



# The Alliance

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# Bulletin

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

Mid-May 2015

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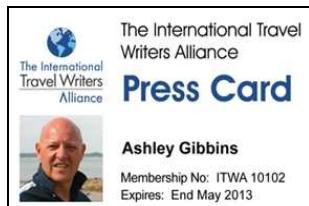


# The Alliance Bulletin

Issue 184 : mid-May 2015

[www.itwalliance.com](http://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](mailto:Ashley@itwalliance.com).

## Job shop

**The International Travel Writers Alliance Job Shop** has been created to enable 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](http://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](http://www.itwalliance.com).

### Partners

#### TASTE Vacations

TASTE Vacations celebrates food, wine, beer, and spirits tours in premier vacation destinations worldwide.

Vacations focus on :

- **Food Tours:** cooking classes, cooking demonstrations, shopping at farmer's markets, and visits to local artisan producers such as olive oil mills, cheese farms and honey bee farms

- **Wine Tours:** winery visits, vineyard walks, food and wine pairing dinners and blind wine tastings
- **Beer Tours:** brewery visits, brew pub visits, blind tastings and beer pairing dinners, and
- **Spirits Tours:** distillery visits and educational tours.

Visit : [www.tastevacations.com](http://www.tastevacations.com). Contact : Beth Peluse at [beth@tastevacations.com](mailto:beth@tastevacations.com).

## Agencies

### [Citta dei Niclani, Greece](#)

Citta dei Niclani is a small family run boutique hotel in Mani Peninsula

Since 1910 the building was used for the housing of the Greek Royal Gendarmerie, which oversees the region given the dominance of Koita.

The building has been designated as an Ancient Monument under the 5th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities.

Visit : [www.cittadeiniclani.gr](http://www.cittadeiniclani.gr). Contact : Panagiotis Sepsas at [psepsas@gmail.com](mailto:psepsas@gmail.com).

### [Antlos](#)

Antlos, a new website that connects professional Skippers with travellers eager to experience the open sea without worrying about the organizational aspects.

Antlos was born to make sailing holidays accessible to those who love the sea, but due to lack of experience and high costs, have never managed to set the sails yet.

Antlos offers a wide range of destinations and activities hosted by a Skipper who has been carefully selected and is able to recommend the package that will suit best to different individual needs

Visit : [www.antlos.com](http://www.antlos.com). Contact : Ieva Strupule at [ieva.strupule@antlos.com](mailto:ieva.strupule@antlos.com).

## News

### [On a Wing and a Prayer](#)

On a Wing and a Prayer (published by Bloomsbury) is the result of Alliance member Sarah Woods quest to encounter the enigmatic Harpy Eagle in the rainforests of South and Central America

When Sarah Woods set about discovering the jungles of Central and South America, her quest – to catch sight of one of the few last breeding pairs of Harpy Eagles – took her into some of the most remote tangles of vine-knotted jungles on the planet.

Using razor-sharp talons to hunt and kill sloths and monkeys with deadly precision, these eagles give great care to raising their young for the first two years of their life.

Seldom seen in the wild, Sarah struggled to demystify the fear-riddled legends and superstitions that earned the Harpy Eagle its name from early explorers.

Sarah's trio to witness the elusive Harpy Eagle in the wild saw her encountering iconic wildlife (jaguar, puma and wild boar) and spending extended periods with indigenous tribes (spear fishing, hunting and living amongst riverside peoples).

On a Wing and a Prayer is published by Bloomsbury.

Visit : [www.Bloomsbury.com](http://www.Bloomsbury.com). For information and to request review copies contact : Jude Drake at [jude.drake@bloomsbury.com](mailto:jude.drake@bloomsbury.com)

### **Alan Coxon**

TV Chef /presenter and Alliance member, Alan Coxon is about to start filming a new series in China and Hong Kong.

This will feature 12 leading chefs in 12 of the most stunning hotels, restaurants and locations in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Qingdao.

The shows will be transmitted across most of the world i.e. UK, Europe, USA/Canada and also China.

In addition to this Alan will be writing features about the trip for several UK magazines as well as well as inclusion into the food and travel book that will accompany the shows.

Alan is open to any proposals or offers from anyone wishing to gain global exposure or be a part of the filming.

Visit : [www.alancoxon.com](http://www.alancoxon.com). Contact : Alan Coxon at [info@alancoxon.com](mailto:info@alancoxon.com).

### **Opening of the new Aquarium at Antwerp Zoo**

Antwerp Zoo opened a new reef aquarium as part of the fully renovated Aquarium building, dating from 1911.

With 4000 fish and several tropical corals it is the second biggest reef aquarium in Europe.

Visit : [www.zooantwerpen.be](http://www.zooantwerpen.be). Contact : Anita Rampall at [anita@visitflanders.co.uk](mailto:anita@visitflanders.co.uk).

### **Visit Helsinki**

Visit Helsinki has teamed up with Bella-blogit to produce a pocket-sized illustrated map that includes the best ideas for spending a family holiday in Finland's capital city.

The new *Helsinki for Kids* illustrated map has been designed to make it super easy for families with kids to enjoy their stay in Helsinki by providing local tips and information on playgrounds and swimming locations to restaurants and skateparks.

Visit : [www.visithelsinki.fi](http://www.visithelsinki.fi) . Contact : Maarit Pitkänen at [maarit.pitkanen@hel.fi](mailto:maarit.pitkanen@hel.fi).

### **The Stratford Butterfly Farm.**

A male *Parides Childrenae*, also known as Green-celled Cattleheart, has recently emerged at the Stratford Butterfly Farm for the firsttime in 10 years.

The butterfly, which has a beautiful iridescent green patch on its fore wing, is normally found in South America.

These unusually coloured butterflies were last seen at the Stratford Butterfly Farm over ten years ago but now the Farm is breeding them once more.

Since the male emerged last week, a number of *Parides Childrenae* have now emerged and are placed in the Caterpillar Room to breed.

Visit : [www.butterflyfarm.co.uk](http://www.butterflyfarm.co.uk). Contact : Tanya Aspinwall at [Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:Tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk).

## Kissimmee destination magazine

Experience Kissimmee has launched a new 68-page magazine to educate and inspire consumers and travel trade professionals.

The Experience Kissimmee team will use this annual publication as an opportunity to heighten awareness of what travellers can “experience” when visiting Kissimmee.

Experience Kissimmee also created a new Official Visitor Map, a colorful and easy-to-use, fold-out map designed to be carried on holiday to help find fun local attractions.

Visit : [www.mydigitalpublication.com](http://www.mydigitalpublication.com) and [www.experiencekissimmee.com](http://www.experiencekissimmee.com). Contact : Kirsty at [kirsty@vvvglobal.com](mailto:kirsty@vvvglobal.com).

## Leads

### **South Tyneside, UK**

One of the UK's popular seaside destinations, South Tyneside, south east of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is offering free entertainment and an Alice in Wonderland themed parade.

The annual South Tyneside Festival, which runs from June until the end of August, is expected to attract more than 120,000 visitors.

A Summer Parade, celebrating 150 years since the publication of Alice in Wonderland, will move through the streets of South Shields on Saturday July 4 with 2000 volunteers, a military marching band, piano players and a flash mob, giant caterpillar, Cheshire Cat and a Queen of Hearts disco diva.

Visit [www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk](http://www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk). Contact : Claire Buchan at [claire@sortedpr.com](mailto:claire@sortedpr.com).

### **European cycle tours**

Bike touring company, Beespoke Tours offers three to four day European tours.

Cycle routes are available from London to Amsterdam, Paris and Bruges, and, depending on the selected route, they pass scenery including rivers, ancient woodlands, farmlands, sand dunes, tulip fields and windmills.

Each route will be led by company co-founders Simon Izod and Clarissa Carlyon and with everything from accommodation and most meals catered for.

The tours cover 65 miles per day, a manageable distance for beginners and those more experienced.

Visit [www.bespoketours.co.uk](http://www.bespoketours.co.uk). Contact : Rachel Stevenson at [Rachel@junglepr.com](mailto:Rachel@junglepr.com).

### **AdventureSmith Explorations, Cuba**

Small ship cruise expert AdventureSmith Explorations has engaged a three-masted schooner, Panorama, to cruise the Caribbean carrying American travelers who for the first time in over 50 years can now visit the island nation of Cuba and meet its people.

The 178-foot Panorama cruises at 11 knots and has performed several Atlantic Ocean crossings. Aboard the ship guests can mingle in the outdoor areas or in the two lounges or library. An on-board pianist plays as guests relax over drinks.

Launching in December 2015 and scheduled into April 2016 will be a series of eight-day trips called the Cuba People to People Cruise aboard the 49-passenger sailing vessel.

The program begins and ends in Miami with round trip flights to Havana included in the fare. The ship stops in five ports along Cuba's western and southern shore.

Visit : [www.adventuresmithexplorations.com](http://www.adventuresmithexplorations.com). Contact : Sara Widness at [sara@widnesspr.com](mailto:sara@widnesspr.com).

## The National Sea Life Centre Birmingham, UK

The National Sea Life Centre Birmingham gives visitors the chance to learn about the fascinating history of the oceans and the evolution of sea creatures, some of which have been around for over 200 million years.

The new 4D film, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, takes viewers on a journey aboard the submarine, Nautilus, which is commanded by Captain Nemo.

The aquarium is also home to over 2,000 creatures, such as jellyfish, piranha, octopus, rays and an adorable colony of Gentoo Penguins.

Visit : [www.SEALIFE.co.uk/birmingham](http://www.SEALIFE.co.uk/birmingham). Contact : Michelle Ivins at [michelleivins@gough.co.uk](mailto:michelleivins@gough.co.uk).

## What's on

### **Montreal International Jazz Festival**

26 June to 5 July 2015

Ranked as the world's largest jazz festival by Guinness World Records, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal has been attracting those with a passion for music for over three decades.

Every year, North America's French-speaking metropolis welcomes global music fans to 10 days of jazzcentric celebration, where fans of all types of jazz-related music rub shoulders with aficionados of the genre in its purest form.

The Festival hosts some 30 countries, 3,000 musicians and public entertainers, 1,000 concerts and activities—two-thirds of them free – in 15 concert halls and on 8 outdoor stages.

The event attracts more than two million visitors to the heart of Montreal's downtown core, in an area off-limits to car traffic!

Journalists covering arts & culture or travel on a regular basis can apply for press accreditation. Visit : [www.montrealjazzfest.com](http://www.montrealjazzfest.com). Contact : [media\\_jazz@equipespectra.ca](mailto:media_jazz@equipespectra.ca).

### **Summer festivals in Colorado**

June marks the start to Colorado's summer festival season, with the state enjoying mild temperatures and blue skies.

#### **Telluride Bluegrass Festival**

18–21 June 2015

This annual bluegrass festival in Telluride offers four days of toe-tapping, carefree-dancing and music-loving fun.

Visit : [www.bluegrass.com/telluride/](http://www.bluegrass.com/telluride/)

#### **Food & Wine Classic, Aspen**

19 to 21 June 2015

Each year, winemakers, celebrity chefs, and culinary experts come together at the base of spectacular Aspen Mountain.

Visit : [www.foodandwine.com/microsites/classic](http://www.foodandwine.com/microsites/classic).

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### **Stopover Festival: The Gentlemen of the Road Tour, Salida**

21 to 22 August 2015

Salida, Colorado is known for white-water rafting and other outdoor pursuits. The Gentlemen of the Road Tour will stopover in the small Colorado mountain town and will be headlined by British artists Mumford and Sons and The Vaccines.

Visit : [www.gentlemenoftheroad.com/stopovers/salida](http://www.gentlemenoftheroad.com/stopovers/salida).

### **Colorado State Fair, Pueblo**

28 August to 7 September 2015

The Colorado State Fair in Pueblo combines lively entertainment, competitions, vendor booths and old-fashioned family fun.

Visit : [www.coloradostatefair.com](http://www.coloradostatefair.com).

### **A Taste of Colorado, Denver**

4 to 7 September 2015

A Taste of Colorado is the end-of-summer celebration of community pride and spirit in the Denver region.

Over 500,000 people make the four-day Festival their Labor Day Weekend celebration and enjoy the offerings of over 50 area food establishments, 250 marketplace artisans and vendors, six entertainment stages, and educational programs promoting the diverse cultural and western heritage of the region.

Visit : [www.atasteofcolorado.com](http://www.atasteofcolorado.com).

Colorado is a four-season destination offering adventure and recreational activities, an abundant arts scene, Western heritage, distinctive cuisine, and 25 renowned ski resort areas.

The state's scenic landscape boasts natural hot springs, the headwaters of four major rivers, many peaceful lakes and reservoirs, eleven national parks and monuments, and 58 mountain peaks that top 14,000 feet.

Visit : [www.colorado.com](http://www.colorado.com). Contact : Georgina Evans-Phillips at [georgina@cellet.co.uk](mailto:georgina@cellet.co.uk).

### **British Bird watching Fair, Rutland, UK**

21 to 23 August 2015

The annual British Bird watching Fair is promoted as the birdwatcher's Glastonbury.

Birdfair encompasses the whole spectrum of the birdwatching industry whilst at the same time supporting global bird conservation.

Visit : [www.birdfair.org.uk](http://www.birdfair.org.uk). Contact : [callen@birdfair.org.uk](mailto:callen@birdfair.org.uk).

### **Festivals in Swaziland**

#### **The MTN BUSHFIRE Festival**

29 to 31 May 2015 (annually)

The MTN BUSHFIRE Festival sees some of Africa's best artists performing live music, theatre, poetry and dance on multiple stages within and around the House on Fire venue.

The line-up reflects a global and diverse range of musical genres with artists from Australia, Turkey and Austria complimenting the many artists from African countries closer to home.

Visit : [www.bush-fire.com](http://www.bush-fire.com).

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## **Expedition Africa**

5 to 14 June 2015

Expedition Africa is an annual multi-discipline 500km endurance race which has 40 four-person teams from around the World competing.

Entrants so far come from Sweden, Canada, Estonia, Israel, the UK, Argentina, France, South Africa and Denmark.

The teams must navigate from control point to control point through day and night in a number of disciplines, including mountain biking, trekking, kayaking and orienteering.

Swaziland's scenery and varied topography make it a fine destination for this ultimate adventure event.

Visit : [www.kineticgear.co.za](http://www.kineticgear.co.za).

Visit : [www.thekingdomofswaziland.com](http://www.thekingdomofswaziland.com). Contact : [info@thekingdomofswaziland.com](mailto:info@thekingdomofswaziland.com).

## **Events in Flanders Fields**

As events for the Centenary of the Great War still continue, the number of visitors to the Flanders region are up by 90% compared to 2013.

Most were motivated to travel to the region by :

- Interest in the area's history
- respect for the fallen,
- the Centenary commemoration, and ties to the area via family.

In July, the area will witness the 30,000th Last Post Ceremony.

Visit : [www.visitflanders.com](http://www.visitflanders.com).

### **The Soldiers of Solace,Talbot House, Poperinge, Flanders**

14 May to 13 September 2015

A new temporary exhibition about chaplains during the Great War, The Soldiers of Solace exhibition opens next month at Talbot House in Poperinge.

The former headquarters of what was once known as Toc-H, celebrates its centenary this December and this is one of a series of exhibitions taking place in the former meeting house co-created by the Rev. Tubby Clayton and Neville Talbot.

The "club" formed in December 1915 offered rest and recreation to all soldiers regardless of rank for more than three years in the Great War.

Visit : [www.talbothouse.be/en/museum/home](http://www.talbothouse.be/en/museum/home).

### **The Mercure Roeselare, Flanders**

The Mercure Roeselare, a new hotel close to the sites of Flanders Fields, has opened in the town of Roeselare.

The hotel is located in West Flanders, with the city of Bruges a 15 minutes drive away and Ypres a 20 minute drive.

Visit : [www.mercureroeselare.be/en](http://www.mercureroeselare.be/en). Contact : Anita Rampall at [anita@visitflanders.co.uk](mailto:anita@visitflanders.co.uk).

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## FoMu, Antwerp

Antwerp's photo museum FoMu, which is 50 years old in 2015, has organised a programme of summer events.

As well as a prominent Instagram campaign, photo machines bearing pictures from the FoMu's collection will be placed in various locations in Antwerp for tourists to make fun pictures of themselves.

Visit : [www.fomu.be](http://www.fomu.be).

## Fleuramour, Bilzen, Flanders

25-28 September 2015

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the annual Fleuramour floristry show takes place in the castle grounds of Alden Biesen Commandery in Limburg.

Over 100 florists visit from Belgium and beyond will decorate the castle in tens of thousands of flowers.

Visit : [www.fleuramour.be](http://www.fleuramour.be).

Visit : [www.visitflanders.com](http://www.visitflanders.com). Contact : Anita Rampall at [anita@visitflanders.co.uk](mailto:anita@visitflanders.co.uk).

## International US Sand Sculpting Challenge

San Diego

4 to 7 September 2015

San Diego's Big Bay stages the International US Sand Sculpting Challenge and 3D Art Exposition

Forty of the world's best sculptors from Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Latvia and Canada, will challenge the best in the USA in three different classes using 300 tons of sand that will be carved and moulded into sculptures.

Visit : [www.ussandsculpting.com](http://www.ussandsculpting.com). Contact: Gordon Summer at [gsummer@ussandsculpting.com](mailto:gsummer@ussandsculpting.com).

## San Francisco Fringe Festival

11 to 26 September 2015

The San Francisco Fringe Festival offers 158 performances and more than 36 shows in 14 days.

Visit : [www.sffringe.org](http://www.sffringe.org). Contact: Ariel Craft at [publicist@theexit.org](mailto:publicist@theexit.org)

## Falmouth Oyster Festival 2011, Falmouth Cornwall, UK

9 to 12 October 2013

The annual Falmouth Oyster Festival celebrates the start of the oyster dredging season, the diversity and quality of Cornish Seafood and in particular, one of the last remaining traditional oyster fisheries, dredging by sail and hand punt.

Falmouth is Cornwall's leading south coast resort and home to the county's maritime heritage.

Visit : [www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk](http://www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk), [www.discoverfalmouth.co.uk](http://www.discoverfalmouth.co.uk). Contact : [hello@gemmateaguemarketing.co.uk](mailto:hello@gemmateaguemarketing.co.uk).

## Reasons to write about

### Trinidad & Tobago

Trinidad & Tobago has been named the "happiest" Caribbean nation in the World Happiness Report from the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network - and 41st in the world.

Trinidad & Tobago's flourishing culinary scene and year round festivals, combined with local steel pan and soca music and picturesque beaches is said to bring out the happiness in both locals and visitors alike.

And with 15, Trinidad & Tobago is among the top ten countries in the world for the number of public holidays.

The World Happiness Report aims to help country leaders recognize the importance of happiness and well-being for the success of the world and sustainable development.

Researchers examine 11 areas essential to happiness and well-being, including :

- health
- education
- local government
- personal security
- income, and overall satisfaction with life.

Trinidad & Tobago was also the top-ranked Caribbean nation in the previous Happiness Report, which was published in 2013.

### Trinidad & Tobago

Trinidad & Tobago is located in the southeastern region of the Caribbean and the dual-island nation offers a distinct blend of culture, eclectic cuisine and an assortment of eco-adventure activities.

Trinidad, the self-proclaimed 'cultural capital of the Caribbean,' is home to the Carnival and the birthplace of the steel pan, the only new acoustic instrument to be invented in the 20th century.

Tobago, sister island to Trinidad, is the quintessential Caribbean island with secluded beaches, quaint villages and private villas.

Its award-winning eco-attractions that include the Main Ridge Rainforest, the oldest protected reserve in the western hemisphere and the six-time award winner for World's Leading Ecotourism Destination by the World Travel Awards.

Visit : [www.goTrinidadandTobago.com](http://www.goTrinidadandTobago.com) and [www.visittobago.gov.tt](http://www.visittobago.gov.tt). Contact : Cherise Stevens at [Cherise@cam-pr.com](mailto:Cherise@cam-pr.com).

### New York State to dim lights to save migrating birds

The state of New York is to turn off non-essential lights in state-run buildings to help birds navigate their migratory routes in spring and autumn.

Migrating birds are believed to use stars to navigate but they can be disorientated by electric lights, causing them to crash into buildings.

The phenomenon, known as "fatal light attraction", is estimated to kill up to one billion birds a year in the US. Millions of birds migrate through New York along the Atlantic Flyway route.

Now those passing over the city by night will stand a better chance of making it further north.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Monday that bright outdoor lights will be turned off between 23:00 and dawn during peak migration seasons in spring and autumn.

The state will join several well-known New York landmarks that have already signed up to the National Audubon Society's Lights Out programme, including the Rockefeller Centre, Chrysler Building and Time Warner Centre.

The city has also launched an I Love NY Birding website, which will provide information on bird watching and how to participate in the Lights Out initiative.

The National Audubon Society already works with other major cities to protect birds from strikes, including Baltimore, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Fatal light attraction appears to affect migratory songbirds such as warblers, thrushes and sparrows more than local birds, who learn where they can fly safely.

Visit : [www.nycgo.com](http://www.nycgo.com) and [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org). Contact : Caroline Peck at [cpeck@nycgo.com](mailto:cpeck@nycgo.com).

### **Frankfurt's Station District, Germany**

Frankfurt's station district is located in the heart heart of the city combines banks and office buildings with restaurants and retail.

The station district also has the highest proportion of foreign residents in the city and visitors will find a range of multicultural eating, snack bars and grocery shops.

Maxie Eisen is a Jewish delicatessen of true "kosher nostra" style, offering a variety of Jewish foods, with te speciality of the house its Jewish-American pastrami sandwich.

For the al-fresco atmosphere of a street market, the "Kaisermankt", held every Tuesday and Thursday, offers fresh produce.

The station district is also home to a number of cultural establishments including the Hammer Museum, which ranks amongst the world's eleven most curious museums.

Here, more than 1,500 hammers – from small multipurpose hammers from the late 19th century to massive sledgehammers – are displayed on 50 square metres of exhibition space.

The museum even features one of the hammers used to tear down the Berlin Wall. Admission is free of charge.

Taunustor 1, between the station and banking districts, is the home of one of the branch offices of the Museum of Modern Art (MMK), known as MMK2.

The English Theatre Frankfurt (Gallusanlage 7), known to be the largest English-language theatre in Europe offers a repertoire of plays and musicals.

Art enthusiasts will find a range of art galleries and studios in the station district.

During the "Bahnhofsviertelnacht" (Night of the station district), organised every summer, the focus will be on the inhabitants, their daily life and cultural and gastronomic offers of the district. This year, the event will take place 20th August.

Visit : [www.frankfurt-tourismus.de](http://www.frankfurt-tourismus.de). Contact : Mareike Vöhl at [voehl@infofrankfurt.de](mailto:voehl@infofrankfurt.de).

## A place to stay

### Niquesa Hotels and Residences, Italy

Luxury brand Niquesa Hotels & Residences has a portfolio of luxury properties in Italy :

- Hotel d'Inghilterra, Residenza di Ripetta and Hotel Beverly Hills in Rome
- Hotel Helvetia & Bristol in Florence
- Grand Hotel Continental in Sienna, and
- Hotel Villa Michelangelo in Vicenza

Visit : [www.niquesa.com](http://www.niquesa.com). Contact : Olivia Garnham at [olivia@rivapr.co.uk](mailto:olivia@rivapr.co.uk).

### The Four Seasons Resort Nevis

The Four Seasons Resort Nevis has officially launched an exclusive menu of spa services with THÉMAÉ Paris, a French professional spa brand that utilizes the acclaimed benefits of tea in their services and products.

The Spa at Four Seasons Resort Nevis is the only one in the Caribbean to carry THÉMAÉ.

Four Seasons Resort Nevis, which has a AAA Five Diamond Award, is located along the volcanic sands of Pinney's Beach on the Western coast of the island.

Visit : [www.fourseasons.com/nevis/spa](http://www.fourseasons.com/nevis/spa). Contact : Claire Kunzman at [claire@cam-pr.com](mailto:claire@cam-pr.com).

### ME Milan II Duca

ME by Meliá is opening its first Italian hotel, in the heart of Milan's fashion and design district, in May 2015.

Located in the Piazza della Repubblica shopping area, the ME Milan II Duca is close to the Quadrilatero della Moda and the Corso Como area.

ME by Meliá hotels are known for their rooftop spaces and the hotel's Radio Rooftop Bar, on the 10th floor, offers panoramic views of the Milanese skyline.

Visit : [www.mebymelia.com](http://www.mebymelia.com). Contact : Lauren Williams at [Lauren.williams@luchfordapm.com](mailto:Lauren.williams@luchfordapm.com).

### Wellness Holidays for Animal Lovers

Health and Fitness Travel, which provide wellness holidays worldwide, offer a range of wellness holidays for animal lovers.

Health and Fitness Travel is a global luxury wellness travel company, created by Paul Joseph and Adam Heathcote, which offers bespoke holidays to improve people's well-being to lead happier and healthier lives.

### Safari in South Africa: Karkloof Safari Spa

Guests learn about the conservation of South Africa's natural wildlife and encounter it at this luxury spa safari retreat, set within a 3,500 hectare reserve.

There is the chance to see white rhino, hippo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and monkeys, along with flocks of ostrich and hearing the inspiring song of the African fish eagle.

### **Dolphin Spotting in Portugal: Galo Resort**

Dolphin spotting is on offer at this luxury wellness retreat on the South East coast of Madeira.

Large schools of dolphins swim the waters of the Mid-Atlantic throughout the year and whales also frequent these waters.

There are a variety of wellness activities at this luxury retreat including Ayurveda spa treatments.

### **Tropical Wildlife in Central America: Costa Rica Discover Recover**

There's the chance to explore one of the world's most richly bio-diverse environments in tropical Costa Rica.

Viewing of animals includes howler monkeys, iguanas, toucans, sloths, butterflies and hummingbirds on a jungle crocodile safari tour or Veragua rainforest park tour.

### **Horse Riding in Utah: Red Mountain Resort**

Set in America's infamous 'Wild West' there is the chance to explore the Utah's natural Red Mountain range on horseback through the Snow Canyon State Park.

### **Scuba Diving in the Maldives: Maalifushi**

Learn to dive and gain PADI certification in one of the world's best diving destinations, on this luxury wellness holiday for marine life lovers.

Dive in and explore the waters of the Indian Ocean, with its abundance of marine life including whale sharks, manta rays, turtles and beautifully vibrant corals and schools of fish.

### **Camel Riding in Morocco: Paradis Plage**

Camel ride across the beaches of Morocco or the golden sands of Agadir on a camel.

With an oceanfront yoga pavilion and three scheduled group yoga classes a day, Paradis Plage is the ideal beach retreat for a spa, surf and holiday.

### **Rescued Animals in Thailand: Thailand Discover Recover**

There are over 400 rescued animals at the WFFT Wildlife Rescue Centre in Thailand.

From orphaned baby monkeys to injured lorises and civets, visitors can help out by giving a rescued elephant a shower and learning how the work of the trust is helping Thailand's most beautiful and endangered creatures.

Visit : [www.healthandfitnesstravel.com](http://www.healthandfitnesstravel.com). Contact : lucy@healthandfitnesstravel.com.

### **New Yorker's Guide to Central Park**

Loews Regency Hotel and the Central Park Conservancy are offering the New Yorker's Guide to Central Park package, which offers guests an insider look into one of New York's most popular attractions.

There is also the chance for the hotel's guests to take part in the Tulips and Daffodils Program through which thousands of flower bulbs are planted in Central Park each year.

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### New Yorker's Guide to Central Park includes:

- Overnight accommodation
- 1 hour private, walking tour of Central Park with an official Central Park Conservancy Tour Guide
- Autographed copy of "Central Park: An American Masterpiece" by Sara Cedar Miller, Central Park Conservancy Historian and Photographer
- \$50 Donation to the Tulips and Daffodils Program, and
- 20% discount on any purchase of merchandise from the Visitor Centre

Central Park Conservancy is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to restoring, managing and enhancing Central Park in partnership with the public, and is widely respected as a leader of urban park management and restoration.

Additionally, the Conservancy raises 75 percent of the funds needed to care for the Park.

Since its founding in 1980, the organization has invested over \$700 million in its ongoing efforts to provide a legacy for future generations.

Visit : [www.loewshotels.com/regency-hotel](http://www.loewshotels.com/regency-hotel) and [www.centralparknyc.org](http://www.centralparknyc.org). Contact : pr@masonrose.com.

### The BAUERs hotel group, Venice

The BAUERs hotel group comprises four properties :

#### Villa F

Villa F is located on Giudecca Island in the Venetian Lagoon and comprises of a series of luxury residences.

The recently restored 16th century property was originally built as a home for noble Venetian families and offers views over St Mark's Square.

#### Palladio Hotel & Spa

The Palladio Hotel & Spa is located opposite St Mark's Square and a short boat ride from the heart of the city.

It was originally a sixteenth-century convent designed by the Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio.

Recently acquired by the Bauer group, Palladio has been restored to its former splendour as an exclusive private hotel with 21 suites and 58 bedrooms.

Shared with Villa F, The Palladio Spa is a luxury complex of 450 square metres featuring eight elegant treatment rooms.

#### Il Palazzo

Situated on the banks of the Grand Canal, Il Palazzo is a boutique hotel offering five star luxury within classical surroundings.

This five-star luxury hotel with its facade in gothic style is located in an original Venetian house from the 18th century and is often described as Venice's most luxurious hotel with 38 suites and 34 guest rooms.

## L'Hotel

The BAUERs L'Hotel's distinctive 1940's facade with luminous Art Déco windows is located close to the baroque church of San Moisé and the bustling Rio San Moisé.

The property offers 97 guest rooms and 22 suites with a more private experience offered at the neighbouring Casa Nova, an extension of L'Hotel.

It offers ten rooms and nine luxurious apartment suites that are perfect for both short and long-term stays as well as family accommodations.

Visit : [www.bauerhotels.com](http://www.bauerhotels.com). Contact : Stevie King at [stevie.king@purplepr.com](mailto:stevie.king@purplepr.com).

## **The Inn at English Harbour, Antigua**

The 5 star, adults only, Inn at English Harbour, Antigua, has 28 rooms built on 19 acres of seaside land on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Visit : [www.theinnantigua.com](http://www.theinnantigua.com). Contact : Nadia Walford at [Nadia@grifcopr.com](mailto:Nadia@grifcopr.com).

## **Tuscany Now**

Tuscany Now offers 180 exclusive rental properties throughout in Tuscany and throughout Italy.

These include villas near the Amalfi Coast and farmhouses among rolling hills and lakeside retreats.

Tuscany Now have highlighted three of their best properties.

## **Podere Celli**

A Tuscan farmhouse, Podere Celli and its traditional stone walls is located in the vine-covered hills of western Chianti.

Its interiors have been restored and renovated to provide a comfortable, spacious country retreat for groups.

## **Visentium**

Steeped in history, there are stones in the walls of Visentium which are thought to have been cut over 3,000 years ago, predating even Hannibal's victory over the Roman armies very near this site.

Today the old stones form part of an elegant yet very comfortable country home with a round medieval tower at its core.

Within dining distance of Perugia, Visentium is also well located for exploring hill towns in both Tuscany and Umbria including Isola Maggiore, the only inhabited island on the lake.

There is an old fishing village on the island, with houses dating from the 14th and 16th centuries, and a ruined 19th century folly. St. Francis of Assisi is said to have slept here in 1211.

## **Tizzano**

A 16th century stone farmhouse, Tizzano is located on a hilltop in western Chianti overlooking 750 acres of gardens, vineyards, woods and olive groves.

It was the country retreat of an aristocratic Italian family for many generations and looks across the Tuscan hills.

Visit : [www.tuscanynow.com](http://www.tuscanynow.com). Contact : [Melissa@ophirpr.co.uk](mailto:Melissa@ophirpr.co.uk).



# Visit Finland

## An Alliance focus on :

### Finland : celebrating the unconventional

**Finland is a Northern European nation bordering Sweden and Russia.**

Its capital, Helsinki, sits on a peninsula and coastal islands in the Baltic Sea, and is home to the 18th-century fortress Suomenlinna, the Seurasaari open-air museum and a neoclassical cathedral.

The Northern Lights can be seen from its Arctic Lapland province, also home to the country's main ski resorts

**Finland also prides itself on its authenticity and diversity and with events taking place throughout the summer, visitors are invited to celebrate all things Finn.**

**Cleaning Day, Helsinki**  
23 May 2015 (annual)

On Cleaning Day, Finland's capital is transformed into a giant flea market when visitors can tour the city while picking up an array of goods; find one-off clothing items, second-hand sports equipment or something for the home.

**Helsinki celebrates its 460th anniversary**  
12 June 2015

Festivities will be held throughout Helsinki on 12 June for the capital's 460th birthday, with music and events on the streets.

The annual *Dinner Under the Sky* sees the streets of Helsinki transformed into a restaurant as people banquet together in the sunshine.

**Swamp Soccer World Championship,  
Hyrynsalmi**  
16 to 18 July 2015

The Swamp Soccer World Championship in Hyrynsalmi has teams from around the world competing.

The sport originated in Finland as a training regime for athletes.

Visit : [www.thecheaproute.com/12/108/swamp-soccer-world-championship.html](http://www.thecheaproute.com/12/108/swamp-soccer-world-championship.html).

**Feel the Flow Festival, Helsinki**  
14 to 16 August 2015 (annual)

A disused power station Helsinki, provides the venue for one of Finland's biggest music festivals.

Visit : [www.flowfestival.com/en](http://www.flowfestival.com/en)

**Restaurant Day, Helsinki**  
16 August 2015 (annual)

Promoted as the world's biggest food carnival, Restaurant Day sees the streets of Helsinki transformed into thousands of mini restaurants.

Established in Finland in 2011, the event allows anyone to set up a stall, restaurant or bar.

Well-known restaurants experiment with new menus while amateur cooks can serve up home cooking from their own living room.

Visit : [www.restaurantday.org/en](http://www.restaurantday.org/en)

**Mobile Phone Throwing World Championships, Savonlinna**  
22 August 2015 (annual)

As the original home of Nokia, Finland is synonymous with telecommunication and the Mobile Phone Throwing World Championships provides an opportunity for competitors worldwide to rid themselves of out of date defective mobiles.

People come together from around the globe to take out their frustration and compete for the longest throw.

Visit : [www.mobilephonethrowing.fi](http://www.mobilephonethrowing.fi)

**Finland : celebrating the unconventional**  
(cont)

**The World Air Guitar Championship, Oulu**  
26 August 2015

This year sees the world's finest air guitarists gather together in Oulu, Finland for the 20th anniversary edition of the Air Guitar World Championships.

The three-day festival starting on 26 August kicks off with the Dark Horses' Qualifying round where unknown acts take to the stage to fight for a golden ticket to the final.

The events culminate in the World Final, where the top air guitarists battle it out for the distinguished title of World Champion.

Visit : [www.airguitarworldchampionships.com](http://www.airguitarworldchampionships.com)

**Visit Finland : [www.visitfinland.com](http://www.visitfinland.com). Contact : Paul Charles at [visitfinland@verypcc.com](mailto:visitfinland@verypcc.com).**

**The Lahti Festival, Helsinki**  
31 August to 6 September 2015

The year 2015 marks the 150-year anniversary of the birth of Sibelius, Finland's most famous Finn.

To celebrate, the Lahti Symphony Orchestra will be staging a week of concerts with guest performances from the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Visit : [www.festivals.fi](http://www.festivals.fi)

## Travel guides

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

### **AA Travel Guides**

[www.shop.theaa.com/store/travel-guides](http://www.shop.theaa.com/store/travel-guides). Katie Stephens at [katie.stephens@theaa.com](mailto:katie.stephens@theaa.com).

### **Anova Books**

[www.anovabooks.com](http://www.anovabooks.com). Helen Ponting at [hponting@anovabooks.co](mailto:hponting@anovabooks.co)

### **Bradt Travel**

[www.bradtguides.com](http://www.bradtguides.com). Rachel Fielding at [rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com](mailto:rachel.fielding@bradtguides.com)

### **Brit's Guide**

[www.foulsham.com](http://www.foulsham.com). Margaret Lashbrook at [margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net](mailto:margaret.lashbrook@lineone.net) or Sue Wilkins at [wilkins@foulsham.com](mailto:wilkins@foulsham.com).

### **Cicerone**

[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk). Sarah Spencer at [sarah@cicerone.co.uk](mailto:sarah@cicerone.co.uk)

### **Eland Publishing**

[www.travelbooks.co.uk](http://www.travelbooks.co.uk). Barnaby Rogerson at [barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk](mailto:barnaby@travelbooks.co.uk).

### **Fisher's Travel SOS**

[www.fisherstravelsos.com](http://www.fisherstravelsos.com). Furqan Syed at [furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com](mailto:furqan.syed@fisherstravelsos.com).

### **Global Travel Publishers**

[www.africa-adventure.com](http://www.africa-adventure.com). Kate Bandos at [kate@ksbpromotions.com](mailto:kate@ksbpromotions.com).

### **Globetrotters LogBook**

[www.globetrotterslogbook.com](http://www.globetrotterslogbook.com). Giedo Claes at [giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com](mailto:giedo@globetrotterslogbook.com)

### **Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens**

[www.hudsonsheritage.com](http://www.hudsonsheritage.com). Tanya Aspinwall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk)

### **Inn House Publishing**

[www.innhousepublishing.com](http://www.innhousepublishing.com). Kathryn McWhirter at [kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com](mailto:kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com).

### **Insight**

[www.insightguides.com](http://www.insightguides.com). Julia Spence at [Julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:Julia.spence@ukonline.co.uk).

### **In your pocket guides**

[www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com). Craig Turp at [editor@inyourpocket.com](mailto:editor@inyourpocket.com).

### **Jane's Smart Art Guides**

[www.JanesSmartArt.com](http://www.JanesSmartArt.com). Jane McIntosh at [MMJ@JanesSmartArt.com](mailto:MMJ@JanesSmartArt.com)

### **Jonglez Publishing**

[www.jonglezpublishing.com](http://www.jonglezpublishing.com). Alexandre Thery at [alexandre@editionsjonglez.com](mailto:alexandre@editionsjonglez.com).

### **Kuperard Publishers**

[www.kuperard.co.uk](http://www.kuperard.co.uk). Geoffrey Chesler at [geoffreychesler@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffreychesler@btinternet.com).

### **Morris Communications**

[www.themilepost.com](http://www.themilepost.com). Kate Bandos at [kate@ksbpromotions.com](mailto:kate@ksbpromotions.com).

### **Odyssey Books & Guides**

[www.odysseypublications.com](http://www.odysseypublications.com). Caroline Eden at [caroline@odysseypublications.com](mailto:caroline@odysseypublications.com)

### **The Official (UK) Tourist Board Guides**

[www.visitor-guides.co.uk](http://www.visitor-guides.co.uk). Tanya Aspinwall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk)

### **Oxygen Books city-lit**

[www.oxygenbooks.co.uk](http://www.oxygenbooks.co.uk). Malcom Burgess at [malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@oxygenbooks.co.uk)

### **Rough Guides**

[www.roughguides.com](http://www.roughguides.com). [press@roughguides.com](mailto:press@roughguides.com)

### **The Signpost**

[www.signpost.co.uk](http://www.signpost.co.uk). Tanya Aspinwall at [tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk](mailto:tanya@marketingaloud.co.uk)

### **Summersdale travel publications**

[www.summersdale.com](http://www.summersdale.com). Dean at [dean@summersdale.com](mailto:dean@summersdale.com).

### **Take two Books**

[www.taketwobooks.com](http://www.taketwobooks.com). Sarah Duvalle at [Sarah@taketwobooks.com](mailto:Sarah@taketwobooks.com).

### **Turnleft**

[www.turnleftguides.com](http://www.turnleftguides.com). Nick Buteau at [nick@turnleftguides.com](mailto:nick@turnleftguides.com)

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## AllWays traveller

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To register with the Alliance visit : [www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com), and register as a :

- **Member :** travel writers, broadcasters and photographers
- **Editor :** commissioning editors
- **Partner :** travel and tourism industry organisations, or
- **Agency :** agency representatives with travel or tourism clients



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[www.itwalliance.com](http://www.itwalliance.com)

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[www.allwaystraveller.com](http://www.allwaystraveller.com)

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