

CRUISE



WEEKLY

Tuesday 12 November 2013

Princess unveil 2015 winter program

Princess Cruises has announced its first World Cruise with departures from three Australian cities and a new Melbourne-Fremantle itinerary.

SEA Princess will operate a 104-night global circumnavigation, roundtrip from Australia, allowing passengers to board in Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle.

Visiting 41 ports in 28 countries, the ship will also call on a record number of South American destinations as well as make a maiden call to Western Australia's wine capital, Margaret River.

Other highlights of the 2015 World Cruise include Reykjavik, Easter Island, Athens, Rome, Istanbul and Bermuda, and overnight stops in New York, Dubai and Venice.

For the first time, Australians will also be able to disembark in Melbourne or Brisbane, as well as Sydney.

Departing 22 May 2015, the full voyage is priced from \$20,999 per person twin-share, with individual sectors also on sale.

Early booking bonuses of up to \$1000 and onboard credits of up to \$2000 are available for bookings made before 31 August 2014.

The line's winter program also offers a 15-night sailing to Papua New Guinea on *Dawn Princess* departing Sydney on 23 June 2015, with fares from \$2,599, and a 15-night roundtrip cruise to Indonesia from Perth leaving on 14 April and priced from \$2,649.

Also on offer are 12 and 14-night cruises between Fremantle and Singapore as well as a 26-night South East Asia voyage taking in Bali, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok from \$4,299.

Dawn Princess and *Sea Princess* will sail across Australia's northern coastline a record five times over the winter, including the inaugural Melbourne-Fremantle route via Port Douglas, Darwin, Broome, Lombok, Geraldton and scenic cruising in the Kimberley.

These 'Northern Explorer' cruises are priced from \$2,449 per person twin-share.

Princess Cruises Australia vice president Stuart Allison said the cruise line offered more destinations on roundtrip cruises from Australia than any other operator.

"Cruising with Princess is a relaxed and easy way to discover a range of destinations across the globe.

"From the iconic to the unexpected, you are simply delivered to the main attractions without boarding a plane or continually repacking your bags," Allison said.

For more information, visit a travel agent, call 13 24 88 or see www.princess.com.au.

Lindblad launch Alaska season

NATURE-BASED line Lindblad Expeditions has launched its 2014 Alaska season in Australia, with complimentary flights available on selected May and June 2014 departures.

In partnership with National Geographic once again, specialist photo instructors will be onboard to assist guests to maximise photo opportunities along with dive instructors and naturalists to teach passengers about the area.

Two individual itineraries are available in a newly launched Lindblad Expeditions brochure, with fares in US dollars sold at parity with the AUD until 31 December - phone 1300 361 012.

Royal Caribbean's Royal Flush

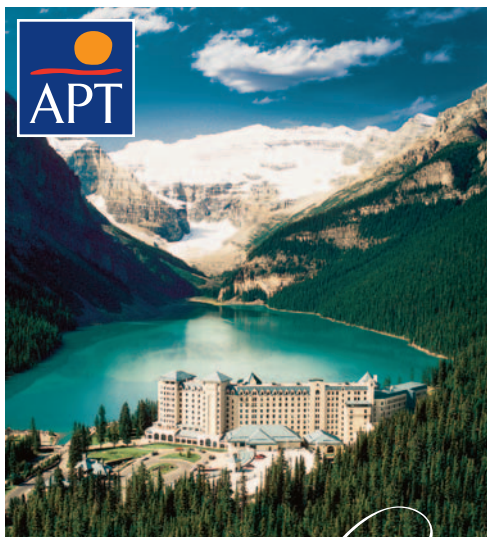
ONBOARD credits up to \$400 per stateroom are available in a new week-long Royal Flush cruise sale launched by Royal Caribbean Int'l.

Half-price deposits are also available as part of the sale, which applies to new bookings on selected sailings from January 2014 and April 2015 on cruises of five-nights or more in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific on any of the line's three ships sailing in local waters during the validity period.

Among the highlighted voyages in the sale is a nine-night Tasmanian Discovery departing on 27 Feb 2014, priced from \$999pp twin share.

Cruises of between 5-11 nights will earn guests a \$100 onboard credit for interior or oceanview staterooms, or \$200 for balcony or deluxe staterooms, which can be doubled on cruises of 12 nights or more.

The Royal Flush sale closes on Sat 16 Nov - for more info, see www.royalcaribbean.com.au or visit your local travel agent.



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Royal Caribbean's

ROYAL FLUSH

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2013**

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Royal Caribbean
INTERNATIONAL

Astor 90% booked & committed to WA

Fremantle's only locally based ship is on its way and its first summer season is almost entirely sold out.

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages' *Astor* has set sail from Italy on its 36-night repositioning cruise to the west coast of Australia, where it will be based until April.

According to figures released exclusively to **Cruise Weekly**, more than 88% of the ship's 2013-14 inventory has been sold, and a whopping 93% of its passengers are Australian.

One-quarter of the people booked on the repositioning, however, are British.

The 12 December welcome party, staying onboard overnight, has completely sold out, but there is limited availability on the 20 Dec Christmas sailing to Bali, the three-night New Years Eve cruise, and three west coast cruises in January.

Vilma Rovedatti, CMV Australia's sales and marketing manager, said the UK-based company was delighted by the support from the Australian public and travel agents.

"CMV is already satisfied with the decision to add Fremantle to its home ports and Australia to its extensive international cruise destinations," she said.

"Market research showed us the style of cruising Australians wanted and these figures certainly show that we have met those

expectations," the company added.

Rovedatti confirmed that CMV was confident of a long future in the region.

"Selling almost 90% of the *Astor*'s first summer season in Australian waters is very pleasing and continues to give us confidence of *Astor* spending many summers here," she said.

After a short delay, new 2014-15 itineraries are due for release later this month, but it has been confirmed that next year's repositioning cruise to Australia will depart from London, UK, instead of Italy, on 5 November 2014.

"Her ports of call will include Lisbon, Tenerife, Ascension Island, Cape Town/Mossel Bay, where a game park tour will be offered, Durban, Reunion & Mauritius," Rovedatti said.

"*Astor* will arrive in to Fremantle, to commence the first of 15 itineraries that she will be offering in her second season based in the WA port on Saturday, December 13, 2014 – just in time for Christmas."

For details, contact a travel agent or see www.cmvaustralia.com.

Philippines typhoon

AT LEAST 10,000 people are believed to have died in the Philippines province of Leyte after a trail of destruction by Typhoon Haiyan, which has affected many cruise ship crew members' families and friends.

Carnival Australia spokesperson Peter Taylor told **Cruise Weekly** the company was devastated to see the impact of Typhoon Haiyan and was rolling out initiatives to support crew with family living in the decimated regions.

"Recognising that communications with families may be difficult, we are working closely to obtain information on any family members who may have been impacted by this storm and are providing details to crew as they become available," he told **CW**.

Princess Cruises is also making a donation to a recognised charity via the Princess Cruises Community Foundation, while Carnival Corporation was also working on a cross-company support initiative, Taylor said.

Hurtigruten E/Birds extended

EARLYBIRD savings on selected Hurtigruten Norway Voyages departing in 2014 have been extended for sales until 31 Jan 2014, with savings of up to 25% pp on offer - phone Discover The World Cruising on 1800 623 267.

Cruise Calendar	
<i>Cruise Weekly's</i> cruise calendar details upcoming port calls of passenger cruise ships at various destinations in Australia.	
SYDNEY	
<i>Destine</i>	Fri 15 Nov
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Fri 15 Nov
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	Sat 16 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Mon 18 Nov
MELBOURNE	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	Sat 16 Nov
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sat 16 Nov
DARWIN	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	Fri 15 Nov
ADELAIDE	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	Thu 14 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	Fri 15 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	Sat 16 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	Mon 18 Nov
HOBART	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Sun 17 Nov
AUCKLAND	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	Tue 12 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	Sat 16 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	Sun 17 Nov
WELLINGTON	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	Wed 13 Nov
<i>Oosterdam</i>	Thu 14 Nov
<i>Sea Princess</i>	Fri 15 Nov
TAURANGA	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	Wed 13 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	Fri 15 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	Mon 18 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	Mon 18 Nov

Tauk add new Danube cruise

TAUCK has launched its seventh river cruise itinerary available on Europe's Danube River, with a new 10-day package set to debut next year opened for reservations.

The itinerary includes a seven-day Regensburg to Vienna cruise followed by two nights at the Ritz-Carlton in the Austrian capital, which includes guided sightseeing and a cocktail reception and music in a Viennese palace.

Eight departures have been loaded for sale from July to October next year, sailing on the 130-passenger vessel *Savor*.



2014 EUROPEAN DISCOVERY CRUISING

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Paul Gauguin Australia cruises

MORE information has been released about two new Paul Gauguin Cruises sailings between Fiji and Australia scheduled for 2014.

Navigating a variety of remote islands in the Coral Sea, the 11-night Lautoka to Cairns journeys will depart Fiji on 14 June next year, with the return departure set for 18 August.

Sailing aboard the *MS Paul Gauguin*, guests will visit Port Vila and Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu before heading on to the Solomon Islands, culminating with a stop in Papua New Guinea before arriving in the Queensland port.

Special guests will join passengers on both sailings, including renowned oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau and Nobel Peace Prize winner John E Hay - details on 1800 251 174.

Upgrades to three Costa ships

THREE Costa Cruises vessels have been scheduled for dry dock renovation works at different stages of the 2013/14 Northern Winter, the line has announced.

Ahead of the launch of the line's new "slow cruise" range (**CW** 24 Oct), *Costa neoRiviera* is currently undergoing hull & engine works, while decks and public spaces will be transformed to deliver an Italian and French Riviera theme in line with the new concept.

Costa Voyager and *Costa Classica* will follow suit in coming weeks for work to be carried out on engines, accommodations and open-air public spaces on decks.

Costa Cruises will spend \$13.5m in total on the upgrades, ready by the end of the year.



AS FAR as heavy metal concerts go, this is about as "cool" as they come.

Polar cruise operator Oceanwide Expeditions is on its way to Antarctica to provide hotel and transportation services to die-hard passengers heading to the frozen continent to attend a special rock concert by Metallica.

Fans from across South America are set to attend the show, which is being performed at the Argentinian research station Carlini in the South Shetland Islands as a result of winning a competition held recently.

Oceanwide Exploration's ice-strengthened vessel *Ortelius* is being deployed for the event, which will depart Ushuaia on 03 Dec.



Recipe of the Month

French Lamb Shanks

This week's recipe is brought to you by Compagnie du Ponant.



Preparation

Position an oven rack in the lower third of the oven and heat the oven to 160°C. Arrange 4 squares of heavy-duty aluminium foil on a surface. Put 1/4 of the leeks, 1/4 of the carrots, 1 rosemary sprig, and 1 strip of orange zest on each square. Season each with salt & pepper. Set aside. Pat the lamb shanks dry and season generously with salt & pepper. Heat oil in a large skillet over med heat until shimmering hot. Working in batches if necessary to avoid crowding, brown the shanks on all sides, about 10 mins total per batch. Transfer 1 shank to each foil square, arranging on top of the vegetables.

Draw up edges of the foil to capture juice, but don't seal packets yet. Return the skillet to med heat, add the white wine, bring to a simmer, scraping skillet with a wooden spoon. Remove from heat. Portion the wine evenly among the 4 packets, pouring it over the lamb. Dot each shank with a slice of the butter. Fold the foil to form rectangular packets, sealing the seams tightly. Arrange the packets on a baking sheet; it's fine if they touch but they shouldn't overlap. Bake for 2-1/2 hours; then check if ready by carefully opening one of the packets (watch out for the steam) and testing the meat with a fork—it should be tender and pulling away from the bone. If necessary, bake for another 10 mins and check again. Transfer the contents of the packets to large plates and serve with mashed potatoes. Remove the rosemary and orange zest before serving.

Ingredients

- 4 medium leeks (white and light-green parts only), halved lengthwise, washed, and cut into pieces
- 4 medium carrots, halved lengthwise and diced
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 4 strips orange zest (use a vegetable peeler)
 - Pepper
 - Sea Salt
- 4 lamb shanks, french trimmed
- 1 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1-1/2 Tbs. unsalted butter, cut into 4 slices

New Florida cruise terminal

A NEW cruise terminal capable of catering to ships with up to 6,000 passengers will be built in the US cruise hub of Port Canaveral, Florida.

Plans for the US\$85 million, 185,000sqft terminal development show it will offer car parking for 1000 vehicles and will be located on the south side of the harbour precinct.

Construction of the facility is expected to begin in Jan next year, with a tentative opening date of November 2014.

China savings aboard Uniworld

BOUTIQUE river cruise operator Uniworld has cut \$500 off selected Apr & May departures of its 12-day Treasures of China & the Yangtze itinerary, now priced from \$3,995 until 31 Dec.

Departing Shanghai, the tour combines a four-night cruise along the Yangtze River aboard the *Century Paragon* with a seven-night land journey - more details on 1300 780 231.

New Un-Cruise itinerary saving

SMALL ship operator Un-Cruise Adventures is offering a \$100 per couple discount on bookings of its newest cruise made by 26 Dec for departures in April or May next year.

The week-long sailing is entitled Explore! Olympic Wilderness and San Juan Islands and is due to commence from Q2 2014, to be operated by the 60-pax *Wilderness Adventurer*. For more details, email sales@un-cruise.com.

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New Ocean Ships for 2014

by: Louise Goldsbury

BY THE end of this year, 167 new cruise ships will have been built since 2000, according to the Cruise Lines International Association.

Ranging in capacity from 32 to 5,400 passengers, these river and ocean vessels have introduced an incredible array of designs, activities, dining and accommodation at sea.

This year was one of the slowest for construction of ocean liners but one of the fastest for newly built riverboats – a trend that looks set to continue for the next couple of years.

Next year will see the launch of six newbuilds on the oceans, followed by eight in 2015, while 2016 already has eight scheduled – including the newest Seabourn yacht and, if you believe it, Clive Palmer's *Titanic II*.

The following ships are gearing up to debut at sea next year and introduce a lot more special features to cruisers.

NCL's *Norwegian Getaway*

Launch: February 2014 in Miami

Passengers: 4,028

Shipyard: Meyer Werft, Germany

Best bits: Tropical themed outdoor bars and restaurants, Latin-inspired food, the Grammy Museum, "Illusionarium" special-effects magic show, and a Broadway show, "Legally Blonde."

Princess Cruises' *Regal Princess*

Launch: May 2014 in Europe

Passengers: 3,560

Shipyard: Fincantieri, Italy

Best bits: The SeaWalk, a glass-enclosed walkway extending beyond the ship's edge, poolside cabanas; Princess Live! television studio, and a larger atrium known as the Piazza.

TUI Cruises' *Mein Schiff 3*

Launch: May 2014 in Europe

Passengers: 2,506

Shipyard: STX Finland

Best bits: The most luxurious suites will have balconies located one level above the 68 square-metre living area; 90% will be outside cabins and 82% balcony cabins.

Pearl Cruises' *Pearl Mist*

Launch: June 2014 in Canada

Passengers: 210

Shipyard: Irving, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Best bits: A small all-balcony ship, from a new cruise line, focusing on activities such as hiking, fishing, music, art and food, with lectures and excursions by naturalists, botanists and historians.

Costa Cruises' *Costa Diadema*

Launch: October 2014 in Europe

Passengers: 3,700

Gross tonnage: 132,500

Shipyard: Fincantieri, Italy

Best bits: Italy's biggest ship with a four-storey 7,800 m2 wellness area (day spa, gym, 3 pools, 8 hot tubs), 7 restaurants, 15 bars, 4D cinema, three-storey theatre, two-storey games area with laser shooting and video games.

Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas*

Launch: November 2014 in New Jersey

Passengers: 4,180

Shipyard: Meyer Werft, Germany

Best bits: Bumper cars, skydiving simulator, the North Star pod that hangs over the ship for panoramic views, and "virtual balconies" in inside cabins (floor-to-ceiling TV screens linked to the ship's external camera).

Other ships will be renamed and revamped early next year, such as Windstar's *Star Pride* (the former *Seabourn Pride*) and *Orion* becoming the *National Geographic Orion*.



Norwegian Getaway



Royal Caribbean's Quantum of the Seas



Regal Princess' innovative SkyWalk

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