

Exclusive wines on Air Namibia flights

WINDHOEK - Air Namibia has introduced two new wines on their flights. The wines are from two very exclusive wineries in South Africa, Peter Falke Wines from Stellenbosch and Arra Vineyards from Paarl. The wines from these vineyards are currently only available by order from Tamasa Trading.

The national airline made the announcement at a wine tasting event this week, which also served to inform travel agents and the media of new developments at the airline.

According to Air Namibia Senior for Manager Sales and Marketing, Wimpe van Vuuren, the national airline has acquired two new Airbus A330-200 planes one of which will be in service from October and the other one in November. Van Vuuren said the two aircraft would offer improved comfort to passengers including in-flight entertainment and a modern cabin with a configuration of 30 to 214. He said that business class seats would have an IFE screen at



Barry De Vries from Tamasa Wines, Diané Wentzel from Arra Vineyards and Werner Schrenk from Peter Falke Wines.

the back of the seat in front, video on demand with games which is also available in economy class, rising armrests that form individual privacy screens, water bottle and general stowage, shoe stowage and literature pocket, PC power and headphone port amongst others.

Van Vuuren further announced that Air Namibia would continue to operate seven flights between Windhoek and Frankfurt. However, the frequency of flights would be reduced to

six between December 6 this year and June 25 next year, with Tuesday flights in both directions removed.

According to Van Vuuren, Air Namibia introduced a seventh frequency to Luanda on August 6 with daily flights now operated with an Airbus A319-100. Air Namibia introduced its first flight to Luanda in November 1992.

He also announced that Air Namibia has secured traffic rights between Harare and Luanda and that they have

combined the flights in a triangular way from Windhoek to Luanda to Harare to Windhoek on Mondays and Fridays and Windhoek to Harare to Luanda to Windhoek on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Air Namibia also signed a Code Share Agreement with Kenya Airways on June 26 this year on the following routes: Luanda to Nairobi and Johannesburg to Luanda and Windhoek to Johannesburg for Kenya



Senior Manager Sales and Marketing Wimpe Van Vuuren giving the overview of Air Namibia.

Photos: Roland Booth

Airways. Air Namibia has various other special pro-rate agreements with Kenya Airways beyond Nairobi.

Van Vuuren said the airline would cancel some flights over the festive season due to traditional low demand on identified days. Scheduled maintenance on the A319-100 and the Embraer Regional Jets (ERJ) in the period of September 09 to 22 are expected to affect a number of routes.

Air Namibia recently introduced an Integrat-

ed Operational Control Centre (IOCC), which falls under the Office of the Managing Director and is independent of any of the operational departments within the airline.

The IOCC takes control of the flight schedule from 72 hours prior to the flight's departure and is made up of four people who boast 70 years of experience between them. The main aim of the IOCC is to find problems before they occur and have contingency plans in place.

He said that the IOCC sits on a daily basis with senior representatives of each relevant department and agrees on the schedule for the next three days.

According to Van Vuuren, the IOCC makes a difference as any maintenance, crewing, training, airport or weather problems are addressed timeously and therefore flights can be rescheduled in advance and if necessary leave enough time to notify passengers, agents and suppliers of any changes.