

## Who's Flying Where

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To those who say airline alliances and joint ventures hurt consumers, permission to collude on fare increases (made possible by reduced competition) is the leading argument. Fair enough, but there are plenty of pro-consumer arguments as well, among them a wider selection of nonstop flights that otherwise wouldn't be economically viable. This, of course, helps local communities and airports as well. For proof, take the new **American- British Airways/Iberia** joint venture, whose creation led to the announcement of four new international flights last week. Next summer, American will start flying from Chicago to Budapest, home to oneworld's **Malev**, and **Helsinki, home to oneworld's Finnair**. BA will re-start London Heathrow-San Diego flights for the third time, in this instance buttressed by travelers being able to earn American AAdvantage miles if they so choose. **Iberia**, for its part will launch new flights from Madrid (where it incidentally has far more room to expand than BA at Heathrow) to Los Angeles, where American has a large operation. All three airlines are also set to significantly amplify their codesharing activities.