



## Viking christens a record ten ships

**Cruise Weekly** is in Amsterdam today for the Guinness Record breaking naming of Viking River Cruises' newest vessels.

A FEW hours ago, on a chilly afternoon in Holland, 740 guests gathered for the naming of the newest Viking longships.

Only four of the expected 10 vessels made it

to the Amsterdam Passenger Terminal, including *Viking Aegir* and *Viking Embla* (which both sailed late last year but were not yet officially named), and the 2013-built *Viking Bragi* and *Viking Skadi*.

Viking's *Atla*, *Forseti*, *Jarl*, *Rinda*, *Var* and *Tor* remain at the Neptun Werft shipyard in Rostock, but were named by their godmothers via video from Amsterdam.

Four of the christened Viking ships in Rostock were in the water, but two are still in drydock.

Also at the event in Amsterdam, as "escorts" were *Freyja*, *Njord* and *Odin*, which are providing three nights of accommodation and celebrations for the invited workers, key financiers, ship designers, travel agents and media.

Hagen said he was "numb" from watching the successful event as the company had come from "humble beginnings" to "phenomenal growth", and he himself had lost "every penny I had" when he last worked in Holland.

He said the new ships were essential as demand was so strong that only 600 cabins out of 50,000 are left to be sold this season.

Viking plans to launch a further 12 riverboats next year, as well as two new ocean ships.

The achievement was certified by a Guinness World Records adjudicator as 'The Most Ships Inaugurated in One Day by One Company.'



### HEAVEN or hell at sea?

Hapag-Lloyd has announced that this year *Europa* will play host to the fifth "Stella Maris" singing competition in which eight talented young singers from famous opera houses will vie for glory on board the ship in the *Lieder*, opera and oratorio categories.

The audience will play an active part in the musical event, choosing the winner, who can look forward to a 15,000 euro prize courtesy of Hapag-Lloyd cruises.

Meanwhile, the no less coveted "Test Recording" and "Guest Engagement" prizes will also be dished out to the eager opera stars, awarded by a prestigious jury.

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## Cruise News & Views



Brett Jardine - General Manager, CLIA Australasia

### Its official – CLIA Australasia

As has been widely discussed in recent weeks the ICCA is now the official Australasian chapter of a new global cruise industry association – CLIA.



...is now officially CLIA Australasia...



The defining elements of our new logo are the waves which form our cruise line memberships along with the slanted "A".

Together they communicate the movement of the oceans and rivers we travel and the energy of the hundreds of thousands of businesses and jobs we represent globally.

The new logo is also dimensional, a reflection of today's digital era.

The transition over the past 3 months which is still evolving has been nothing short of excellent with all our global offices working together with the same passion and goals, creating a supportive and exciting environment for the common good of our industry.

Members can download the new logo from the "members only" area of our website.

Go to [www.cruising.org.au](http://www.cruising.org.au), login (unchanged from ICCA) then click on "promotional items".

## Princess opens 2014 Europe season

Next year's cruises are now for sale, including new options on *Regal Princess*, debuting in Jun.

**FIVE** Princess Cruises ships will offer a variety of itineraries throughout the Mediterranean and Northern Europe in 2014, which will be covered in a webinar for agents next week.

A sister ship to the upcoming *Royal Princess*, *Regal Princess* will sail a seven-day inaugural voyage from Venice to Barcelona via Kotor, Rome, Florence/Pisa and Toulon.

It will then offer a 10-day Mediterranean and Aegean cruise, followed by a season of Grand Mediterranean voyages, with a choice of two different itineraries.

Other highlights of the season include *Royal Princess* sailing in Scandinavia and Russia, featuring two days in St Petersburg; as well as more sailings than ever before to the British Isles aboard *Ruby Princess* and *Ocean Princess*.

The smaller *Ocean Princess* will do seven-day cruises in the Med, plus new Black Sea and Holy Land voyages.

*Emerald Princess* will be based in Southampton for sailings to the Med, Northern Europe and the Canary Islands.

Fares for the 12-night Grand Mediterranean sailings on *Regal Princess* start at \$2319 per person twin share, while the seven-night Greek Islands interlude on *Ocean Princess* starts from \$1479 per person twin share.

"With *Regal Princess*' debut we will have our two newest and largest vessels sailing on our most popular routes in Europe," said Princess Cruises executive vice president Jan Swartz.

### Private Aswan dock for A&K

**PASSENGERS** on Abercrombie & Kent Egypt itineraries will embark and disembark on Nile cruises via a private dock, unveiled by the tour company yesterday.

The docking area offers an expansive lawn area with an indoor facility featuring a comfortable lounge with shower facilities, and is located approx 10 minutes from the city centre and 20 minutes to the centre of Aswan.

The 2014 Europe program features five ships sailing on 94 departures on 48 itineraries to more than 120 destinations.

Princess Cruises will conduct two webinar sessions for agents providing more details on the 2014 Europe program on Wed 17 Mar.

To register, visit the following links:

- Session 1 - 8:30am AEDT  
[www.bit.ly/prineuro1](http://www.bit.ly/prineuro1).
- Session 2 - 9:30am AEDT  
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## Carnival cans a dozen *Triumph, Sunshine* sailings

**THE** first phase of a fleetwide operational review at Carnival Cruise Lines has resulted in 12 imminent sailings being cancelled.

Confirmed by the cruise juggernaut overnight, 10 additional sailings aboard *Carnival Triumph* planned to depart between now and early Jun have now been shelved.

The 2,758 passenger ship was made famous for all the wrong reasons last month when it ran out of power during a sailing in the Gulf of Mexico, earning the voyage the inglorious title of the 'poop cruise'.

It was subsequently forced to pull 12 cruises scheduled to depart from 21 Feb and 13 Apr.

The 10 new *Triumph* cancellations are on top of two European voyages on *Carnival Sunshine* which is currently in pre-arranged dry dock as part of an "enhancement project."

Allowing necessary lead times to source needed materials & implement enhancements for the vessel, *Triumph* is now expected back into operation on 03 Jun, while *Sunshine* is not expected back to service until 05 May.

*Carnival Triumph* voyages impacted operate from Galveston, Texas to Mexico.

Guests on the axed itineraries are being provided a full refund, reimbursement of non-refundable transportations costs and a 25 percent discount on a future voyage.

The extended dry dock period for *Sunshine* will allow for implementation of the enhanced operating redundancies and other measures, Carnival said.

CCL president and ceo Gerry Cahill was very apologetic to guests impacted by the changes.

"We sincerely regret canceling these cruises and disrupting our guests' vacation plans.

"We are fully committed to applying the recommendations stemming from our fleetwide review and to make whatever investments are needed despite the difficult decision to impact people's vacations.

"Our team of experts has worked virtually around the clock to determine the best set of solutions and rapidly develop an effective implementation plan for both of these ships.

"Moving forward, we will have the ability to source materials and schedule improvements much more expediently, thus minimizing the scheduling impact on other vessels," he said.

Cahill reiterated his confidence in all Carnival's vessels, adding the improvements will better aid the cruise line to "better support continued power and hotel services should unexpected issues arise."

"While this process will take time, it is our highest priority and has the full support and resources of CCL and Carnival Corporation."

## Aqua Expeditions with CLIA

**CRUISE** Lines International Association Australasia has signed Aqua Expeditions to its list of cruise partners.

The line operates the *MV Aqua* and *MV Aria* in the Amazon, and is introducing the *MV Aqua Mekong* in Asia next year.

## Scenic aboard *Infinity* in Chile

**SCENIC** Tours has incorporated cruising in the Chilean fjords aboard *Celebrity Infinity* as part of its 2014 South America program.

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



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### RCCL Euro presence

**EIGHT** Royal Caribbean ships will operate voyages in Europe and Mediterranean in 2014, with reservations now open.

The schedule sees *Liberty of the Seas*, *Navigator of the Seas*, *Serenade of the Seas* and *Splendour of the Seas* all run Mediterranean departures during the season, whilst *Independence of the Seas*, *Adventure of the Seas*, *Brilliance of the Seas* and *Legend of the Seas* will be sailing in Northern Europe.

### Adonia cruisers robbed & shot

**TWO** cruise passengers onboard *Adonia* are recovering after being shot during an attempted robbery whilst on a port stop in Bridgetown, Barbados.

### Marina shows off her wares to Australian agents

**LAST** week Oceania Cruises' pride and joy, *Marina*, sailed into Sydney, giving a group of very lucky local agents the opportunity to experience the vessel first hand.

During the tour, agents were shown ship highlights including the Bon Appétit Culinary

Center and Artists Studio, as well as her famed eateries including Jacques and Red Ginger.

Pictured right, inside the exclusive La Reserve, a 24-seat wine-themed eatery, is (from left) Leonie Prowse, Oceania; Voytek Lasek, Travel by Design; Andrea Davis, Trandsetter Travel; Deborah Moffat, North Shore Travel; Matthew Chisholm, Chisholm & Turner Travel Associates; Julie Rose, Oceania, VP, International Sales & Marketing; Hughal McLaren, Thornleigh Cruise & Travel; Jennifer Phillips, Mona Vale Cruise & Travel; and Craig Owens, Oceania Cruises.



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### Domestic lagging to cruising

**A GROWING** number of travellers, mainly families, are turning to cruising to satisfy their holiday requirements instead of travelling domestically, a new TNS Global study shows.

The TNS Domestic study, released this week found "families seeking convenience, accessibility & natural beauty in a relaxed and safe environment" view cruising as a way of ticking all the boxes over travelling domestically.

TNS Travel and Leisure strategic consultant Carolyn Childs said land operators need to ensure they remain relevant by learning from the successes of cruising.

"The industry needs to keep their focus on product development, ensuring they're offering experiences that fulfil the needs of Aussie travellers and facilitate experiences that create a 'no worries' holiday," Childs said.

The report found destinations could boost their market share and their appeal to travellers by integrating accom with land-based activities and experiences - something many international destinations were already doing to an increasingly successful effect.

TNS cited the Centre Parcs holiday villages in the UK as an example of an integrated land-based holiday, with the passes offering accom with restaurant dining and access to up to 200 bookable experiences.

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**Cruise Weekly** is Australia's favourite online cruising publication. In production since 2007, **Cruise Weekly** is published each Tuesday, with a further travel industry update each Thursday. **Cruise Weekly** is free and is sent to subscribers via email as an Adobe Acrobat PDF document. Sign up for a free subscription at [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).  
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- ▶ **Intranet** - Cruise Holidays' in house resource centre for all things cruise plus plenty of information to help you grow your business
- ▶ **Training** - Our initial 60 day program will take you step by step through all our systems and ensure your cruising knowledge is at expert level
- ▶ **Support Services** - A dedicated team is on hand to assist you with any aspect of your business including local area marketing, systems and product

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- ▶ Cruise Holidays is the only network of Cruise Specialists in Australia to offer both Home Based Agent and Retail Partner opportunities.
- ▶ **100% cruise focused** - We're not a cruise 'club' or a secondary concern of a larger organisation. We are truly cruise specialists.
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The collage features several promotional items: a screenshot of the Cruise Holidays Australia website with a 'Welcome to Cruise Holidays' message; a 'Summer Cruise Sale' flyer for Holland America Line; a 'Fly Free to Asia' flyer for Azamara Cruises; and a red banner at the bottom that reads 'On Your Behalf Marketing'.

