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36 Great Holiday Ideas

ETIHAD EXPANDS AUST. NETWORK



● Etihad Airways cabin crew members Ljubica Bejatovic and Stephanie Jones



● Etihad Airways CEO James Hogan

■ One of the world's fastest growing airlines, Etihad, is adding Melbourne, to its Australian ports of Sydney and Brisbane. Etihad, which means 'United' in Arabic, is based in Abu Dhabi, and will start its Melbourne-London and Melbourne-Paris routes from March 2009. Etihad Airways CEO James Hogan hosted a gala party at the Park Hyatt, Melbourne, last week to launch the new services. Victorian Premier John Brumby was on hand at Tullamarine Airport to welcome a flight scheduled to mark the new services. State Minister for Major Projects, Theo Theophanous, predicted that 200,000 journeys would be made in the first year of the service. Dr Janine Kerr, new boss of Tourism Victoria, praised the initiative. Mr Hogan, born and bred in Melbourne, said the new services would fly via Abu Dhabi. The United Arab Emirates city combines ancient culture and heritage of Arabia with cosmopolitan sophistication in a clean and safe environment with a distinctive blend of east and west. Abu Dhabi is a lush, modern metropolis with futuristic skyscrapers, huge shopping malls and international luxury hotels.



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