

Duff on Hospitality Law

OTA & Travel Distribution Update - July 28th, 2017

By Greg Duff on 8.3.17 | Posted in OTA Update

Our weekly client OTA & Travel Distribution Update for the week ending July 28, 2017 is below. Two Expedia companies top this week's Update.

Expedia Creates Newest Asian Travel Unicorn [OTA]

("Expedia invests \$350M in Traveloka to create Southeast Asia's newest unicorn," TechCrunch, July 28, 2017)

Expedia announced this past week a \$350 million investment in Southeast Asia's Traveloka. The investment values the company at over \$1 billion. Founded in 2012, Traveloka provides online travel services to Southeast Asia's six primary markets – Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines. In addition to its investment, Expedia further strengthened its Southeast Asia presence through an agreement with Traveloka to make Expedia's international inventory available to Traveloka users.

Trivago Introduces Revenue Management Tool [METASEARCH]

("Trivago Joins Rivals in Offering Hotels a Rate-Shopping Tool," Skift Travel News, July 25, 2017)

In an effort to further boost its transaction activity, Trivago has launched a revenue management tool, Rate Insights, to assist hoteliers in setting room rates. The tool, which is available through Trivago Hotel Manager PRO, allows participating hoteliers to access rate data (gathered via booking sites, hotelier sites, search volume and local event calendars) across a number of markets and to use that data to forecast rate trends. With this addition, Trivago joins its affiliate Expedia and competitor, Priceline Group, in offering hoteliers a variety of data analysis tools beyond its more traditional distribution or metasearch functionality.

Accor Focuses Its Short-Term Rental Business [SHORT-TERM RENTALS]

("Accorhotels beefs up luxury rental 'onefinestay' brand to fight Airbnb," WHBL Business News, July 26, 2017)

Accor announced last week a plan to consolidate its three existing luxury rental platforms – onefinestay, Travel Keys and Squarebreak - under the onefinestay platform. Accor also announced at the same time that it planned to acquire the remaining 51% of Squarebreak that it didn't previously own. With the consolidation, Accor will be able to offer travelers the hospitality and concierge services of onefinestay at over 10,000 properties worldwide (a nearly fourfold increase of onefinestay's previous property count).

Other news:

New short-term rental rules begin to take shape under Charleston task force

The Charleston City Paper, July 26, 2017

Progress is slow for the group tasked with crafting a new set of rules to govern short-term rentals across Charleston. After first meeting last November, the 18-member task force has been working toward nailing down what they'd like to see in a new ordinance to be presented to the city's...

Christie Rejects 'Airbnb' Tax, Citing Cost To Tourists

Law360 - Tax, July 22, 2017

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie on Friday vetoed a bill that would have levied a tax on short-term online rental accommodations such as Airbnb and FlipKey, saying the proposed tax would hurt New Jersey's economy.