shop

The Alliance's travel journalists can also :

- create an anonymous job seeker profile or upload a CV for potential employers to search through
- set up **Job Alerts** so as to be notified if a job is posted that matches the journalists skills or interests, and
- access job searching tools and tips

Visit : www.jobtarget.com/home/home.cfm?site_id=14773

Working with the Alliance

The following travel industry partners and agencies have registered with the Alliance and are keen to work with Alliance travel writers, editors, broadcasters and photographers.

Other Alliance partners and agencies can be found at www.itwalliance.com.

Partners

Romania Convention and Visitors Club ' Destination Romania'

Romania Convention and Visitors Club ' Destination Romania' is the private marketing initiative aiming to promote travel and tourism to Romania for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), for holidays, spas and medical tourism.

Destination Romania represents a select group of companies dealing with incoming tourism to Romania. All its members hold the required licenses and strive to provide the highest level of service to their customers.

Visit : www.visit-romania.org.uk. Contact : Maria Iordache at info@visit-romania.org.uk.

Eating Europe

Eating Europe Tours was started with Eating Italy Food Tours in 2013, by American native Kenny Dunn who was living in Rome.

In the same year Eating Europe launched their first London Food Tour in the city's East End, and Eating Amsterdam Tours and Eating Prague Tours in 2014.

In spring 2015, the company will roll out evening tours the Twilight Soho Food Tour and the Twilight De Pijp Food Tour in London and Amsterdam respectively.

All of Eating Europe's food tours take guests through off-the-beaten-path neighborhoods, giving a taste of the best that each city has to offer.

On the way guests learn about the foodie traditions and history that locals know about but most tourists never get the chance to experience.

Visit : www.eatingeuropetours.com. Contact : Adam Groffman at adam@eatingeuropetours.com.

Jonglez Publishing

The Jonglez Publishing series of Secret Guides are written by local experts and intended for local residents and travellers alike

The guides are unusual and unfamiliar, allowing visitors to step off the beaten track.

Guides in the series are

Secret Amsterdam	Secret New York An unusual guide
Secret Barcelona	Secret New York Curious Activities
Secret Bars and Restaurants in Paris	Secret Paris
Secret Brussels	Secret Prague
Secret Copenhagen	Secret Provence
Secret Dublin An unusual guide	Secret Rome
Secret Florence	Secret Tuscany
Secret French Riviera	Secret Venice
Secret Geneva	Forbidden Places Exploring our abandoned
Secret Lisbon	heritage 1 & 2
Secret London An unusual guide	Unusual Hotels Europe
Secret London Unusual Bars and restaurants	Unusual Hotels France
Secret Madrid	Unusual Hotels UK and Ireland
Secret Milan	Unusual Hotels of the world
Secret Montreal An unusual guide	Private Islands for rent
Secret Naples	Unusual nights in Paris

Visit : www.jonglezpublishing.com. For review copies contact : Thomas Jonglez at thomasjonglez@jonglezpublishing.com.

Fundación Turismo Palma de Mallorca 365

The Fundación Turismo Palma de Mallorca 365 is a non-profit public-private organisation responsible for the promotion of tourism to the city of Palma de Mallorca and, where relevant, the island of Mallorca.

The organisation comprises Palma City Council as the majority partner and the Balearic Islands Port Authority along with 28 different private companies, all of which are recognised within the tourism sector on a national and international level.

Visit : www.visitpalma.com/en. Contact : Kate McWilliams at kate@lotus-uk.co.uk.

Sharpham Vineyard, Devon UK

Sharpham Vineyard is located among the green fields of the South Hams, overlooking the River Dart and two miles downstream from the ancient market town of Totnes.

This thousand year old farm consists of five hundred acres owned by the Sharpham Trust with its house, designed in 1770 by Sir Robert Taylor, overlooking the Dart.

The Trusts aim is to farm successfully in the modern context and to produce world class wine and cheese in harmony with the environment and the natural beauty of the Estate.

By producing their own Red Tractor assured Jersey cow's milk on the farm and growing a range of carefully selected cool climate grape varieties in the vineyard, the team at Sharpham is in control of production from start to finish.

The results are individual, handmade wines and cheeses which have a special character and flavour that relates to the unique position in the South Hams area of Devon.

Visit : www.sharphamtrust.org. Hayley Reynolds at hayley@rawprandmarketing.co.uk.

The Convento da Sertã Hotel, Portugal

The Convento da Sertã Hotel, conveniently located in the green heart of Central Portugal, presents luxury 4-star accommodation in a lovingly restored 17thC convent building.

With 25 fully-equipped rooms in different styles, 24hr reception, bar, outdoor pool, massage and treatment space, WiFi, private parking, luxury buffet breakfast included in room price and restaurant.

Ideally situated for those who wish to discover Coimbra, Tomar, stunning landscapes and water-sports facilities of the Rio Zêzere, the network of ancient schist villages, rich local gastronomy

Visit : www.conventodasertahotel.pt. Contact : Elsa Marçal at elsa.marcal@gmail.com.

TBEX

TBEX holds three annual conferences in North America, Europe and Asia and provides professional development and facilitates business relationships between content creators and the travel industry.

Visit : www.tbexcon.com. Contact : Rick Calvert at rick@nmxevents.com.

Agencies

Momentum R + Branding (USA)

Momentum R + Branding is a boutique PR and Marketing agency that has worked with world-class tourism destinations including Grand Canyon West and the Grand Canyon Skywalk.

Visit : www.momentumlv.com. Contact : Colin Daviau at colin@momentumlv.com.

News

Flemings Mayfair, London

Flemings Mayfair Hotel is investing £14 million in a refurbishment, which will see 129 new-look bedrooms, suites and apartments, alongside a new tea lounge and bar and a new restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Shaun Rankin.

Originally opened in 1851 and converted from 13 Georgian townhouses, Flemings Mayfair offers accommodation in one of London's most prestigious neighbourhoods, being close to Green Park, Piccadilly and a short walk from Buckingham Palace.

Visit : www.flemings-mayfair.co.uk. Contact : Emma Hawley at emma@rochecom.com.

King Kong at Universal Orlando Resort

King Kong will be a major attraction at Universal Orlando Resort from 2016 when the theme park introduces 'Skull Island: Reign of Kong'.

The new attraction, billed as 'an intense, all-new adventure brought to life in a dramatically themed environment' will open next summer of 2016 at Universal's Islands of Adventure.

With this attraction park visitors will be ... 'transported into a wild and mysterious world, where their mission will be to discover creatures of unknown origin – but where they are soon 'fighting' for their own survival

Their journey will take them through an ancient temple inhabited by hostile natives, a perilous jungle ruled by prehistoric creatures, a foreboding underworld of caves concealing unspeakable terrors – and face-to-face with the colossal Kong himself'.

Universal Creative is working closely with Peter Jackson, director of 2005's blockbuster movie, King Kong, on the new adventure ride.

Visit : www.universalorlando.com/ReignofKong. Contact : sarah.porter@universalorlando.com.

Conrad Chicago

Conrad Hotels & Resorts will open a Conrad Chicago in spring 2016.

Overlooking North Michigan Avenue on Erie Street, the new Conrad Chicago will provide guests with immediate access to high-end retail and restaurants in the one of the most desirable locations in the city.

Designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon, the 20-story property will offer 287-rooms, of which 12 are expansive suites.

The Conrad Chicago will be the sixth U.S.-based Conrad Hotels & Resorts property behind the brand's upcoming projects in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and Washington, D.C.

Visit : www.conradhotels.com and www.news.conradhotels.com. Contact : Rochelle Mossack at rochelle.mossack@hilton.com.

Pets Come Too, UK

Pets Come Too, which is published by Hudson's Media, features over 150 UK star-rated places to stay that welcome pets and their owners.

Each regional section also features an inspiring selection of places to visit and ideas for walks and days out.

In addition, the Guide will have an interactive website with an easy to use search facility and enables the user to book accommodation online.

Hudson's Media, under license from *VisitEngland/VisitBritain*, also produce four other official Tourist Board Guides :

- B&B's and Hotels
- Self-Catering
- Camping, Touring & Holiday Parks, and
- Walkers & Cyclists Welcome'.

Visit : www.hudsons.co.uk/shop and www.visitor-guides.co.uk. For review copies contact : Tanya Aspinwall at Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk.

The Stafford London

Located in the heart of St James's among London's Royal Parks and Palaces, The Stafford is a fine five-star hotels.

This summer, the hotel launches a series of monthly literary afternoon tea events with a different author each month talking about their latest book.

The informal events will include a Q&A with the author hosted by Times and Observer newspaper interviewer and author Liz Hoggard.

The 'Stafford Saturday Salons' offer attendees the opportunity to hear intimate accounts of the writing process behind each book and the opportunity to purchase a signed copy, over afternoon tea with a glass of champagne.

An independent historic hotel near Green Park, Buckingham Palace and Mayfair, The Stafford London was founded in 1912 and has 105 individually decorated bedrooms and suites split across the Main House and the Carriage House.

The American Bar at The Stafford is an institution in its own right.

During WWII The Stafford served as a club for American and Canadian officers until 1945.

Today, The American Bar's collection of memorabilia is a mix of items donated by guests of the hotel, celebrity fans have also signed photographs for the walls.

Visit : www.thestaffordlondon.com. Contact : Peter da Silva at peter@boutiquedasilva.com.

Niagara Canada Travel digital magazine

Tourism Partnership of Niagara has published the 2015 edition of Niagara Canada Travel online magazine with a range of articles and travel tips.

Visit : www.niagarafalls.ca and www.niagarafallstourism.com. Contact : Wendy Canavan at wcanavan@niagarafalls.ca.

Splashworld, Provence, France

Splashworld, a 'next generation' waterpark, which will open in June 2015 is located next to the Lac de Montoux, 17 km from Avignon at the foot of Mont Ventoux.

The largest waterpark in France it will offer new attractions such as the largest surf simulator in the world and the longest lazy river in Europe.

Visit : www.splashworld.net. Contact : Mélanie Brochain at melanie@splashworld.net.

La Bastide de Gordes, France

La Bastide de Gordes, part of the Leading Hotels of the World group, will re-open in June 2015, after eight months of extensive refurbishment.

This 16th century building occupies a unique site in the village of Gordes, which is known as one of the most beautiful villages in France.

The hotel and bedrooms will be freshly decorated in an 18th century Château style, providing the ultimate in comfort, with all the latest equipment.

The gardens, which enjoy a view of the valley, will have a formal landscape design and a 30m suspended lap pool, flanking the château's ancient 12th century ramparts.

Visit : www.bastide-de-gordes.com. Contact : info@bastide-de-gordes.com.

Eurostar

Eurostar has began services from London to Lyon and the South of France.

The year-round service travels direct from London St Pancras International to Lyon, Avignon and Marseille.

The service takes passengers to the centre of Lyon, the French capital of gastronomy in just over four and a half hours, the sunny Provencal lavender fields in under six hours and the bright lights and coastline of Marseille in just over six hours.

Eurostar is the high-speed train service linking St Pancras International, Ebbsfleet International, Ashford International, Paris, Brussels, Lille, Calais, Disneyland Resort Paris, Avignon and the French Alps.

Visit : www.eurostar.com. Rob Haycocks at Rob.Haycocks@eurostar.com.

Leads

Bon Voyage : New England and French Canada.

Bon Voyage has launched a seasonal escorted rail & coach tour through New England and French Canada.

It gives guests the chance to experience the spectacular fall colours in the US and Canada by train with a new 12-day seasonal journey through New England, Quebec and Montreal.

The tour takes in Boston, the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad along the shores of the Lake and the fall display of the three surrounding mountain ranges.

It also includes one of the great train adventures up North America's steepest train tracks to the summit of Mount Washington, at 6,223 ft. on the Mt Washington Cog Railway followed by a journey on the 140-year old Conway Scenic Railroad through Crawford Notch with its steep ravines.

The tour then takes in Maine and the seaside resort of Bar Harbor, the glacier-carved mountain and the top of Cadillac Mountain, the highest point along the North seaboard before the conclusion of the tour in Rockport, Massachusetts.

Visit : www.bon-voyage.co.uk. Contact : Jane Wilson at jane@attachecommunications.co.uk.

Keeping Britain Afloat, The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent UK

Keeping Britain Afloat is a new permanent exhibition at The Historic Dockyard Chatham that explores the survival of Britain during the war years through poignant first-hand accounts

The exhibition provides a snapshot of memories from over fifty veterans from the Second World War.

Their moving stories range from escapes to extreme survival and provide a glimpse of what life was like on convoy duty.

Keeping Britain Afloat is on permanent display within The Historic Warships area in The Historic Dockyard and is included in the normal dockyard admission price.

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is home to HMS Cavalier, the Royal Navy's last operational Second World War destroyer.

HMS Cavalier is now preserved at Chatham as part of the National Destroyer Memorial commemorating the 142 British destroyers and over 11,000 men lost at sea during the war.

Visit : www.thedockyard.co.uk. Gail Louise James at gjames@chdt.org.uk.

Pedalers Pub & Grille, Tanzania

Pedalers Pub & Grille is offering a Serengeti to the Sea bike tour, which highlights Tanzania's people, landscapes, culture and way of life.

Tanzania has long been known as a safari destination, with game parks such as the Serengeti national Park, and for Mt Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak on the African continent.

But for cyclists Serengeti to the Sea is a 10 day fully supported inn to inn bicycle tour. The inaugural departure is set for 12 October 2015, with additional departures in January, July and October 2016.

Pedalers Pub & Grille

Pedalers Pub & Grille has been conducting custom cycling tours to 13 destinations in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Alaska.

Visit : www.PedalersPubandGrille.com. Contact : Tom Sheehan at tours@pedalerspubandgrille.com.

Yukon's wild rivers and lakes

The Yukon offers paddling enthusiasts canoe, kayak and rafting experiences on 70 wilderness rivers and many lakes.

There is the chance to join a multi-day canoe, kayak or rafting trip on a remote wilderness river linked with hiking, fishing and photography while camping under Yukon's midnight sun.

with scrumptious riverside cuisine, knowledgeable guides and spectacular scenery will make it a trip of a lifetime.

The annual Yukon River Quest is a 444-mile wilderness adventure paddling race held on the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson City.

Taking place during the last week of June (24-28 June, 2015), the Yukon River Quest is the world's longest annual canoe and kayak race, and known as the "Race to the Midnight Sun," as paddlers race round-the-clock under a sky that never gets dark.

Visit : www.yukonriverquest.com and www.travelyukon.com. Contact : Lisa Chamberlain
Lisa.chamberlain@btinternet.com.

Space out with an astronaut in Florida

Visitors to the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida can now spend a half day with a veteran NASA astronaut as a guide to experiencing the centre, including a 'flight' on Shuttle Launch Experience - 3...2...1...

Visit : www.Kennedyspacecenter.com. Contact : Sarah Hansen at shansen@delawarenorth.com.

What's on

The Chicago Blues Festival, Illinois

12 to 14 June 2015 (annual)

The annual Chicago Blues Festival is one of the largest blues festival in the world.

The 32nd running of the Windy City's most popular annual festival will draw up to 500,000 blues fans in Grant Park, who will be attracted by free admission and headline act Buddy Guy.

The music featuring both well-known names and rising stars of the genre, will be played out across three stages.

Visit : www.chicagofestivals.net/music/blues and www.enjoyillinois.co.uk. Contact : Elisa Marcus at elisa.marcus@illinois.gov.

The Bolesworth CIS International, Bolesworth, Cheshire

17 to 20 June 2015

The Bolesworth International held annually is four day show-jumping event attracting over 30,000 visitors to Bolesworth Castle in rural Cheshire.

The Castle has been home to the Barbour family for over 150 years.

The show was awarded 4 star status for 2015, elevating Bolesworth into the top 5 show jumping venues in the UK, alongside Hickstead, Windsor and Olympia.

Horses and riders from all over the world including Bolesworth ambassador and winner of last year's Grand Prix, William Whitaker, will compete for a share of the impressive £250,000 prize fund.

Visitors to Bolesworth enjoy world-class equestrian competition and a range of animal displays including camels, reptiles, parrots and a dog show.

There is a live music concert (*Scouting For Girls*) and orld champion jet-skier Anthony Burgess takes to Bolesworth Lake for a display of stunts and tricks.

The Fine Food, Fashion and Lifestyle Festival

In addition, the *Fine Food, Fashion & Lifestyle Festival* runs from 19- 21 June and includes a food court with celebrity chef demonstrations, home interior workshops, fashion shows and an extensive shopping village.

Major sponsors of the 2015 event include Redrow Homes Limited, IFX, Cazenove Capital

Visit : www.bolesworthinternational.com. contact Laura Young at laura@showponyevents.co.uk.

Eroica Britannia, the Peak District and Derbyshire, UK

19 to 21 June 2015

The Eroica Britannia is a three-day cycling festival, which is billed as 'the most handsome festival in the world', is the highlight of a Summer of Cycling in the Peak District and Derbyshire.

Around 3,500 cyclists are set to don retro gear and take to pre-1987 bikes for this year's race on Sunday June 21, passing through some of the finest Peak District landscapes and villages en route.

Bakewell Showground, in the heart of the Peak District, will once again host three days of live music, more than 200 vendors, vintage shopping and a specialist food festival.

Other events during the Summer of Cycling include :

- family friendly rides
- a guided Tour de Frites retro ride including fish and chips
- a cycle ride to the cinema, and
- guided rides in some of the area's most scenic locations.

More competitive cyclists will enjoy challenges such as the new Bradwell Hill Billy Sportive or the off-road Bamford Hill Climb, up one of the steepest roads in England.

The Peak District and Derbyshire will also host up to 120 of the world's top cyclists during the tenth Tour of Britain, the country's premier road cycling event, on Friday 11 September 2015.

Starting in Stoke-on-Trent, they will race through Buxton, Bakewell, Matlock and Belper during the 189 kilometres stage to Nottingham.

Visit : www.eroicabritannia.co.uk, www.summerofcycling.co.uk and www.tourofbritain.co.uk. Contact : Janette Sykes at janette.sykes@visitpeakdistrict.com.

River of Music Party, ROMP, Kentucky

24 to 27 June 2015

The Bluegrass State of Kentucky hosts a number of bluegrass festivals and celebrations with the River of Music Party, ROMP the biggest.

The annual four-day bluegrass music and camping festival takes place in Owensboro and acts as a major fundraiser for the International Bluegrass Music Museum, also in Owensboro.

The festival features performances by traditional and progressive bluegrass music bands.

Visit : www.rompfest.com. For press passes : www.rompfest.com/media-pass.

Nine European festivals

EXIT, Petrovaradin Fortress, Novi Sad, Serbia

7 to 14 July 2015

Set in an historic fortress overlooking the river Danube, each stage is connected by cobbled streets, ramparts and tunnels leading to some of the world's biggest and most diverse musical acts.

Visit : www.exitfest.org/en

Balaton Sound, Lake Balaton, Hungary

8 to 12 July 2015

Stretched along the shores of Lake Balaton, once a year this small town converts in to a party resort with massive arenas, beach parties and the biggest names in electronic music.

Visit : www.hu/balatonsound.

Sea Dance,

Jaz Beach, Budva, Montenegro

15 to 118 July 2015,

Winner of 'Best Medium Sized Festival', this new electronic music festival is located on one the most stunning beaches along the Adriatic coast.

Visit : ww.seadancefestival.me/en.

Positivus Festival, Salacgriva, Latvia

17 to 19 July 2015

Taking place in the picturesque coastal town of Salacgriva, Positivus brings together chart topping headliners, underground emerging talent and art and dance stages.

It is located in a magical woodland draped in lights and lanterns.

Visit : www.positivusfestival.com

Mysteryland, Haarlemmermeer, The Netherlands

29-30 August 2015

Just a short distance from the city of Amsterdam, the world's longest running dance music festival takes visitors on a creative journey, combining music, theatre, movies, interactive art, street performers and spectacular shows.

Visit : www.mysteryland.com.

Sziget Festival, Óbuda Island, Budapest, Hungary

10 to 17 August 2015

Winner of this years 'Best Major European Festival' award, Sziget Festival is one of the worlds biggest multicultural events. There are light installations, interactive art and paint parties.

Visit : www.szigetfestival.com

Contact : Jessica at jessica@globalpublicity.co.uk.

Space City Comic Con, NRG Center, Houston, Texas

24 to 26 July 2015

William Shatner will join celebrities from the worlds of science fiction, fantasy, and pop culture, from film, television, comics, games, literature, and art at Space City Comic Con.

Space City Comic Con is a pop and fan culture entertainment expo of comics, sci-fi, fanta-sy, gaming, literature, and art.

Visit : www.SpaceCityComicCon.com. Contact : Bob Fuldauer at bob@turntoproductions.com.

The National Button Society's National Convention, Manchester, New Hampshire

27 July to 1 August 2015

There will be thousands of special antique and collectible clothing and uniform buttons on display and for sale at the 2015 National Button Society's National Convention and Show at the Radisson Hotel.

This six day event offers educational programs and competition featuring antique, vintage and modern clothing buttons.

Visit : www.nationalbuttonsociety.org. Contact : Jerry DeHay at jmdehay@aol.com.

Miami Spice

1 August to 30 September 2015

The Annual Miami Spice Restaurant Programme has discounted three-course lunch and dinner menus in restaurants throughout the Greater Miami area.

Miami Spice will consist of two restaurant groups: Luxury Restaurants and Fine Dining Restaurants.

Luxury restaurants will offer three course prix-fixe lunches at \$23 per person, dinners at \$39. Fine dining restaurants will feature menus at \$19 for lunch, \$33 for dinner. All Miami Spice menus include an appetizer, entrée and dessert as part of the fixed price, which excludes tax and gratuities.

Visit : www.iLoveMiamiSpice.com and www.MiamiAndBeaches.com. Contact : Suzie Sponder at suzie@gmcbv.com.

Color The Skies Hot Air Balloon Festival Ripon, California

30 and 31 August 2015

Held during Labor Day Weekend, Color the Skies is central California's only hot air balloon festival bringing together Hot Air Balloonists, Skydivers, a synchronized kite show and Air George medical transport helicopter.

Visit : www.colortheskie.com. Contact: Jessica Coleman at jessica@colortheskie.com.

The Great Reno Balloon Race

11 to 13 September 2015

The Great Reno Balloon Race is the world's largest free hot-air ballooning event with more than 100 balloons and 150,000 attending each year.

Visit : www.renoballoon.com. Contact : Ashley Brune at Ashley@biggestlittlegroup.com.

The BKS Air Astana Marathon, Kazakhstan

13 September 2015

Air Astana is to be a title sponsor for the inaugural BKS Air Astana Marathon, which will be run on a course through Kazakhstan's capital.

Runners will be able to choose to compete in either the 5km, 10km, half marathon (21km) or full marathon (42km) events.

In addition to participants from across Kazakhstan, organizers are expecting significant interest from overseas runners.

Air Astana operates direct flights between Astana and London, Paris, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Abu Dhabi, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Omsk, Ekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Tashkent, Bishkek, Urumchi and Beijing.

Visit : www.bksoc-marathon.org.uk and www.airastana.com. Contact : Alison Chambers at alison.chambers@emeraldmedia.co.uk.

Telluride Blues and Brews Festival, Colorado

18 to 20 September 2015

The Telluride Blues and Brews Festival is a three-day, outdoor, celebration of live music and craft beer. It features a mix of blues, funk, jam bands, indie, rock, gospel and soul performances. There will also be food and craft vendors, children activities and late night shows.

The festival takes place in the resort town of Telluride, Colorado, in the heart of the Rocky Mountains.

Visit : www.tellurideblues.com. Contact : Georgina Evans-Phillips at georgina@cellet.co.uk.

UCI Road World Championships, Richmond, Virginia

19-27 September 2015

The UCI Road World Championships are cycling's pinnacle road event and feature 12 events over four courses ranging in distance from less than 15 miles to more than 150.

This is the first time the United States has hosted the event since 1986.

During the event, competitors will ride past some of Richmond and Central Virginia's most iconic views, including :

- Monument Avenue (a historic boulevard named one of the "10 Great Streets in the U.S.")
- Richmond National Battlefield Park (a historic Civil War site)
- the Hanover Courthouse (the third oldest courthouse still in use in America)
- Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (originally the Lakeside Wheel Club, a gathering spot for turn-of-the-century cyclists)
- Meadow Event Park (the birthplace of thoroughbred racing legend Secretariat)
- Kings Dominion (Virginia's premier amusement park), and
- Great Shiplock Park (the start of the Virginia Capital Trail, which is due for completion by September 2015).

Visit : www.Richmond2015.com and www.capitalregionusa.co.uk. Contact : Jo Thomas at jo.thomas@kbctravelgroup.com.

Southport Air Show, UK

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 2015

The Southport Air Show is the biggest event of its kind in the North West with skilled pilots demonstrating some stunning aerobatics.

The flying programme this year includes The Red Arrows and the Typhoon (Eurofighter) already confirmed with other military and civilian to be announced in the coming weeks.

Visit : www.visitsouthport.com. Contact : Dan Grice at dan.grice@chief-executives.sefton.gov.uk

The Contemporary Art and Architecture Triennial, Bruges, Flanders

To 18 October 2015

The city of Bruges is staging a Contemporary Art and Architecture Triennial within the public spaces of its historic centre.

In total, over forty artists, policy makers and architects from Belgium and around the world will be interlinked to tell an artistic tale of the theme of the Triennial: current global urbanisation.

All over the city, visitors will be invited to observe a series of contemporary art installations.

Visit : www.triennalebrugge.be/en. Contact : Anita Rampall at anita.rampall@visitflanders.com.

VideoFest, Dallas Museum of Art

8 to 18 October 2015.

The 25th anniversary of VideoFest will be held the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. in downtown Dallas. VideoFest is now the oldest and largest video festival in the United States.

Visit : www.videofest.org. Contact: Lisa Taylor at info@videofest.org.

Autumn festivals and events on the Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel, Florida

The Fort Myers & Sanibel area, on Florida's south Gulf Coast, has an autumn programme of festivals and events as well as the opportunity to relax and explore its beaches, islands and tropical wildlife.

Pirate Festival

9 to 11 October 2015

The 6th annual Pirate Festival on Fort Myers Beach is for all the family with treasure hunts, costume competitions, musicians, street performers, storytellers and interactive games.

Visit : www.fortmyersbeachpiratefest.com.

"Ding" Darling Days

18 to 25 October 2015

The J. N. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island will celebrate its abundant wildlife with "Ding" Darling Days.

The week has hundreds of interactive activities showing Sanibel's wildlife at its best including a beach birding tram ride, bike tours, nature cruises, guided kayak tours, sunset paddles and talks on manatees, sea turtles, sharks and other animals from the area.

Visit : www.dingdarlingsociety.org.

American Sandsculpting Championship

20 to 29 November 2015

The making of enormous sandsculptures can be watched at the annual Sandsculpting Championship on Fort Myers Beach.

Each year about 100,000 visitors watch experts from all over the world turn sand into spectacular art works using what is thought to be the world's best sculpting sand, due to its high shell content.

Visit : www.sandsculptingfestival.com

The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres.

Visit : www.fortmyers-sanibel.com Contact Nancy Hamilton at NHamilton@leegov.com.

Guernsey Tennerfest

1 October to 11 November 2015 (annual)

Guernsey's 17th annual Tennerfest, will see over 180 restaurants in Guernsey and its sister island Sark offer all inclusive menus starting from £10, with savings of almost 50% on normal prices.

This gives the islands' restaurants the chance to promote their quality gastronomic product and local specialities for value prices.

All Tennerfest participants offer innovative menus focusing on local produce, freshly caught fish and Guernsey specialties such as :

- Guernsey Gâche, a fruit loaf often served with Guernsey butter
- the traditional 'bean jar', a one pot meal cooked overnight and made of beans, pork belly and onions, and
- Gâche Méléé, which is similar to an apple cake; crab patties, Guernsey cheese and locally brewed beer.

Tennerfest is Guernsey's most popular culinary event with an estimated five million Tennerfest meals consumed since the events inception in 1998.

Visit : www.tennerfest.com and www.visitguernsey.com. Contact : Jules Ugo jules@lotus-uk.co.uk.

Jazzfest at Sea

11 to 21 November 2015

The 12th Annual JazzFest at Sea will be held onboard the MSC Divina between Miami to the Southern Caribbean.

The cruise presents Classic Jazz, Chicago Jazz, Traditional Jazz and other jazz styles which emerged during the first half of the 20th century.

Visit : www.JazzFestatSea.com. Contact : Bret Bradford at JazzFest@CruiseCafe.com.

The Macau Grand Prix

19th to 22nd November 2015

The Macau Grand Prix is one of the biggest events of the Macau calendar Hosted by Macau since 1953, it represents the climax of the Formula 3 calendar.

Visit : www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo and www.macau.com/en. Contact : Polly Martin at polly@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Reasons to write about

Norfolk, UK

Norfolk is an eastern English county in an area historically known as East Anglia.

It borders Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and the North Sea.

The cathedral city of Norwich is the county town and the Norfolk Broads comprises the UK's largest protected wetland.

Within the county, North Norfolk offers visitors historic English market towns in rolling countryside and a coastline of fine beaches scattered with small fishing villages and ports.

With large swathes of North Norfolk officially areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or designated nature reserves, this is also somewhere that rewards walking and bird watching.

North Norfolk also has more than its fair share of stately homes and gardens for those wanting to appreciate English heritage at its best, including the Queen's country retreat at Sandringham.

Three attractions in Norfolk :

Bure Valley Railway, Norfolk

Bure Valley Railway, Norfolk's longest fifteen inch gauge line, runs between the market towns of Wroxham and Aylsham.

The 18-mile round trip runs through the picturesque Bure Valley countryside following the meandering river through meadowland and ancient pasture, stopping occasionally at small country villages, including Coltishall, Buxton and Brampton.

Visit : www.bvrw.co.uk

Amazona Zoo, Cromer, Norfolk

Amazona Zoo in Cromer, Norfolk, is home to over 200 tropical animals including jaguars, monkeys, snakes, flamingos and tapirs.

Highlights include a Feline Forest with ocelot, pumas and jaguar; a tropical house with spectacled caiman, anaconda snake and iguanas, Chilean flamingos and South American wildfowl.

Visit : www.amazonazoo.co.uk.

Wroxham Miniature Worlds, Norfolk

Wroxham Miniature Worlds, is the largest indoor modelling attracting in the UK, stretching over 10,000 square feet. It is home to the largest model railways in the world on permanent public display.

Visit : www.wroxhamminiatureworlds.co.uk.

Visit : www.visitnorfolk.co.uk and www.visitnorfolk.co.uk.

To view the *AllWays traveller to North Norfolk* visit :
www.allwaystraveller.com/AllWaysOnline/ao_eur_UK_NorthNorfolk.html

For press trips to Norfolk contact : Kate Morfoot at kate@junglepr.com.

I-Drive 360, Orlando, Florida

Merlin Entertainment's I-Drive 360, which is Orlando's newest entertainment and dining destination, is sited on International Drive and Sand Lake Road.

The \$250 million attraction featuring shops, restaurants and bars has as its centerpiece the Orlando Eye, a 400-foot tall observation wheel.

Visitors riding the Eye, in 30 air-conditioned passenger capsules, can view the nearby theme parks and attractions and the downtown Orlando skyline. Other attractions within the complex include the SEA LIFE Aquarium and the Madame Tussauds wax attraction.

Skeletons, Animals Unveiled! Displays 400 skeletons of animals from around the world.

Restaurants within I-Drive 360 include Yard House, Tapa Tora, Naru Restaurant and Sushi Bar, Paramount Fine Foods, Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Shake Shack and the Sugar Factory. High energy entertainment will be found at Tin Roof and Cowgirls.

Visit : www.i-drive360.com and www.OfficialOrlandoEye.com. Contact : Amy Voss at amy.voss@orlandocvb.com.

Sherpa Expeditions' adventures in Scotland

Sherpa Expeditions' adventures on foot and by bike across the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands

Great Glen Way

The Great Glen Way is a long distance trail starting at Fort William and concluding at Inverness, the northernmost city in Scotland. En route it crosses the Highlands passing by the foot of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK, and following the shores of Loch Ness, with ancient forts and castles scattered along the way.

Scottish Highlands Cycle

A weeklong trip that will see you cycling along scenic paths and quiet forest trails where you can spot native wildlife such as red deer, stag or golden eagle.

At Fort William a day is set aside to rest – or ascend Ben Nevis! – followed by a train journey that takes you across desolate Rannoch Moor to Loch Rannoch. The trip concludes at the riverside city of Perth.

Rob Roy Way

Scottish Rob Roy MacGregor was a notorious outlaw and a folk hero, after escaping capture several times.

The 80-mile Rob Roy Way goes through classic Highland scenery and areas that were his old haunts.

It begins Drymen, whose Clachan Inn is the oldest registered licensed pub in Scotland and would have been known by Rob Roy as it was run by his sister!

Lochs and Bens

This trip takes in Scotland's backroads and country paths to experience the mountain peaks, lochs and glens.

En route pass through picturesque Highland villages and peaceful lochside towns and make the most of the opportunities to take a forest walk or visit one of the many castles and ancient monuments found along the way.

West Highland Way

The West Highland Way follows Scotland's premier footpath on its course from the south of Loch Lomond to Fort William and Ben Nevis, linking Britain's largest lake with its highest mountain.

The route follows military roads that linked the Highlands to the Lowlands and hotels which originated from droving inns operated for centuries.

European activity holiday specialists UTracks and Sherpa Expeditions are a division of World Expeditions.

Visit : www.sherpaexpeditions.com. Contact : Tom Panagos at pr@worldexpeditions.co.uk.

Best rooftop terraces in Palma de Mallorca

Summer in Palma de Mallorca suits alfresco winingband dining and the Balearic capital of Palma de Mallorca offers a number of rooftop terraces for doing so :

Ca sa Galesa

Ca sa Galesa Terrace located in the heart of Palma's historical old town, offers views of Palma's Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral.

Visit : www.palaciocasagalesa.com/en/urban-oasis/terrace.

Puro Hotel Rooftop

Puro Hotel Rooftop offers contemporary design and panoramic views of Palma's skyline.

During the day, visitors can enjoy the small swimming pool, Balinese sun loungers and bar service and by night, the terrace serves cocktails and Mediterranean tapas.

Visit : www.purohotel.com/hotel-palma/en/area/roof-deck.

Can Alomar

The Can Alomar Luxury Boutique Hotel in the heart of Palma city centre offers its hotel guests access to its Solarium terrace, with views over the cathedral, the Bay of Palma and the Castle of Bellver.

Visit : www.boutiquehotelcanalomar.com/index.php/en.

Es Baluard Restaurant & Lounge

Es Baluard Restaurant & Lounge is located within Palma's medieval walls in the contemporary arts museum of the same name.

It is a spot for an outdoor drink or dinner as the sun sets overlooking the city.

Visit : www.restaurantesbaluard.com.

Hotel Tres

The Hotel Tres Terrace is located in the heart of Palma's old town and offers possibly the best sauna view in Palma.

Reserved for hotel guests only, the Swedish style sauna offers panoramic views of the Palma cathedral has an all-day bar service.

Visit : www.hoteltres.com/hoteltres/en.

Visit : www.visitpalma.com/en. Contact : Kate McWilliams at kate@lotus-uk.co.uk.

Macau

Located 40 miles from Hong Kong on China's South coast, Macau has been a Special Administrative Region of China since 1999.

Studio City Macau

Scheduled to open in mid-2015, Studio City Macau is looking to be one of Asia's most impressive cinematically-themed leisure complexes.

The complex will comprise a five-star hotel, extensive dining venues and Golden Eye, Asia's highest Ferris wheel.

DC Comics' Batman Dark Flight will be the world's first Batman franchise digital virtual reality ride, and The House of Magic hosted by illusionist Franz Harary will stage performances by international magicians.

Visit : www.studiocity-macau.com.

The Cotai Ring Club

Located at The Venetian Macao, The Cotai Ring Club hosts a variety of world-class boxing competitions throughout the year, including white-collar boxing, Muay Thai and welterweight.

Visit : www.venetianmacao.com.

House of Dancing Water

House of Dancing Water is celebrating its 5th anniversary in September 2015, having entertained over 3 Million theatre goers.

It stages spectacular water based theatre, stunt and acrobatics shows.

Visit : www.cityofdreamsmacau.com

Macau Golf & Country Club

Located on the green island of Coloane, the 18-hole Macau Golf & Country Club is one of Asia's most beautiful golf courses.

Visit : www.mgccmacau.com.

Visit : www.macau.com/en. Contact : Polly Martin at polly@humewhitehead.co.uk.

Wilderness Safaris, Rwanda

Wilderness Safaris is investing in two lodges in Rwanda.

Rwanda, situated along the Western, or Albertine Rift, is one of Africa's most biodiverse regions.

It is a land of rainforest endemism with its most celebrated wild mammal being the iconic mountain gorilla of the Virunga Massif.

The country's forests are also home to another of Africa's great apes, the chimpanzee, as well as a multitude of other primates such as the striking golden monkey, a little-known but magnificent inhabitant of the bamboo forest.

It is around these rare and threatened great ape and primate species that Wilderness Safaris Rwanda will build its new lodge circuit.

Bisate Lodge

Bisate Lodge, a 12-room property to open in mid 2016 adjacent to the Volcanoes National Park, will offer views of the brooding Bisoke, Karisimbi and Mikeno Volcanoes and be a base for mountain gorilla trekking.

Bisate Lodge will also be a conservation and community project with its first phase focusing on indigenous reforestation of a core 26-hectare site.

This will be done in close partnership with the newly constituted 320-member Tuzamurana Cooperative.

Gishwati

This property of six rustic forest cottages will open in mid 2016 in the Gishwati-Mukura National Park

Guests will have exclusive access to the habituated chimpanzee and golden monkey communities of Gishwati Forest.

All revenues generated from these forest activities will go towards the conservation of the brand-new Gishwati-Mukura National Park and the establishment of a connecting forest corridor between the two little-known forests of Gishwati and Mukura.

By linking the two, currently separated by 16 kilometres, a combined area of nearly 6 000 ha of Albertine Rift forest and a whole host of endemic mammals, birds, insects and plants will be protected.

It will more than triple chimpanzee habitat and allow growth in the population of this vulnerable great ape.

Visit : www.wilderness-safaris.com. Contact : Charlotte Rous at Charlotte@grifcopr.com.

Summer activities in Val d'Isère, France

While Val d'Isère is known as a world class skiing resort, during the summer months there is a programme of sporting and cultural festivals - with free lifts throughout, Val d'Isère.

The mountain village has extensive hiking and cycling trails in the mountains the Vanoise National Park.

Val d'Isère Summer Activities 2015:

The 4th Val d'Isère Tarentaise Ice Trail

12 July 2015

Val d'Isère is home to the highest international Sky Running trail in Europe and, this year, will host 65km of the 2015 Skyrunning Ultra World Series.

One Vertical Kilometre up the face of the Belvedere Mountain precedes the programme on 10 July 2015.

Ski on the Pissailas Glacier

6 June to 12 July 2015

Quality snow and sunshine at an altitude of more than 3,000m.

Every year the French Alpine Ski Teams and many racers from the Federation ski clubs come to the Pissailas glacier to train.

Going electric

In order to make the mountains more accessible while respecting this unique natural environment, Val d'Isère will be offering environmentally friendly and sustainable "soft mobility" activities including electric motorbike and mountain bike tours.

Val d'Isère's first Electric Vehicle Show takes place between 16 and 19 July 2015.

Mountain Biking

Val d'Isère offers world-class road biking or mountain biking with its mountain pass on the "Route des Grandes Alpes" (Great Alpine Road) and a gigantic mountain biking zone on the side of the mountain.

Walking

The Val d'Isère Tourist Office has a map with a selection of walking routes around Val d'Isère.

From 30-minute strolls to 8-hour hikes, there are 17 routes to encourage visitors to stride out, enjoy a picnic and admire the small green valleys, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, flora and fauna.

Fishing

In the summer, Ouillette lake becomes popular for trout fishing.

Visitors are welcomed to join the fun fishing competitions on 14 July and 15 August.

Visit : www.valdisere.com. Contact : Flora Beaumont at Flora@grifcopr.com.

Polar bear watching with Natural Habitat Adventures

Nature travel company, Natural Habitat Adventures will feature the company's new Aurora Pod on seven Churchill polar bear departures in October and November 2015.

The Aurora Pod is a heated glass structure that offers exclusive comfort while viewing nature of the northern climes.

While viewing the aurora borealis isn't guaranteed, Churchill, Manitoba is one of the best places on Earth to see it (while also having the distinction of being the so called Polar Bear Capital of the World).

When the stunning natural phenomenon is on display, Aurora Pod allows guests a 360-degree view of the night sky in optimal environment.

Positioned outside of town away from the glow of artificial light, the geometrically constructed Aurora Pod features a glass top and sides with reclining theater-style seating.

While the Aurora Pod is an addition on select trips, the focal point is still the polar bears, which guests view on multiple excursions via Nat Hab's custom-built Polar Rovers.

Designed to travel over the tundra, these giant vehicles have heated interiors, large picture windows and an outdoor viewing platform with steel mesh flooring, allowing for encounters with polar bears just inches away.

While these vehicles can accommodate 32 passengers, Nat Hab trips are limited to just 16, so every guest has a window seat and room to spread out.

About Natural Habitat Adventures

Natural Habitat Adventures is a leader in responsible adventure travel and nature-based ecotourism, offering eco-conscious expeditions and wildlife-focused small-group tours to nature destinations.

Visit : www.nathab.com. Contact : Sara Widness at sara@widnesspr.com.

A place to stay

Virgin Chicago

Sir Richard Branson's first Virgin-branded hotel is now open in Chicago.

Located in the city's Loop district, Virgin Hotels Chicago is set within a restored 26-storey art deco building – the Old Dearborn Bank Building – and has 250 guest rooms and suites.

At the heart of the hotel is The Commons Club, a social space for wining and dining with an atmosphere akin to 'a private members club'.

Four additional dining options include Miss Ricky's, a late-opening American diner, and a rooftop bar and lounge.

The group's development plans include a second hotel in Nashville next year followed by a third in New York in 2017.

The likes of London, Boston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco and Washington DC are also known to be in consideration.

Visit : www.virginhotels.com. Contact : Laura Kilroy at laura@virginhotels.com.

The Red Carnation Hotel Collection

The Red Carnation Hotel Collection is an award-winning collection of 17 five and four star family-run boutique hotels in London, Dorset, Guernsey, Ireland, Geneva, Florida and South Africa.

Twelve of it's properties have been inducted in to TripAdvisor®'s inaugural Hall of Fame, which has been established to mark the fifth anniversary of TripAdvisor's Certificates of Excellence Awards :

- The Milestone Hotel, London
- The Montague on the Gardens, London UK
- The Rubens at the Palace, London UK
- Summer Lodge Country House Hotel Restaurant and Spa, Dorset UK
- The Acorn Inn, Dorset, UK
- Ashford Castle, Ireland
- Hotel d'Angleterre, Geneva, Switzerland
- The Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa, Cape Town,
- The Oyster Box Hotel and Spa, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa
- Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat, South Africa
- The Duke of Richmond, Guernsey
- The Chesterfield Palm Beach, Florida

Visit : www.redcarnationhotels.com. Contact : Caroline Calvert at caroline.calvert@travcorpuk.com.

Zone by the Park, Jaipur, India

The Park Hotels group of luxury boutique hotels in India has opened the second property of its new brand 'Zone by The Park' in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The first Zone by The Park property is in Coimbatore and the brand is set to expand into other Indian cities including Mahabalipuram, Chennai and Raipur in 2015.

The Zone by The Park, Jaipur has 47-rooms and is located on the Madho Singh Road in Bani Park.

Visit : www.zonebythepark.com and www.theparkhotels.com. Contact : Lauren Williams at lauren.williams@luchfordapm.com.

AVANI Quy Nhon, Vietnam

The newly refurbished AVANI Quy Nhon Resort & Spa is located between a private beach and orchard covered mountains on Vietnam's south central coast.

Quy Nhon, which is found 280 km north of Nha Trang and 320 km south of Da Nang, and is suited to those looking for a beach life vacation.

The 63 Deluxe Rooms and Junior Suites, which offer a balcony or terrace with ocean views, have all been redesigned.

Royal Palm South Beach Miami Tribute, Florida

The Tribute Portfolio, which is Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide's, 10th brand, has made its debut with the opening of the Royal Palm South Beach Miami Tribute.

The Tribute Portfolio will be a collection four-star, upper upscale hotels.

Dating back to 1939, the Royal Palm features 393 guestrooms, including 100 suites, two swimming pools surrounded by cabanas, a fully equipped gym, and signature dining options that include Florida Cookery Patio, an outdoor dining experience.

Scheduled to open soon are Tribute Portfolio properties in Asheville, North Carolina; Nashville, Tennessee; Savannah, Georgia; and Charleston, South Carolina.

The hotel group says it expects 100 Tribute Portfolio hotels by 2020.

Visit : www.starwood.com. Contact : Katie Cline at Katie.Cline@starwoodhotels.com.

Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels

Incorporated in 1866, the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels has a portfolio of hotels and commercial and residential properties in key locations in Asia, the United States and Europe.

The groups Peninsula Hotels portfolio comprises :

- The Peninsula Hong Kong
- The Peninsula Shanghai
- The Peninsula Beijing
- The Peninsula Tokyo
- The Peninsula Bangkok
- The Peninsula Manila
- The Peninsula New York
- The Peninsula Chicago
- The Peninsula Beverly Hills, and
- The Peninsula Paris.

Projects under development include the Peninsula London and the Peninsula Yangon.

The clubs and services portfolio of the Group includes :

- The Peak Tram in Hong Kong
- Thai Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand
- Quail Lodge & Golf Club in Carmel, California.

Visit : www.hshgroup.com/en. Contact : pr@masonrose.com.

Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa

The five star Hideaway Beach Resort & Spa, which is located on the crescent shaped Dhonakulhi Island in the north of the Maldives, has re-opened after a \$50 million whole-island renovation.

Visit : www.hideawaybeachmaldives.com. Contact : Niamh O Connor niamh@ktapr.com.

The Gainsborough Bath Spa, UK

The Gainsborough Bath Spa, which will soft open on 1 July 2015, is the only hotel to offer its visitors the opportunity to access and experience Bath's natural thermal waters.

The hotel is a member of the prestigious The Leading Hotels of the World.

With the hotel's completely individual offering of a modern day Roman Bath Circuit in actual natural thermal waters, combined with brand new world class gourmet experiences for the city, The Gainsborough Bath Spa is one of 2015's most exciting and hotly anticipated hotel openings.

The history and design of the building is a fascinating part of the hotel's story.

During the early redevelopment stages, archaeological excavations uncovered 17,000 ancient coins, now known as the Beau Street Hoard, and a selection of the hoard will be on display in the hotel's reception.

The Grade II listed building has enjoyed a colourful history having housed the United Hospital in the 19th Century and most recently the Bath College of Art & Design until 2005.

It is located within the Bath UNESCO World Heritage City area.

YTL Hotels has a portfolio of resorts, hotels, boutique experiences and Spa Villages in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Japan, France and the UK.

The group also co-owns the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury train.

Visit : www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk and www.ytlhotels.com. Contact : Lallie@grifcopr.com.

La Colonnade, St Tropez, France

Quality Villas has added La Colonnade to its existing French Riviera portfolio.

It is located high above the Gulf of St Tropez amid forested hills and near Port Grimaud

Known as the 'Venice of Provence,' the modern 'old port' of Port Grimaud is built on the seaside with traditional Provencal style houses. Within a couple of miles there's also the medieval hilltop village of Grimaud.

Dominated by an 11th-century chateau, there's cafes in the square and an outdoor theatre held in the grounds of the castle.

Visit : www.qualityvillas.com. Contact : Dan Thomson at info@qualityvillas.com.

Hotel Adriatic, Rovinj, Croatia

Hotel Adriatic, a luxury boutique hotel located in Rovinj on the northern coast of Croatia, is currently undergoing major refurbishment works and is set to open in June 2015.

It is the latest luxury offering in the region of Istria from hotel company Maistra.

Hotel Adriatic was one of the first hotels to be built in the region in 1913 and is the only hotel located in the centre of the historical town of Rovinj.

The renovation project includes artistic collaborations with top contemporary artists and fashion, interior and graphic designers from Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Germany and France.

These have created bespoke art work installations specifically for the hotel.

Visit www.maistra.com. Contact : Jo Brock at JBrock@quatro-pr.co.uk.

Meliá Hotels in the Middle East

Meliá Hotels International will open ME Doha and Meliá Downtown Residences Dubai as the latest additions to its Middle East portfolio.

ME Doha will open in 2017 and will become the second hotel for Meliá Hotels International in the Qatari capital.

Meliá Downtown Residences Dubai will open in 2018 and consists of 258 residential units in the Financial Centre Road of Downtown Dubai, near Dubai Mall and with views of the Burj Khalifa and the Downtown district.

In addition, the groups INNSIDE JLT (Jumeirah Lakes Towers) will open in Dubai in 2016, becoming the third hotel for the company in Dubai, together with Meliá Dubai and the future ME Dubai.

Visit : www.melia.com. Contact : Lauren Williams at lauren.williams@luchfordapm.com.

The Goldgasse Hotel, Salzburg

The Goldgasse Hotel is a newly restored boutique hotel situated in the heart of the city's festival quarter.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film The Sound of Music, the Goldgasse is offering guests the chance to arrange private tours of the film's most iconic backdrops.

Highlights include the Nonnberg Abbey, where Julie Andrews plays a novice nun at the beginning of the film, and the 17th century Mirabell Gardens and Pegasus Fountain, one of Salzburg's most photographed attractions.

Other locations include Leopoldskron Palace and Residence Square, a popular gathering spot graced by the iconic Residence Fountain by Italian sculptor, Tommaso di Garone.

Situated on a small narrow lane in the old quarter, the Goldgasse Hotel is within walking distance of the Salzach river, Mozart's birthplace and the Museum of Modern Art.

Goldgasse Hotel is a privately-owned hotel within the Amadeus hotel group and a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

Visit : www.hotelgoldgasse.at. Contact : Hannah Cox at hannah.cox@camronpr.com.

AVANI Hotels & Resorts

AVANI Hotels & Resorts was launched in 2011 to complement Minor Hotel Group's five star Anantara brand.

AVANI offers relaxed comfort and contemporary style in city and resort destinations and currently has 13 properties in operation in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Seychelles, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Zambia.

Further openings are planned in Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Visit : www.avanihotels.com. Contact : Lallie Fraser at lallie@grifcopr.com.

An Alliance focus on :

Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast is a six-floor building featuring nine interpretive and interactive galleries that explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Titanic, as well as the City and people which made her.

It is the world's largest Titanic exhibition.

Titanic Belfast tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.

The story is brought up to the present with the discovery of the wreck and with live links to contemporary undersea exploration.

Using innovative design, interpretation and technology, including CGI, film and video, audio, archival materials, objects and scale models, each gallery will focus on a unique part of the Titanic story and the context of the period in which it was built.

Visitors also encounter individuals with stories to tell, many of them Belfast people.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is the Shipyard Ride, which allows visitors to gain an insight into the scale of the construction endeavour, the volume of men, materials and hours required.

Visitors can also experience the reality of the ship's interiors with a 3D cave that allows visitors to 'walk' the corridors of the ship.

Titanic Quarter

Titanic Quarter is one of Europe's largest urban waterfront regeneration schemes, transforming a 185-acre site on the banks of Belfast's River Lagan into a new mixed use maritime quarter with a mile of water frontage.

The development consists of residential accommodation, office space, hotels, academic activities and leisure, retail and heritage space.

A co-promotion between Titanic Quarter Ltd and Belfast Harbour, it is anticipated that over 20,000 people will work or live in the £7bn plus Titanic Quarter development upon completion.

Titanic Quarter is located upon former shipbuilding land from which vessels such as the RMS Titanic, Olympic and SS Canberra were launched.

It will become a major social and business meeting place with galleries, theatres, parklands and water sports all easily connected to Belfast's thriving city centre and the George Best Belfast City Airport.

Visit : www.titanicbelfast.com. Sarah Hamilton-Cardy at sarahhamiltoncardy@titanicbelfast.com.

An Alliance focus on :

Benidorm : UNESCO World Heritage Site status

Benidorm is not without its critics, but the resort has attracted more than 250 million visitors over the last 50 years.

Benidorm Town Council now intends to apply for UNESCO World Heritage Site recognition.

Tourism is now one of the world's most dynamic and important industries in terms of employment, cultural change or environmental impact, and the beach holiday is a particularly significant component of tourism's growth.

In recent years, Academics at the University of Angers, France, suggested that Benidorm has a legitimate UNESCO claim to World Heritage Site status under the "cultural landscape" rubric.

This is to officially recognise Benidorm as a pioneering example of the Mediterranean "package tour" resort, providing a unique global template for other developments since.

A tourism history of Benidorm

The former fishing village location was selected as the ideal site to develop a resort for affordable and accessible sunshine holidays for millions of Spaniards & Europeans enjoying the economic success of the 60's and 70's.

It offered a location on a south facing peninsula, with outstanding beaches and the spectacular backdrop of the Serra Gelada Nature Park.

Resort development was planned with wide avenues and tall skyscrapers were permitted with height in relation to the size of the footprint to leave open ground around them for gardens, so that they only appear to look close together when viewed from a distance.

This allowed more hotels to be built close to the coastline with guest rooms designed to enjoy seaviews, all with balconies enjoying maximum sunlight due to its unique south facing situation.

With just 75,000 local residents, Benidorm now provides 40,000 hotel beds plus 32,000 more in apartments, camp sites.

UNESCO World Heritage status

Spain currently has 40 of the UNESCO World Heritage sites although Benidorm would be the first with a great natural space - The Bay of Benidorm, Benidorm Island and Serra Gelada - where the New City is located.

The resort says it fulfils six conditions necessary for UNESCO eligibility for candidacy, with just one is necessary to apply.

In particular that :

- it is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or use of land or sea representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.
- it represents natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and scenic importance, and
- it is an eminently representative example of ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine animals.

Visit : www.lovebenidorm.co.uk and www.en.visitbenidorm.es. Contact : Cathryn Hicks at cathryn@dougoodmanpr.com.

Travel guides

The following travel publishers will provide review copies to Alliance members.

AA Travel Guides

www.shop.theaa.com/store/travel-guides. Katie Stephens at katie.stephens@theaa.com.

Anova Books

www.anovabooks.com. Helen Ponting at hponting@anovabooks.co

Bradt Travel

www.bradtguides.com. Rachel Fielding at rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com

Brit's Guide

www.foulsham.com. Margaret Lashbrook at margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net or Sue Wilkins at wilkins@foulsham.com.

Cicerone

www.cicerone.co.uk. Sarah Spencer at sarah@cicerone.co.uk

Eland Publishing

www.travelbooks.co.uk. Barnaby Rogerson at barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk.

Fisher's Travel SOS

www.fisherstravelsos.com. Furgan Syed at furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com.

Global Travel Publishers

www.africa-adventure.com. Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Globetrotters LogBook

www.globetrotterslogbook.com. Giedo Claes at giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com

Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens

www.hudsonsheritage.com. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Inn House Publishing

www.innhousepublishing.com. Kathryn McWhirter at kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com.

Insight

www.insightguides.com. Julia Spence at julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk.

In your pocket guides

www.inyourpocket.com. Craig Turp at editor@inyourpocket.com.

Jane's Smart Art Guides

www.JanesSmartArt.com. Jane McIntosh at MJM@JanesSmartArt.com

Jonglez Publishing

www.jonglezpublishing.com. Alexandre Thery at alexandre@editionsjonglez.com.

Kuperard Publishers

www.kuperard.co.uk. Geoffrey Chesler at geoffreychesler@btinternet.com.

Morris Communications

www.themilepost.com. Kate Bandos at kate@ksbpromotions.com.

Odyssey Books & Guides

www.odysseypublications.com. Caroline Eden at caroline@odysseypublications.com

The Official (UK) Tourist Board Guides

www.visitor-guides.co.uk. Tanya Aspinwall at tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk

Oxygen Books city-lit

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