



Tuesday, 2 June 2009

**NEWS ITEMS**



**Crown Names New Hotel**

Crown has announced their third hotel will be named Crown Metropol. The 658 room hotel is scheduled to open early in Melbourne in 2010. It features a futuristic design, stunning podium entry, a day spa, a sky bar and terrace, a variety of meeting rooms and will house Gordon Ramsay's first Australian restaurant, Maze.



**QF drops First Class**

QANTAS has withdrawn its First Class product from three of its services between 06 Jul - 31 Oct, as a result of a downturn in traffic. Those routes affected include services between Sydney -

San Francisco and Buenos Aires, as well as Melbourne - London, via Hong Kong, on flights QF29 and QF30. Its believed Qantas will operate a three-class cabin during the period (Business, Premium Economy and Economy) with the First Class cabin offered to Business Class travellers with J Class food and service. MEANWHILE, Qantas has made international Premium Economy available on flights between Brisbane-Los Angeles and Auckland-Los Angeles for travel from 06 Jul to 24 Oct 09. On the back of this news comes the possibility that Qantas will begin to charge more for seats which see more legroom in economy, like exit row seats. Currently Qantas has no plans to implement the surcharge on domestic services.

**Qantas and JAL to expand codeshare**

The codeshare agreement between oneworld members Qantas and Japan Airlines (JAL) will soon include services between Australia and Japan via Singapore.

Expanded codeshare services from Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth to Osaka and Tokyo via Singapore commenced 1 June 2009. The expanded codeshare arrangement will provide daily connecting flights at Singapore to Tokyo and Osaka from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. There would be 3 services per week from Adelaide to Tokyo and Osaka via Singapore. Qantas Frequent Flyer program members will be able to earn points on Japan Airlines services under Qantas codeshare routes. Currently, Qantas and JAL both already offer a daily flight between Sydney and Tokyo, whilst Qantas offers three-weekly direct flights between Perth and the Japanese capital. Reservations for Qantas and JAL codeshare flights have already commenced.



**New Jetstar lounge for Gold Coast**

Jetstar revealed details of a new one-off passenger lounge at Gold Coast airport, offered to both international and domestic passengers. Labelled the Gold Coast Lounge, users will be able to enjoy free food, beverages, internet access, plasma screens, magazines, newspapers, plus there's a kid's play area and cinema. A special launch rate of \$5 is available when booking Jetstar Gold Coast flights until 30 June, or \$10 at the door. StarClass passengers on flights to Japan will be granted free entry. Its doors will open to the public on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.



**Pacific Blue - New Direct trans-pacific route**

Pacific Blue announced new direct flights between the Gold Coast to Auckland, due to commence Friday 03 July 2009.