

# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 08 November 2011

## Regent releases new 2-for-1 fares

Regent Seven Seas Cruises is offering massive savings in 2012-13 and a new voyage from Western Australia.

**TWO**-for-one fares, air credits and bonus savings of up to US\$10,000 per suite are now available for all cruises in RSSC's newly released 2012-13 program – when booked before 30 December 2011.

Beginning October next year, the freshly refurbished *Seven Seas Voyager* will offer five Grand Voyages departing Auckland, Bali, Beijing and Rome, ranging from 54 to 143 nights.

From December 2012 through April 2013, the ship will visit Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Bali, Vietnam, India, China and Japan, including maiden calls at Hiroshima and Huangpu, China.

A new 21-night WA cruise, departing 19 December 2012, features maiden calls at Exmouth, Fremantle, Geraldton and Kangaroo Island.

Many of the Asian itineraries offer free land programs or multi-night hotel packages in Sydney, Bali, Auckland, Hong Kong, Beijing, Chiang Mai, Safaga (Luxor), Angkor Wat and the Taj Mahal.

"Regent's new collection is certain to sell out quickly," said Diane Patrick, managing director, Wiltrans International, which manages the line's Australian sales.

"When you combine the new itineraries with our luxurious suites, personalised service, superb cuisine and all-inclusive pricing, Regent Seven Seas offers the best value in luxury cruising," she said.

RSSC fares include all-suite accommodation, gourmet cuisine, premium spirits and fine wines, shore excursions, gratuities, and a pre-cruise luxury hotel stay, at no additional cost.

Other destinations include South America, with a 72-night voyage departing Miami in January 2013, and the Caribbean and Alaska.

For details, see [www.wiltrans.com.au](http://www.wiltrans.com.au) or call 1800 251 174.

## TODAY'S ISSUE OF CW

*Cruise Weekly's* consumer issue today has six pages of the latest cruise news.

**PLUS** this week is your last chance to enter the *Cruise Weekly* Carnival Cruise Lines competition, see page four for details.

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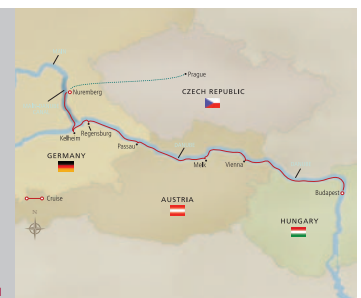
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Ask The Expert  
with  
Anthony Haworth

**THANK YOU** to everyone who sent in questions for our new guest expert, Anthony Haworth, General Manager of Captain Cook Cruises.

Over the next month we'll be featuring a selection of questions received and Anthony's responses at [facebook.com/cruiseweekly](http://facebook.com/cruiseweekly).

For Anthony's answers click on the Facebook link at the end of each question.

**Q1 from Louise, Perth:** Louise would like to know if Captain Cook Cruises is looking at adding more vessels in Fiji.

**Q2 from Dennis in West Ryde, NSW:** Dennis has asked if Captain Cook Cruises chartsers its vessels for groups or events.

Email your questions for Anthony to [expert@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:expert@cruiseweekly.com.au)

## Free flights plus an upgrade!

**AZAMARA** Club Cruises is offering an impressive carrot for cruisers booking Asian sailings onboard *Azamara Quest* departing between 11 December 2011 and 24 April 2012.

The offer includes free economy return airfares departing from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide, as well as a free Verandah upgrade for all Oceanview bookings.

Itineraries coinciding with the deal include a Spice Route 12-night cruise from Mumbai, to Singapore on 11 December 2011, visiting Goa and Madras in India, as well as Phuket in Thailand; as well as a 12-Night Shanghai to Hong Kong cruise departing on 14 March 2012, visiting Taipei and Hualien in Taiwan and ports in Korea and Japan.

See your travel agent for full details.

## Time to book Christmas cruises

Australians can snap up the remaining cabins on local departures to spend the festive season at sea.

**SILVERSEA**, Princess and P&O are among the cruise lines with limited availability on Christmas cruises.

To celebrate in style, the ultimate choice is Silversea's *Silver Shadow*, which sails from Sydney to Auckland on 21 December.

The 15-day voyage in an ocean view suite includes personal butler service, complimentary Champagne, wines and drinks throughout the ship, fine dining and all the trimmings for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

The luxury ship will visit Melbourne, Hobart, Dunedin, Picton, Napier, Tauranga and Milford Sound, with fares from \$9,843 per person twin-share (including a \$500 onboard credit) and single fares from \$14,502.

For families, P&O's four locally based ships are putting on Christmas laser shows and concerts, Christmas-themed menus, movies, carollers, snow machines in the atrium, and Australian-style beach cricket.

Santa will hand out gifts to every child aged between three and 17, and each ship will offer Christmas services onboard.

A 10-night cruise on *Pacific Jewel* from Sydney on 18 December or *Pacific Sun* on 19 December, via Vila, Mystery Island and Noumea, are priced from \$999 per person twin-share.

From Fremantle, *Athena* still has availability on its 18 December departure of a 12-night cruise to Christmas Island via Bali, with a cocktail party, dinner, cabaret show and

presents from Santa.

A family of four pays \$5,200 for a quad-share inside cabin; an outside twin-share is priced from \$2,695 pp.

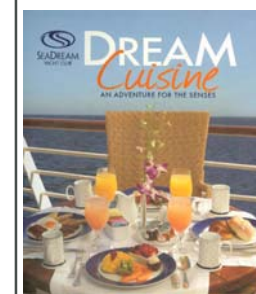
Royal Caribbean has only two cabins left on *Rhapsody of the Seas*, departing 17 December on a South Pacific cruise (fares from \$1699 ppts) and *Radiance of the Seas*, departing 18 December on a Christmas in New Zealand cruise (fares from \$2829 ppts).

For bookings, contact a travel agent or visit the cruise companies' websites at:

[www.silversea.com](http://www.silversea.com); [www.pocruises.com.au](http://www.pocruises.com.au); [www.princess.com.au](http://www.princess.com.au); [www.classicintcruises.com](http://www.classicintcruises.com) or [www.royalcaribbean.com.au](http://www.royalcaribbean.com.au).



## Giveaway



*Cruise Weekly* has teamed up with **SeaDream Yacht Club** this week and is giving two lucky readers the chance to win the **Dream Cuisine: An Adventure of the Senses** cookbook.

Dining onboard mega-yachts *SeaDream I* and *SeaDream II* has always been a special occasion, and worthy of the many awards and accolades they have received.

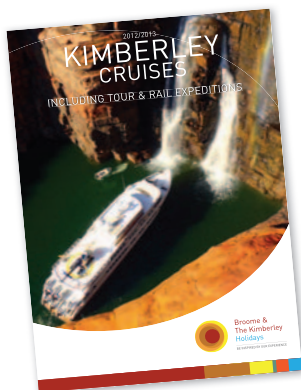
Now you can experience a taste of SeaDream at home, thanks to this *Dream Cuisine* cookbook, and the helpful advice from the Chefs of SeaDream.

For your chance to win this great cookbook, simply be one of the first two people to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

[comp@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:comp@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Name the new destination that *SeaDream II* will be visiting in early 2012 with an in-depth 20-night itinerary

Winners' names will be announced in *Cruise Weekly* on Tuesday 15th November.



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## Recipe of the Month

### Open Face Steak Sandwich

This week's recipe comes from Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines



### Ingredients

#### (Chimichurri Sauce)

- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1/3 cup minced fresh parsley,
  - 1 clove garlic, minced
  - 2 shallots, small diced
- 2 tablespoons each of minced basil and mint
  - 1 teaspoon minced hot pepper
- 1/2 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
  - 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1/4 red bell pepper and 1/4 green bell pepper
  - 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil

#### (Garlic Confit)

- 1 head garlic, peeled and shaved
  - 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

#### (Balsamic Vinaigrette)

- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
  - 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil

#### (Portabello Mushrooms)

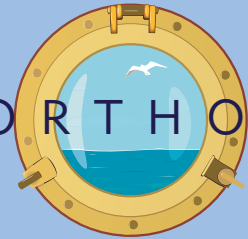
- 3 large portabello mushrooms, stalks and gills removed
  - 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
  - 1/4 bunch parsley, finely chopped

- 1/4 bunch basil, finely chopped  
(Sautéed Spinach)
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
  - 1/2 onion, finely chopped
  - 250g fresh spinach, stems off(Steaks)
- 6 150g New York strip steaks  
(Focaccia)
- 6 individual rosemary focaccia, grilled

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 165°C. To make the Chimichurri sauce combine all ingredients in a bowl and whisk in oil, cover and refrigerate for 24-hours. To make the garlic confit simmer the garlic in olive oil in a small saucepan over low heat for 20 minutes. To make the Portabello mushrooms cut the mushrooms into 5 slices at an angle, brush with the garlic confit and season with salt and pepper. Grill the mushrooms for two to three minutes, turning once. Top the grilled mushrooms with garlic confit and chopped herbs, then keep warm in the oven. For the spinach, warm oil and sauté onions for 4 minutes. Add spinach and seasoning and sauté for 2 minutes. For steaks, preheat broiler for 5 minutes over high heat. Broil steaks to the desired degree of rarity. Transfer to a warmed platter and tent loosely with aluminum foil for 10 minutes. Cut each steak in half at an angle. Place focaccia on plates, top with spinach, mushrooms, steaks and 2 spoonfuls of Chimichurri Sauce.

## P O R T H O L E



### STUDYING at sea.

They say university students have the perfect life; well that statement is certainly true for 200 US college attendees who are being temporarily housed onboard the 301-passenger *Sea Voyager* for a semester.

The students, from St Mary's College of Maryland, have been relocated to their ocean-view lodgings whilst the college deals with an outbreak of mould in their dorms.

As part of her role as college dormitory, the ten-year-old *Sea Voyager* has now pulled up a pew on St Mary's River, just a few metres from the university.

In many ways the new accommodations are in keeping with the St Mary's ethos, as part of its marketing states it is the college for students who love the water.

### ASTRONAUTS need a cruise.

A group of astronauts have emerged from a mock space capsule after being locked in there for 520 days, saying they are dreaming of lying in the sun.

The scientists were part of a mission to measure the effects on humans travelling the 17 months to Mars.

"My thoughts are drifting toward swimming at sea and basking on warm sand," said one sun-starved astronaut.

## Love a bit of photography?

IF you love exotic adventures and have a hankering to learn how to take beautiful photos then Orion Expedition Cruises photographic themed voyage to Vietnam in 2012 may be the perfect cruise for you.

The nine-night voyage onboard *Orion II* will be hosted in association with *Digital Camera* magazine, under the guidance of internationally recognised photographer Nick Rains, and includes port calls to four World Heritage sites - Hue, Hoi An, My Son and Ha Long Bay.

The cruise departs on 30 May 2012 from Ho Chi Minh City to Haiphong, and is priced from \$7,335 per person.

Bookings made before 30 Nov 2011 will incur a 30% discount, see your travel agent for details.

## Cruise Weekly winner enjoys the spoils of her victory



**CRUISE Weekly** would like to congratulate the lucky winner of its **CW** hamper, Judy Breasley from Cremorne, NSW.

Judy won the hamper after stopping by the **CW** stand at the recent European Travel Expo at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

The Travel Expo gathered European travel experts including Beyond Travel, French Travel Connection, Croisi Europe River Cruises, Fred Olsen Cruise Line and Cruise Office Australia to speak to holidaymakers considering a European adventure.

Judy told **Cruise Weekly** that she is now hooked on cruising and has recently booked two future voyages after having taken her first cruise ever a few months ago.

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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

Follow us on:

Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the breaking news as it comes to hand...



## Last Minute Deals

This weekly column highlights hot deals on cruises departing in the next 100 days – ideal for our spontaneous readers.

Check out this week's cruise bargains!

### 7-nights – Miami roundtrip cruise onboard *Celebrity Eclipse*

- From: \$3,019pp
- Departs: 10 December 2011
- Visits: San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, ST Thomas and Philipsburg, St Maarten
- Includes: Return airfares, 5 nights hotel accom in Fort Lauderdale, 7-night cruise
- Visit [www.ecruising.travel](http://www.ecruising.travel)

## Hurtigruten's 2012 in Norway

**CRUISERS** can now access details of Hurtigruten's 2012 Norwegian offering, via the release of the cruise line's 2012 Norway brochure.

The brochure details Hurtigruten's 6, 7, 11 and 12 day Classic Coastal Voyages, and also includes earlybird savings of up to 10% on selected departures.

See your travel agent to grab a copy.

## Want to learn to sail?

**SUNSAIL** is encouraging Australians who want to learn to sail to sign up to its Sunsail sailing school in The Whitsundays with a 15% discount (available only on selected dates).

The School offers a range of Royal Yachting Association courses to suit all skill levels, including a RYA Competent Crew Course which introduces the complete beginner to cruising under sail; as well as an RYA Day Skipper Practical Course for the more experienced sailor.

For course details see [www.sunsail.com.au](http://www.sunsail.com.au).

## Star Flyer 25% discounts

**STAR** Clippers has discounted the price of seven of *Star Flyer's* Mediterranean voyages during September and October next year by twenty five percent.

Stopping in exotic ports in North Africa, Spain and Portugal, the voyages include an eight night Southampton to Lisbon itinerary, a six-night Lisbon to Malaga cruise and five seven-night Malaga roundtrip voyages.

Prices for the adventures start at \$1,999 per person, twin share.

To be eligible for the discounts bookings must be made by 31 January 2012.

See your travel agent for details.

## Cruise Calendar

**Cruise Weekly's** cruise calendar details upcoming port calls of passenger cruise ships at various destinations in Australia and New Zealand.

### SYDNEY

<i>Sea Princess (Barangaroo)</i>	Sat 12 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl (Barangaroo)</i>	Sun 13 Nov
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas (OPT)</i>	Sun 13 Nov
<i>Orion (Garden Island)</i>	Mon 14 Nov
<i>Amsterdam (OPT)</i>	Tue 15 Nov
<i>Dawn Princess (Barangaroo)</i>	Tue 15 Nov

### BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sat 12 Nov
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### MELBOURNE

<i>Volendam</i>	Wed 09 Nov
<i>Amsterdam</i>	Sun 13 Nov

### HOBART

<i>Orion</i>	Tue 08 Nov
<i>Orion</i>	Wed 09 Nov
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	Wed 09 Nov

### BERNIE

<i>Volendam</i>	Thu 10 Nov
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## WIN A 9-NIGHT CRUISE FOR TWO PEOPLE TO NEW CALEDONIA



With just over 12 months to go before the launch of *Carnival Spirit* into Australia, **Carnival Cruise Lines** has teamed up with **Cruise Weekly** to give one lucky reader the chance to be one of the first people to cruise on the newest and largest ship to call Australia home year-round.

This amazing prize includes a nine night cruise for two people to New Caledonia (departing Sydney on 27 November 2012) in a balcony stateroom on board *Carnival Spirit*.

*Carnival Spirit*, the first Carnival vessel to call Sydney home, will carry 2,667 passengers and will offer a range of onboard facilities and features such as 16 bars and lounges; pools, whirlpools and spas; Carnival's signature WaterWorks with a splashpark and two waterslides; a mini golf and sports court; fitness centre; a full schedule of shipboard activities; meals and snacks; spectacular stage shows, live entertainment and lots more.

Every Tuesday over the last eight weeks *Cruise Weekly* has been publishing a different photo depicting a feature from the upcoming *Carnival Spirit*, with the last - eighth photo featured to the right.

### To be in the running to win, you must –

1. Like **Cruise Weekly's** Facebook Page by clicking here
2. Post a quirky caption that you think best represents this photo in the comments section under the photo of the week (on the **Cruise Weekly** Facebook Page)
3. You must also email your caption and contact details by COB on Friday 11 November to:

[carnivalspirit@crisewekly.com.au](mailto:carnivalspirit@crisewekly.com.au)

For more about *Carnival Spirit* and its debut into Sydney next October, visit [www.carnival.com.au](http://www.carnival.com.au)

[CLICK HERE](#) for full terms & conditions



## Dreaming of an Alaskan cruise?

**ALASKA'S** newest small ship cruise company - Alaskan Dream Cruises has released its 2012 brochure which features a diverse line up of Southeast Alaskan voyages.

Taking place onboard two renovated ships: *Admiralty Dream* (formerly *Spirit of Columbia*) and *Alaskan Dream* (formerly *Executive Explorer*), the voyages are designed to focus on the scenery, wildlife and native culture of Southeast Alaska.

The line-up features five itineraries including: a three-day Alaska's Glacier Bay Quest Juneau to Sitka; a six-day Tracy Arm Adventure Sitka to Juneau; an eight-day Inside Passage Sojourn Sitka to Ketchikan or reverse; an eight-day Alaska's Glacier Bay and Island Adventure Sitka roundtrip and an 11-day Alaska's Southeast Explorer - Sitka to Ketchikan.

Earlybird booking savings of US\$300pp are also available for voyages of six or more days booked and deposited before 30 November. See your travel agent for details

## Amsterdam in Australia 2013

**HOLLAND** America Line's *ms Amsterdam* will make a maiden call into the world heritage listed site of Penneshaw, Australia, as part of her 2013 Grand Voyage.

Departing 05 January 2013 roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, the 115-day journey features eight overnight calls, as well as a second maiden call into a world heritage listed site, in Makassar, Indonesia.

The voyage will see *Amsterdam* call in Cartagena, Colombia; transit the Panama Canal; call in Bora Bora and Papeete, Tahiti; and explore ports in New Zealand, Australia and Asia; before cruising south to Africa and around the Cape of Good Hope, and across the Atlantic to South America and the Caribbean.

Shorter segments ranging from 24 to 51 days also are available.

See your travel agent for details.

## Kangaroo Island Sailing launch

**EXPERIENCED** Australian sailors Ashley and Renee Newman have launched a brand new nautical experience in South Australia, Kangaroo Island Sailing.

Cruising onboard the 21-metre luxury ketch, *Lady Eugenie*, the company offers a range of three-day all inclusive adventures to Kangaroo Island, as well as day sails along the beautiful Fleurieu Peninsula coastline, romantic twilight sails and corporate packages.

One of only 15 Scorpions ever built, *Lady Eugenie* features four queen-sized staterooms with ensuites, an alfresco dining area and a beautiful teak deck.

"Our aim is to prove a very relaxing journey while showcasing the world-class scenery and the waters teeming with wildlife including dolphins, Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals," said Renee.

Sailings start at \$99pp for a sunset cruise, see [www.kangarooislandsailing.com.au](http://www.kangarooislandsailing.com.au).

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## Flash Antarctica sale for US\$1

**ANTARCTICA** just became more attainable with the launch of Quark Expeditions first-ever flash sale on its 12-day Antarctic Explorer, which gives full fare paying guests the chance to take a companion for only US\$1.

Departing roundtrip from Ushuaia in Argentina itineraries included in the deal are: the 13 November 2011 *Sea Spirit* voyage, 13 November 2011 *Vavilov* cruise, 19 November 2011 *Clipper Adventurer* journey and 29 November 2011 *Clipper Adventure* voyage.

The deal finishes 10 November, see [www.quarkexpeditions.com](http://www.quarkexpeditions.com).

## Pacific war cruising for Aussies

**BATTLEFIELD** Tours has launched a 14-day Victories in the Pacific cruise designed especially for history buffs.

The voyage is led by world-renowned WWII expert Richard Frank, and departs from Noumea, New Caledonia onboard the 72-passenger *Oceanic Discoverer* on 04 March 2012.

The itinerary takes guests to some of the rarely visited battlefields of the Pacific War from 1942-44, and includes stops in Lifou Island, Vanuatu, Espiritu Santo and Million Dollar Point, Ureparapara Island, the Solomon Islands, Santa Ana, Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Arnavon Islands Marine Reserve, Ghizo and Kennedy Island, Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, Buka Island, New Britain and Rabaul.

The voyage is priced from \$10,990pp/ts, for more details visit [www.pacificwarcruse.com](http://www.pacificwarcruse.com).

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## Cruise Review: AmaLotus on the Mekong

By: Louise Goldsbury

Who needs planes, trains and automobiles when you can have tuk-tuks, rickshaws and ox-carts?

APT's *AmaLotus* may be the newest ship on the Mekong, but half the fun of the cruise is on land.

A ride through a Vietnamese village, a trip into Siem Reap for a \$10 massage, a shopping spree at Phnom Penh's markets – it all becomes an adventure with the local transportation.

The ultimate thrill is a motorbike tour through Ho Chi Minh City (if you tag on the three-day stay).

These activities place passengers in the middle of the action, providing an up-close view of how the locals live.

One of the most popular activities is a boat trip to a remote village where our group of 15 people is welcomed with huge smiles – even though the region is struggling with the worst floods in a decade.

Afterwards, we explore a fascinating food market, selling everything from live fish to rats.

The most powerful day is spent at Cambodia's 'killing fields', where the APT guides tell us about their parents' execution by the Khmer Rouge.

For some, the horrific history and graphic exhibits are too intense, but to share it with people whose families have been affected is a deeply emotional experience.

A highlight is the visit to Angkor Wat, the world's largest temple complex, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and a visit to an orphanage supported by APT.

There are several bus trips to other temples, a Buddhist blessing at a monastery, and the Cu Chi tunnels – the Viet Cong's underground base of operations during the Vietnam War.

But the most intriguing scenes float by when sailing through the Mekong Delta.

Brimming with life, it feels like another world in another time. Travellers seeking a cultural journey will not be disappointed.

### Editor's verdict

After inspecting other vessels operating in the region, I believe *AmaLotus* is the most appealing ship on the Mekong.

The décor mixes French colonial with modern luxuries. Cabins are comfortable, and most have a private balcony. The lounge is spacious and has free internet, and a room is set up for massages.

The best spot is the well-shaded top deck, which is perfect for hot days and balmy evenings, with lots of sun lounges, a swimming pool and a bar.

APT strives to bring its European standards to Asia, but passengers should remember that Cambodia and Vietnam are third-world countries.

So, the food is good but not amazing; and the restaurant staff try hard but often forgot or mixed up my orders.

However, the bartenders, housekeeping, hotel manager, cruise director and guides (locals who speak fluent English) are very impressive.

All passengers are Australian and most are over 60.

### Booking details

Price starts at \$2,495 per person twin-share for an eight-day cruise between Siem Reap and Ho Chi Minh City, including all excursions, crew tips, internet, meals, wine (with lunch and dinner), local beer, spirits, soft drinks, tea and coffee.

Land-based tours can be added in Vietnam, Cambodia and China. Free return flights are offered for booking Mekong cruise-tours of 19 days and longer.

See [www.aptouring.com.au](http://www.aptouring.com.au) or call 1300 336 932.



Angkor Wat, Cambodia



APT's new AmaLotus



Top Deck with a Pool

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