EMIRATES INTRODUCES NEW IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

Emirates recently introduced its new generation, in-flight entertainment (IFE) system reaffirming its commitment to continual product enhancement. The new features include larger screens in First Class and Economy Class and three time€s the media storage – offering passengers an even greater choice of content on board.

The new products can be found on Emirates' newly-delivered Boeing 777-300ER and Airbus A380 aircraft.

Passengers travelling in First Class will have a more immersive viewing experience to look forward to with IFE screens increased from 27 to 32 inches – the 40 per cent increase makes it the largest screen on any aircraft.

Economy Class passengers can also look forward to immersing themselves in Emirates' selection of in-flight programmes with the industry's largest in-seat screens at 13.3 inches. The Business Class screens, at 23 inches wide, remain one of the industry's largest for its class.

With three times the media storage on the new IFE system, ice Digital Widescreen now has 2,186 channels of on-demand entertainment and 1,230 music channels which amount to about 4,300 hours of entertainment. This includes over 50 full TV box sets and close to 600 movies. Reflecting Emirates' global and diverse customer base, the enhanced system also features a multilingual interface in 14 languages.

This year, Emirates clinched its 11th consecutive Skytrax World Airline Awards for World's Best Airline Inflight Entertainment.

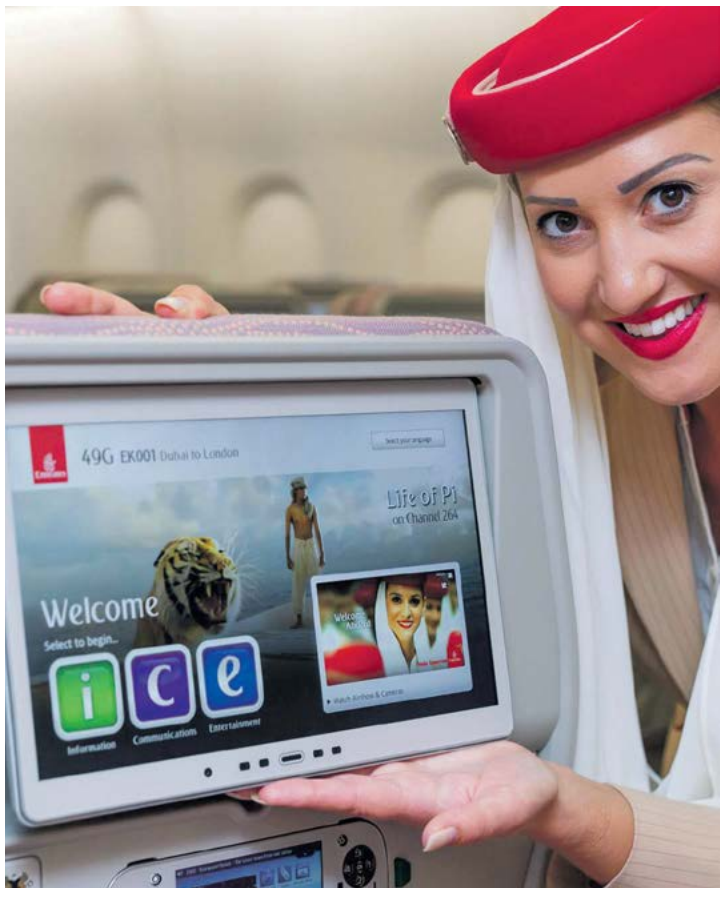
Other new features on ice includes enhanced handset controllers, USB ports and PC power outlets on all seats across the three cabin classes to allow passengers to charge their own mobile phones and portable devices.

Emirates' next generation IFE system is complemented with connectivity on board. The airline offers Wi-Fi on 142 aircraft, more than half of its fleet and Live TV now on 75 aircraft. Emirates began offering free Wi-Fi on board last year and has invested over €14 million to offer its passengers data connectivity in 2015. From January to September this year, 2.6 million Emirates passengers connected to Wi-Fi on board – a four-fold increase from last year, reflecting the strong consumer demand for connectivity services while travelling.

Other product enhancements include new micro fibre optic carpet in the First Class cabin which helps to reduce the effects of jet lag, and private suites in the centre aisle have been widened by 1.9 inches.

Emirates operates a daily scheduled flight between Dubai and Malta via Larnaca, Cyprus.

www.emirates.com/mt



The world's largest economy class screens, at 13.3 inches.

Treat yourself to Costa Christmas offerings

Christmas is the season to treat yourselves to a mouth-watering menu and Costa has launched some delectable, limited edition offerings for the festive season.

"In the run-up to Christmas, we're all busy making sure everyone else has a great time but we all still like a moment to ourselves to sit back, relax and enjoy a little indulgence. This is what Costa is all about, giving our customers the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved me time," said Costa Coffee executive chairman Ralph Llanwarne.

Costa's fun range of Christmas cup characters returns this year and joining the joyful Snowman (Medio), Elf (Espresso/Corto) and Santa (Massimo), is Robin (Primo) to enjoy your favourite, handcrafted coffee stylishly.

For those hunting for the perfect present for a fellow coffee-lover, ceramic editions of Costa's character cups are available in Primo size from all Costa Coffee shops around Malta.

"We have a really varied range of merchandise this year, making for innovative stocking-fillers," said Costa Coffee marketing executive Stephanie Ganado.

Made with a shot of Costa's expertly ground espresso, topped with delicately frothed milk and a sprinkle of Costa's famous gold magic dusting, Costa's new Salted Caramel Cappuccino is the perfect choice for cappuccino lovers seeking a warming aide to help ease them through the chilly winter season.

Other items on the menu include the Caramel Fudge Hot chocolate and the Tiramisu Latte, the typical smooth and creamy latte spiced up for Christmas.

Customers can also treat their tastebuds to some delicious new additions to their muffin range, tray bakes and cakes or the mini mince pies, with 25c from each packet being donated to *L-Istrina*.

International concerts as part of Mdina biennale

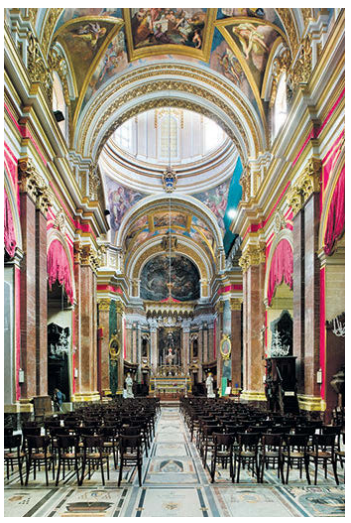
The *Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale*, which is currently being held in different venues in the old capital, is hosting concerts in collaboration with Caravan.

Caravan is a trans-cultural initiative which organises a multitude of art events with the intention of creating peaceful dialogue between diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Caravan will be coordinating a number of projects for the Mdina Biennale, including the Maltese Donkey sculptural installation and a series of concerts.

The first concert, by noted American organist Calvert Johnson took place yesterday at St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina. The second takes place on Friday when Caravan, in collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, perform a concert offering the audience a stimulating and challenging experience.

Notes of Faith is a musical concert of original compositions by four contemporary composers. The concert grew out of an initial discussion between Paul-Gordon Chandler, president of Caravan and the *Mdina Biennale* artistic director Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci, about hosting a performance that ties Middle Eastern and Western traditions together.

With Raoul Lay as conductor, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra chose to perform the world premiere of *Seeds of Hope* as the theme resonated with the critical need at this time to build bridges between the Middle East and West. Solo Middle Eastern artists for *Seeds of Hope* are the renowned musicians Nizar Al Issa, oud, and Bashir Abdel Aal, nay. The concert will also feature three other contemporary composers: Albert Pace's *In Amore illo ardeas,* Cristina Vilallonga's *Aspiratio* and Karl Fiorini's *Rêves Obscurs.*



The Mdina Cathedral. PHOTO: JOE BORG

Notes of Faith *takes place at St Paul's Cathedral, Mdina on Friday at 8pm . Admission is free.*

ESCAPE COMPETITION

WIN A MEAL FOR TWO AT TALK OF TOWN CAFÉ, SLIEMA

Talk of Town Café at The Palace, Sliema, is offering a meal for two, excluding beverages. Reservation on 2133 3444 is necessary and is always subject to availability.

Readers are invited to answer the following question and send it to *The Sunday Times of Malta*, Talk of Town Café competition, P.O. Box 328, Valletta.

Kindly include your full name, address, telephone number and identity card number when sending your reply. Entries must be submitted by December 8.

What spirit is the base of a Pina Colada?

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.....

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

TELEPHONE: ..... ID CARD: .....

The winner of the competition published on November 8 is Pauline Farrugia of Rabat.