

HD Citi: Crown Resorts Remains Compelling Value -- Market Talk

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2332 GMT [Dow Jones] Crown Resorts Ltd. (CWN.AU) remains compelling value on 14 times expected FY15 EPS and 8 times enterprise value to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation, according to Citi. It estimates that current gearing levels would imply about A\$2.5 billion (\$2.33 billion) of net debt potential in FY17, before assuming any potential earnings from new investments including the new Las Vegas venture. Assuming a 60% equity stake in the Vegas site, Citi estimates Crown would only need to fund another A\$360 million for the project. "With an expectation for about A\$1.5 billion of potential capex at Crown Barangaroo expected to be spent largely in FY17-FY19 and now Vegas, with a potential small equity component to the investment, there seems to be adequate balance sheet to fund these potential investments," the broker says. Rating remains Buy with a A\$21.40 (\$19.94) target price. CWN last A\$15.20. (david.rogers@wsj.com; Twitter: @DavidRogersWSJ)

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2324 GMT [Dow Jones] Activision Blizzard Inc. (ATVI) and Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. (TTWO) attributed stronger-than-expected quarterly results Tuesday to digitally delivered games and game content. The trend isn't new but appears more prominent in "slow" quarters, said Scott Kessler, an analyst at S&P Capital IQ. Activision's CEO Bobby Kotick insisted that physical sales are not going away. "There's no question when you look out five years we'll still be selling products like 'Skylanders' in stores" while also offering digital downloads, he said. Activision is up about 4% after hours, while Take-Two is down about the same percentage. (mikalai.shchatsko@wsj.com)

2324 GMT [Dow Jones]--EUR/USD is on a downward trend as renewed concerns over tensions in Ukraine and worries about deflation in the euro zone prompted investors to cut their bets on the single currency. Shinji Kureda, head of the FX trading **group** at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking, says the pair will likely find support at 1.3350 in Asia. "The pace of its fall tends to be slowed at every 50 points due to option-related buying. But once that point is broken, 1.3300 will come into sight," he adds. The pair is at 1.3370 vs. 1.3375 late in New York Tuesday. The ECB will hold a policy-setting meeting later this week, though policy changes aren't anticipated, Mr. Kureda says. (tatsuo.ito@wsj.com)

2320 GMT [Dow Jones] NZD/USD gained on news that New Zealand's 2Q unemployment rate was a better-than-expected 5.6% but fell on news that the participation rate and the quarter-on-quarter job growth rate were worse than tipped. "That offset the better news on the unemployment number," says Wellington-based OM Financial client advisor, Stuart Ive. He notes that after the overnight tumble in global dairy prices, things were already weighed against the Kiwi and "any spikes will likely be sold into." The pair is at 0.8439, and Ive says it has support at 0.8420 and resistance at 0.8500. (rebecca.howard@wsj.com; @FarroHoward)

23:19 GMT [Dow Jones] KKR & Co. (KKR) and Rhone Capital's A\$5.20/share indicative offer to acquire Treasury Wine (TWE.AU) looks attractive, but several risks remain, says J.P.Morgan. Investors should be mindful of the experience of Goodman Fielder, which recently recommended a cut-price offer from Singapore's Wilmar International Ltd. (F34.SG) and Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. (0142.HK) after they wrapped up due diligence. "There is no guarantee that a bid (for TWE) will emerge post due diligence, let alone that it will remain at A\$5.20 per share," J.P.Morgan says. "This risk requires a discount." Also, the broker believes the best-case completion date is September 2015, with due diligence likely to take four to six weeks, a scheme meeting taking six weeks to arrange, and the deal almost certain to require approval from China's Ministry of Commerce. J.P.Morgan, which rates Treasury Wine at underweight, thinks the stock should be trading at A\$4.80/share. TWE last traded at A\$5.17. (david.winning@wsj.com; @dwinningWSJ)

23:19 GMT [Dow Jones] The rally in Treasury Wine Estate's (TWE.AU) share price suggests more downside risk than upside for investors, even against the backdrop of a raised bid from KKR and Rhone Group, says UBS. It lifts its sum-of-the-parts-based target on TWE to A\$4.33/share from A\$4.20 but retains a sell recommendation. The brokerage says TWE's strategy, including spending on a narrowed brand portfolio and bringing forward the release dates for premium wines, makes sense but execution isn't certain. It anticipates further cost cutting to accompany the upcoming fiscal 2014 results as well as possibly more impairment charges, which will further cloud the wine company's near-term earnings outlook. TWE closed Tuesday at A\$5.17. (robb.stewart@wsj.com; Twitter: @RobbMStewart)

23:07 GMT [Dow Jones] Harold Park in suburban Sydney is used to winners and losers, as the site of a former paceway where punters would gather to bet on harness racing. Now, it looks like paying off for Mirvac Group, an Australian property developer that dug up the track and is building dozens of apartments there. J.P.Morgan says Mirvac's FY15 earnings growth will be dependent on the margin at Harold Park, as it likely will provide more than 50% of residential revenue. "We're increasingly confident on Harold Park given sales are 18 months ahead of feasibilities where Mirvac's focus has been more on velocity of sales as opposed to price growth," the broker says. "This should ensure healthy project margins through FY15-18, and more than A\$1 billion in revenue." J.P.Morgan, which rates Mirvac at overweight with a A\$1.93 price target, expects the company to report an FY14 operating profit of A\$439.9 million on Aug. 21. MGR last traded at A\$1.78. (david.winning@wsj.com; @dwinningWSJ)

2306 GMT [Dow Jones] Xerox Corp. (XRX) is moving toward rapid prototyping of services in its innovation **group**, according to chief technology officer Sophie Vandebroek. The copy machine pioneer needs to innovate in services now that the **company** has transitioned to providing back office services. Xerox is taking a page from a software development method known as Agile, which focuses on smaller projects and quick iteration. Innovation may be needed on the services side to offset falling sales of printers and copiers in the most recent quarter. (rachael.king@wsj.com, @sfwriter)

23:00 GMT [Dow Jones] The USD/JPY is likely to consolidate the downside after renewed concerns over the Ukrainian situations stoked risk-averse sentiment among investors overnight. "The sentiment isn't good and the topside will be heavy," says Shinji Kureda, head of FX trading **group** at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking. But the market reaction to this sort of news tends to be short-lived, and the pair could be supported around 102.40. Meanwhile, the topside will likely be capped around 102.80. The pair is at 102.63 against 102.59 in late New York on Tuesday. Polish foreign minister, Radoslaw Sikorski, was quoted by Bloomberg News as saying Russian units are poised to pressure or invade Ukraine. (tatsuo.ito@wsj.com)

22:55 GMT [Dow Jones] RBCCM upgrades Downer (DOW.AU) to Outperform from Sector Perform after raising its target price to A\$5.20 from A\$5.00. The broker points to significantly lower debt, a share buyback and marginally higher forecasts behind the upgrade. "The irony for Downer is that whilst it has reported a very strong cash flow result, its share price has fallen," analyst Heath Andrews says. "On a relative basis, we see Downer as good value in the sector and believe it should rally on the back of what was a solid FY2014 result." It adds that Downer is trading at a 6.3 times expected FY2015 enterprise value to earnings before interest and tax, a 23% discount to peers. DOW last A\$4.58. (david.rogers@wsj.com; Twitter: @DavidRogersWSJ)

2248 GMT [DOW JONES]--Federal regulators gave a sharp rebuke to banks over bankruptcy scenarios the regulators said weren't realistic. But it could still take years for the government to take drastic action, like forcing the banks to break up or shrink. Banks will have a least a year, and as many as three years, to respond to the regulators' criticisms, and even then breaking up the banks might not be on the table, one senior Fed official said.(ryan.tracy@wsi.com)

18:53 EDT [Dow Jones] After Imperial Metals (III.T) said earlier Tuesday the tailings dam breach at its Mount Polley **copper** and **gold** mine in British Colubmia had stabilized but it couldn't estimate the amount of tailings released, the provincial government provided some additional detail, saying an estimated 10M cubic meters of water as well as 4.5 **million** cubic meters of fine sand were released into Polley Lake. Still, government wasn't ready to estimate the potential environment impact from the spill. Amid that uncertainty, it's no wonder III.T sunk 41% to C\$9.98. ben.dummett@wsj.com @bendummett)

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