

Abstract dark blue line art on a light blue background. It features a thick horizontal line on the left, a curved line in the top left corner, and a long, flowing, wavy line that extends across the middle of the page.

THE CONCIERGE TRAVELLER EDITION • ISSUE #2

With a focus on **Europe** Concierge Traveller  
brings you suggestions and offers  
that are just perfect for European travel.

Concierge traveller

# Welcome to The Concierge Traveller European Edition with a broad selection of programmes to excite and inspire you for the 2009 season.

We have a sampling of Europe's most appealing touring options for both the East and the West. You will be able to visit cities steeped in history and traditional culture plus Spain, Europe's latest hot spot.

Included is a taste of 2009's European cruise offerings. Focused on cultural experiences and significant sites, these ships exemplify excellence on River Cruises, The Mediterranean and the Transatlantic.

This Edition we are offering Concierge Traveller clients, a complimentary and exclusive one way upgrade on British Airways flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide to London. We also feature unique and interesting stopover suggestions to break your journey to or from Europe.

At Concierge Traveller, we are dedicated to meeting your needs with personalised attention and bespoke itineraries. We encourage you to visit our office to personally discuss your travel plans and let our experienced team of Concierge Advisors bring to life your next journey.

*Concierge Traveller*



1. Guy Batten - Advisor
2. Julie Richard - Advisor & Qualified Cruise Master
3. John Chekian - Advisor & Cruise Master
4. Elizabeth Grieder - Advisor

## INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER EVENTS

Join Concierge Traveller for a series of Guest Speaker Events and gain in depth insight into fascinating destinations. We welcome you to introduce friends or colleagues to Concierge Traveller and to participate in these informative events.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

India & Himalayas	March
The Lodges of Chile	March
Australiana	April
Small Ship Cruising	June

To register your interest or if you would like to introduce a friend or colleague to attend, please contact your Advisor or Hayley Tidyman (02) 8270 4845 or email [htidyman@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:htidyman@conciergetraveller.com.au)

P.S Have a specific destination request? Contact Hayley.

# TERMINAL 5, Changing the way you think about Airports

You know how tedious it is to have to waste hours in uncivilised airports and over-patronised airport lounges. The creation of Terminal 5 at Heathrow was a unique opportunity for British Airways to redefine the airport experience for travellers.

Their aim was to replace the queues, the crowds and the stress with space, light and calm. Passengers now regularly report their satisfaction with check-in, baggage handling and facilities at T5. They have been breezing through check-in, (an average 9 minutes) and queue times at security have been cut, on average, to less than 5 minutes. After a much-publicised, faltering start, T5 has become the envy of Europe.

Entering the impressive check-in hall, you can see not just up to the heights of a mighty roof, with its bands of fretted glass, but from one end of the light-filled five-storey building to the other.

The terminal houses six lounges, a spa, a cutting edge shopping precinct, an exhibition area and two uncluttered, communal "squares" notable for their uniquely relaxed ambience.



Whether you take a flight into Europe after a stopover in London or whether you make a quick coach connection from Terminal 4 after arriving from Australia, you will have the opportunity to experience T5.



 **BRITISH AIRWAYS**  
Heathrow Terminal 5

## EXCLUSIVE to clients of Concierge Traveller

**Complimentary Upgrade from Australia to London or vice versa.**

To celebrate the outstanding achievements of Heathrow's Terminal 5, Concierge Traveller is offering you a complimentary and exclusive one way upgrade on British Airways flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide to London. This exclusive offer applies to all classes of travel where you will be upgraded to the next cabin class on either the Sydney to London leg or the London to Sydney leg. For example, if you purchase a return trip to parts of Europe with British Airways in economy class, you will be upgraded to World Traveller Plus in one direction.

Conditions apply. For full details of this unprecedented offer, contact your Advisor on (02) 8270 4800 or email [conciierge@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:conciierge@conciergetraveller.com.au)



**BANGKOK - THE  
METROPOLITAN  
BANGKOK**

Metropole room  
2 Nights  
AUD\$480.00



**SHANGHAI -  
JW MARRIOTT**

Guest room  
2 Nights  
AUD\$730.00



**HONG KONG  
- LANGHAM  
PLACE**

Standard room  
2 Nights  
AUD\$595.00



**SINGAPORE  
- RITZ CARLTON  
MILLENNIUM**

Deluxe room  
2 Nights  
AUD\$650.00



**TOKYO - COURTYARD  
BY MARRIOTT  
TOKYO GINZA**

Guest room and airport  
shuttle transfers  
2 Nights  
AUD\$740.00

## SUGGESTED STOPOVERS FOR YOUR EUROPEAN HOLIDAY

We have created samples of 2 night stopover packages for your consideration. Our well travelled Advisors are available to discuss stopover options and to tailor an itinerary to suit your interests and specific requirements. All package costs are per person, twin share and include 2 night's accommodation, return airport transfers by private car, except for Tokyo.

Ask us about the Concierge Black, "Go-Ahead" express immigration service.

For full details contact your Advisor or Hayley Tidyman on (02) 8270 4845 or email [htidyman@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:htidyman@conciergetraveller.com.au)

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL COSTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

In May we flew into Nice, rented a car and spent a week exploring the lyrical Côte d'Azur. Historically, artists have loved this area for its limpid light and vibrant colours. Although wealth and conspicuous glamour are the hallmark of this corner of Provence, in sublime weather, we explored the less trampled hinterland. From vantage points in elevated villages, it was possible to glimpse the dramatic Mediterranean shoreline and reap the rewards of exploring the quieter roads.

Our route, and the Concierge Tom Tom\*, took us not just through the physical landscape of this corner of Provence but also provided a satisfying exposure to its gourmet and traditional cuisine, market towns, architectural pleasures, history and landscapes that have inspired the best loved of French artists. The first stop was at the fortified and fabled village of Saint Paul de Vence where we indulged in a Provencal feast at the unassuming, La Colombe D'Or. It satisfied the palate and the eye as the walls are hung with paintings by Picasso, Klee and Miró.

From there we drove via the centuries old market town of Vence where Matisse left his magic touch on a modest, blue-tiled, sand-coloured chapel. The exterior belies the explosion of colour inside. Next stop was Grasse to visit the Musée de la Parfumerie that deals with 3000 years of perfume history and the evening's destination was Mosutiers-Sainte-Marie, another elevated village steeped in the scent of lavender, and dotted with olive trees. We celebrated a wondrous view of the setting sun with an excessively good Ducasse-inspired meal.

It was less than a 2 hour drive back to Mougins, a medieval village set amongst pine, olive and cypress trees, with a panoramic view of the Bay of Cannes and filled with carefully restored houses. In its narrow and ancient streets we were able to walk off the excess of the some previous meals.

Finally, we returned to our starting point to take in museums dedicated to Chagall and Matisse. Nowhere in the week took us further than 2 hours from Nice, but a destination technically no more than 30 minutes from our starting point, easily took a whole day in the living. To enjoy this itinerary does not require a different inn each night. A villa is an equally ideal base for a similar tour.

Story by Stephanie Rogers-Julian

\*CONCIERGE TOM TOMS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE CLIENTS OF CONCIERGE TRAVELLER VISITING EUROPE.

For further details on a self drive holiday in Europe contact your Advisor or call (02) 8270 4800 or email [concierge@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:concierge@conciergetraveller.com.au)



## THE COTE D'AZUR WORTH DRIVING FOR!

**"PERSISTENT, CONSISTENT AND  
DOGMATIC BUT IT ALLOWED US  
TO ENJOY THE SCENERY INSTEAD  
OF HAVING OUR EYES GLUED TO  
A ROAD MAP AND ROAD SIGNS."**

Concierge client Warwick Sherman  
comments re: Concierge Traveller Tom Toms





# WESTERN EUROPE

## Villa Stays in Italy & France - Ideal for families and friends

Blend like locals into the customs and rhythm of daily life with a villa stay in Italy or France. For an authentic European experience, a villa offers the ambiance, space, independence and flexibility that is perfectly suited for families and friends to celebrate special occasions or just to enjoy being together. Our villas are carefully chosen for their location, comfort and quality. Our portfolio contains apartments, villas, farmhouses, cottages, and castles varying in size and style. For those who love culture and tradition, we have apartments in the major cities and in coastal locations. The majority of homes have a much sought after swimming pool. Rentals are weekly, from Saturday to Saturday and the optimal time to visit is in May and September.

**WEEKLY VILLA RENTAL, 2 BEDROOMS FOR 4 PERSONS FROM AUD\$2,144.00 PER WEEK**

Contact Lindsay Allan for a copy of the 2009 pre-release Italian catalogue complimentary to the clients of Concierge Traveller. Phone direct on (02) 8270 4856 or email [allen@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:allen@conciergetraveller.com.au)



### SIMPLY STUNNING PRIVATE ITALIAN TOURS EXCLUSIVE TO CONCIERGE TRAVELLER

Embrace the elements that we feel travel in Italy should include: good food and wine, relaxed family atmosphere and active learning in an area of rich cultural heritage. Two itineraries especially designed for and exclusive to Concierge Traveller. Perfect for families or great friends travelling together.

#### A PRIVATE WINE & WALKING TOUR "AN OENOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF UMBRIA"

Staying in Montefalco with wine tastings in private homes, villas, farms and estates, using our local network of families, sommeliers and chefs.

• DEPARTURE DATE: SUNDAY 24 MAY 2009 • 07 DAYS, ROME TO ROME • MINIMUM OF 8 PERSONS TRAVELLING TOGETHER • FROM AUD\$3,705.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE FROM ROME.



#### PRIVATE TOUR "PRADA, PASTA & PUCCINI"

Staying in Montefalco, visiting Norcia, Deruta, Perugia and Spoleto as well as private homes, villas, farmhouses, mountain villages, vineyards and cellars. Including shopping, cooking, wine tastings and concert performances. Six days exploring Italian fashion shopping outlets and manufacturers, 3 cooking classes of characteristic regional recipes, including lunch. The best available seats at 3 performances at Umbrian Music Festivals, a truffle hunt and truffle lunch in a remote mountain village. Visits to cellars with tasting of Montefalco's award winning Sagra and more. Enjoy the services of an experienced tour leader throughout the tour.

• DEPARTURE DATE: SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2009 • 14 DAYS, ROME TO ROME. MINIMUM OF 8 PERSONS TRAVELLING TOGETHER • FROM AUD\$8,160.00 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE FROM ROME.

Full details on these exclusive programs are available from John Chekian on (02) 8270 4857 or email [jcheckian@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jcheckian@conciergetraveller.com.au)

### A TASTE OF SPAIN - BARCELONA

Visit Catalonia's premiere wine region of Penedes, less than an hour south of Barcelona to visit 2 of the most important wineries of the region, with wine tasting included. In Barcelona, enjoy a hands-on introduction to Spanish cuisine during a private cooking lesson. Your instructor is a chef, accomplished in preparing local dishes and will take you shopping to learn about Spanish ingredients, followed by preparation of a lunch together. Ole!

• PACKAGE INCLUDES 3 NIGHTS IN BARCELONA • AIRPORT TRANSFERS • FULL DAY WINERIES AND HALF DAY COOKING CLASS INCLUDING LUNCH • FROM AUD\$2,910.00 PER PERSON • TWIN SHARE.

Our Iberian experts can tailor an itinerary to suit your interests. Contact Elizabeth Grieder on (02) 8270 4867 or [egrieder@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:egrieder@conciergetraveller.com.au)



### FAMILY BIKING & HIKING IN THE SWISS ALPS

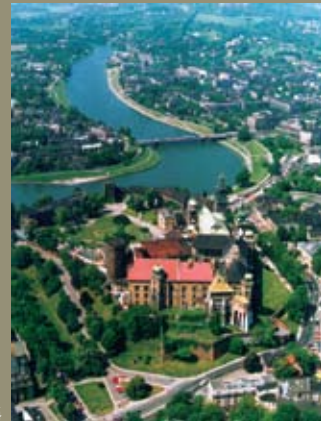
Switzerland's terrain of jagged snow-capped peaks and charming alpine villages is a sensory delight. Discover this stunning landscape with the help of an inventive network of cable cars, chairlifts and funiculars that take you up close to famed Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau Mountains. Here in the Bernese Oberland, you and your family will have plenty of time to enjoy the astonishing scenery during inspiring hikes and exciting bike rides. There will be plenty of opportunity to indulge in hearty Swiss cuisine of stübli and rosti, as well as the internationally crafted meals prepared at elegant hotels.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES 5 NIGHTS/6 DAYS • ALL MEALS EXCEPT 1 LUNCH & 1 DINNER • FROM USD\$3,298.00 PER PERSON • TWIN SHARE • DEPARTURE DATES 2 JULY & 8 AUGUST 2009, FROM KANDERSTEG.

Other European family programmes also available. Full details on these exclusive programs are available from John Chekian on (02) 8270 4807 or email [jcheckian@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jcheckian@conciergetraveller.com.au)

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# EASTERN EUROPEAN HOT SPOTS

A sampling of our most popular Eastern European countries for 2009 and our suggestions of essential sights and recommended stays.

## CROATIA (1)

Dubrovnik has everything: a magnificent natural setting, an old town unspoilt by development and a lively cultural life. Walk along the old Harbour Front, dip your hands in the Fountain of Onofrio and then stroll down the Stradun. The coastline of Dubrovnik is dotted with islands. Visit the Istian Peninsula and the Dalmatian coast by yacht. Must see: a private guided tour of the Diocletian Palace in Split, truffle hunting, the open-air museum that is Istra or unwind in luxury in Opatija.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES HIGHLIGHTS OF CROATIA TOUR • 7 NIGHTS/8 DAYS FROM ZAGREB TO DUBROVNIK • FROM AUD\$2,905.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE.

For more information contact Hayley Tidyman on (02) 8270 4845 or email [htidyman@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:htidyman@conciergetraveller.com.au)

## RUSSIA (2)

Areas of old Moscow still exist, most famously Red Square with its landmark St Basil's Cathedral. There is also the very new oil-rich Moscow of designer shops and men in black. The Bolshoi Theatre is closed for refurbishment until 2010; however see the ballet and opera companies and the orchestra perform on the new Small Stage of the Bolshoi

and at the Kremlin Palace theatre. In 1779 Peter the Great dreamed about a city that would be as unlike Moscow as possible, a modern city that would be designed to a plan. He realised his dream with the building of St Petersburg. Giving it a new style; Baroque, Rococo, Classical and Russian Revival. A must see in Moscow is a visit to the Kremlin and the Armoury, plus a weekend shopping at the Ismailovsky market. In St Petersburg it has to be the Hermitage including the Gold Rooms, and the baroque Catherine Palace.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES 2 CAPITALS TOUR ST PETERSBURG TO ST PETERSBURG FOR 6 NIGHTS/7 DAYS • FROM AUD\$1,850.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE.

For more information contact John Chekian on (02) 8270 4807 or email [jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au)

## VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT EXPRESS (3)

Depart from Venice for a night on board the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. The next day, the train travels through Austria into the Czech Republic, arriving in Prague where you will spend 2 nights. Continue your journey through the Czech Republic, Germany and onto Paris. After departing Paris the following morning travel to the French coast and cross the Channel, before boarding the British Pullman for your journey to London.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES 4 NIGHTS/5 DAYS INCLUDING ALL TABLE D'HÔTE MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION ON BOARD • FROM AUD\$4,950.00 PER PERSON • TWIN SHARE • DEPARTURE DATES 29 APRIL, 16 SEPTEMBER AND 21 OCTOBER 2009 • OTHER VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT EXPRESS ITINERARIES ALSO AVAILABLE.

Our Eastern European experts tailor itineraries to suit your interests and special requirements. For more information contact John Chekian on (02) 8270 4807 or email [jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au)

## A POLISH EXPERIENCE - KRAKOW (4)

Poland's former capital and oldest university town lies in a valley beside the Vistula River, and is a treasure house of national culture. Its elegant Old Town centre has been placed on the UNESCO list of World Historic Sites. Krakow, in contrast to Warsaw, is a human-scale, medieval town at the hub of which is a market square that bustles with music, cafes, restaurants, market stalls and students. St Mary's Cathedral, located in one corner of the square, has ceiling decorations that stun even the most jaded of cathedral visitors.

The irony of gorgeous Krakow is its proximity to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The 2 camps are just 50 km's away, in the

countryside. A visit is essential but a return to Krakow in the evening is a necessary balm to the harsh reality of the camps. Krakow was the headquarters for the Gestapo and it was therefore not destroyed in WWII. For accommodation, it is best to select hotels that are slightly removed from, but still within easy walking distance of the main square – it tends to be a source of youthful exuberance into the small hours of the morning.

From Krakow, Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains on the border with the Czech Republic are less than 2 hours away. Zakopane is one of Poland's premier ski and spa towns and it boasts hotels, former palaces that stand amongst beech trees, perfect for relaxation. From Krakow to Warsaw takes just a few comfortable hours by train.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES A JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR KRAKOW TO KRAKOW FOR 5 NIGHTS • FROM AUD\$3,860.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE.

For more information and other touring programs in Poland contact John Chekian on (02) 8270 4807 or email [jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au)

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# EUROPEAN CRUISES

## ISTANBUL TO ISTANBUL 11 Days (1)

The "Silver Wind" visits the ports of Trabzon in Turkey, Batumi in Georgia, Sochi in Russia, Yalta, Sevastopol and Odessa in the Ukraine, and Nessebur in Bulgaria.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES ALL MEALS WITH ALCOHOL, PORT FEES, GRATUITIES. • FROM USD\$9,415.00 VISTA SUITE OR USD\$11,655.00 VERANDA SUITE WITH BALCONY • TWIN SHARE PER PERSON. • BOOK 180 DAYS IN ADVANCE AND SAVE 20% OF THE CRUISE COST. • DEPARTURE DATE: 28 AUGUST 2009.

## INTIMATE LEARNING VOYAGES: THE MEDITERRANEAN, DALMATIAN COAST & BLACK SEA (2)

Uniquely enlightening cruises in extraordinary places, the voyages are designed to enrich and inspire. Three small ships cruising the Mediterranean, Dalmatian Coast and Black Sea. Average cruises being 8 nights.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES WELCOME RECEPTIONS, ALL MEALS ABOARD, INCLUDING HOUSE WINE WITH LUNCH AND DINNER • OPEN BAR ABOARD THROUGHOUT • EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF LECTURES BY ACCOMPANYING GUEST LECTURER • FROM USD\$6,995.00.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • FAMILY CRUISES ALSO AVAILABLE.

## SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK 7 Days (3)

Relax aboard "Queen Mary 2" on the Atlantic and revel in endless activities. Be pampered in the Spa, browse the books in the largest library collection at sea, indulge in traditional Afternoon Tea and dine on the finest cuisine. Arrive early pre-cruise and enjoy highlights of the UK or Europe before embarkation.

• PACKAGE INCLUDES ALL MEALS & PORT FEES • FROM AUD\$1,556.00 PER PERSON IN A BALCONY OR OCEAN VIEW CABIN ON BRITANNIA DECK. MONTHLY DEPARTURES FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2009 • BOOK EARLY AND RECEIVE 25% DISCOUNT ON SELECT SAILINGS.

For more information contact our qualified Cruise Master Julie Richards on (02) 8270 4863 or email [jrichards@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jrichards@conciergetraveller.com.au)

As Cruise Master, Julie has over 25 years experience and has cruised to over 20 countries, with another cruise planned to the Antarctic in December 2009.

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# EUROPEAN cruise collection



Cruise options to suit a variety of tastes and interests, with European cruises to take you on cultural discoveries, visiting significant sites and lesser known gems.

Whether you are looking for a large ship, a river cruise through the Mediterranean or a time specific cruise, we have them covered in our calendar below.

Our qualified Cruise Masters have personally sailed abroad many a ship and will tailor an itinerary to personally suit your interests and requirements.

For more information contact Julie Richards on (02) 8270 4863 or [jrichards@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jrichards@conciergetraveller.com.au)

DATES	VESSEL	GUESTS	VOYAGE TITLE	NIGHTS	SAMPLE OF PORTS OF CALL	COST
15 April	Sea Cloud II - Sailing Ship	94	Portuguese Waters	5	Madeira to Lisbon, Portugal	€1,095.00pp
April to November	Queen Mary II	2592	New York to Southampton or v.v.	6	Trans Atlantic Crossing	AUD\$2,900.00pp
20 or 27 April	MV Callisto	34	Palermo to Palermo	11	Visiting ports like Riposto, Syracuse, Agrigento and Sciacca	USD\$7,695.00pp
13 May & 24 June	River Cruise "Amacello"	150	Istanbul to Paris	29	Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany	AUD\$15,222.00pp
5 August						
08 May to 1 October	Viking Kirov	210	Waterway of the Czars River Cruise	12	St Petersburg to Moscow with 10 guides shore excursions including the Hermitage	AUD\$4,849.00pp
31 May	Insignia	680	Rome to Istanbul	12	Italy via Sardinia, 5 ports in Greece and on to Istanbul, Turkey.	AUD\$4,890.00pp
23 June	Corinthian	114	Cradles of Western Culture	7	Rome to Athens	USD\$9,795.00pp
21 July	Yacht Callisto	34	Glorious Dalmatian Coast	8	Sail the Dalmatian coast and islands	USD\$6,995.00pp
24 July	Prince Albert II	132	Coastline of Norway	12	Spitsbergen to Tromso, Norway	USD\$5,300.00pp
26 July	Marco Polo	850	Celtic Explorer	11	Tilbury, St Helier on Isle of Jersey, Glengariff in Ireland, Isle of Skye, Rosyth for Edinburgh and back to Tilbury	AUD\$4,373.00pp
21 September, 15 & 30 October	Carnival Dream	3652	Grand Mediterranean Cruise	12	Rome, Venice, Croatia, Barcelona, Monte Carlo	AUD\$3,799.00pp
19 October	Scenic Ruby	100	River Cruise Jewels of Europe	14	Amsterdam to Budapest via Germany and Austria	AUD\$7,725.00pp



Concierge Traveller

If you would like to share a copy of this Edition with a friend or require more information about a particular article please email Amanda Griscti on [agriscti@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:agriscti@conciergetraveller.com.au)  
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