

Travel News: April 27, 2017

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22 Million Americans Taking Food-Focused Vacations in 2017

Travel Pulse

A recent travel survey from motoring and leisure travel organization AAA revealed that around 22 million Americans believe they will take a culinary-focused vacation over the next year.

The report from AAA also found that 75 percent of travelers surveyed felt food and dining are important elements to their travel experiences. Another 80 percent of responders say they have toured wineries and distilleries, dined with local families and engaged in hands-on food experiences.

Tough times for Turkish tourism, with no end in sight

Travel Weekly

Following a referendum vote that stands to give more power to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the country's tourism industry, once a powerful economic driver, is struggling to remain hopeful despite being caught up in the struggles of a nation already divided following a string of terror attacks and political unrest.

“Realistically, it might take several years [for Turkey] to recover,” Brian Tan, founder and CEO of the Mountain View, Calif.-based agency Zicasso, said last week. “Travelers will want to see a long period of stability without continual negative news in the media, such as suppression of journalists, more terror attacks, this week’s referendum, etc.”

JetBlue CEO keeps no-overbooking policy

USA Today

JetBlue Airways CEO Robin Hayes said Tuesday the carrier is sticking with its policy against overbooking flights, but that high bumping statistics resulted from reducing the size of planes on routes mostly before passengers arrive at the airport.

The general industry practice of overbooking – selling more seats than are available on flights, to cope with last-minute passenger cancellations – has drawn attention after United Airlines dragged a passenger off a flight April 9 to make room for a crew member. United has apologized, offered refunds to passengers on the flight and said it won’t ask police to remove overbooked passengers from flights any more.

Inspired By Indiana Jones, Graduate Hotels Remakes A Berkeley Landmark

Forbes

Ben Weprin is the ebullient 38-year-old hotelier behind Graduate Hotels, a Chicago-based collection of boutique properties in college towns across the country. I spoke to him this week about his latest opening—an ambitious renovation of Berkeley’s iconic 1928 Hotel Durant, opening May 1, near the campus of U.C. Berkeley—and the future of the eclectic hotel brand he’s helming.