



Restaurants closing as OPT expansion KK'd

A **SECOND** high-end restaurant operating in Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal has advised it will close its doors ahead of the redevelopment of the port.

Proprietors of Japanese cuisine outlet Ocean Room this week said it was being moved on after 12 years in business as a result of the planned cruise port expansion.

It follows confirmation last month that fellow OPT restaurant Wildfire will close its doors from this weekend, after *Cruise Weekly* last year reported each of the five eateries were in talks with the NSW Govt about their futures relative to the port (CW 28 Nov).

Elsewhere, cruise and tourism bodies have welcomed the green light from the NSW Government for the \$49m expansion works to be carried out at the OPT.

The project to lengthen the terminal into Campbell's Cove is aimed at ensuring the city can handle larger and more modern mega-liners which can carry upwards of 5,000 passengers.

"The OPT is currently the only accessible terminal for large cruise ships. In the next three years a third of all cruise ships visiting Sydney will be unable to fit under the Harbour Bridge to access the White Bay Cruise Terminal," Tourism & Transport Forum deputy chief executive Trent Zimmerman said.

APT to enter Burma rivers

APT'S first-ever river-cruising program in Myanmar (Burma) on the newly built *AmaPura* will include companion fly-free deals on selected departures, *TD Cruise Update* can exclusively reveal.

The company today confirmed it will enter the rapidly expanding cruise destination at the end of this year (CW 26 Nov), offering two SuperDeals for bookings made and deposited by 31 May.

Launch offers include 'Companion Fly Free, including taxes', available on the 20 Feb or 14 Apr 2015 departures, as well as return flights from Australia – a saving of up to \$1,670 per couple – when clients book the package through APT.

Alternatively, \$500 per couple can be saved on any Burma package of 16 days (departing 24 Nov 2014 or 5 Feb 2015).

APT's gm marketing Debra Fox said the company was "really excited" to announce the new holiday option for clients.

"Adding to the intimacy of our program is that fact they will travel aboard the *AmaPura*, our brand new river ship which, with just 28 suites, is quite unique to the rest of our fleet and offers

guests the chance to enjoy boutique river cruising at its finest."

The new brochure features 18 departures, with three itineraries ranging from 14 to 20 days.

The 14-day Golden Treasures of Burma itinerary takes pax between Pyay (Prome) and Mandalay; and the 16-day Hidden Wonders of Burma travels from Mandalay to Yangon, with an extension to Inle Lake on a 20-day itinerary.

Available to Australians and New Zealanders only through APT, the 56-pax *AmaPura* features a French balcony, full balcony or twin balconies in every suite, and an onboard staff to guest ratio of 2:1.

The ship's public areas include a pool, restaurant, main lounge and bar, gift shop, spa and sun deck.

House wine, local beer and soft drinks are also included with every lunch and dinner onboard.

APT's "Signature Experiences" include visits to Bagan's 2,200 Buddhist temples, stupas and pagodas; a horse-drawn cart tour to see monasteries and the 'Leaning Tower of Inwa' & more.

Hotel accom is at the Traders Hotel in Yangon and the Amata Garden Resort, Inle Lake.

Prices start at \$7,275 ppts for the 14-day itinerary - contact your bdm or see aptouring.com.au.

Model for Evergreen

ICONIC British supermodel Twiggy has been named as the official Godmother to Evergreen Tours' two new river cruise ships to be christened next month.

The two vessels in the Evergreen fleet will be known as "Star Ships", similar to the Space Ships concept on parent firm Scenic Tours' own line of river vessels.

Evergreen Tours' two ships, *Emerald Sky* and *Emerald Star* will feature a 24sqm pool which can be converted to a cinema.

APT plays the chords

APT has also announced it has become a major sponsor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra & its Master Series of flagship concerts at the Sydney Opera House.

A two-year partnership, the 2014 APT Master Series comprises nine programs and continues this month with 'Russian Daydreams' featuring music by Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev on 12, 14 and 15 Mar.

Pandaw culture boost

PANDAW River Expeditions has released a series of five cruises operating from Jul-Sep which will feature a more in-depth look at Cambodia and Vietnam culture.

Travelling from Siem Reap to Saigon, pax aboard the 10-night Mekong Unexplored sailings will visit more cultural attractions.

Three pages of CU

Today's issue of *TD Cruise Update* features three pages of all the latest cruise information.



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CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS
with Brett Jardine
GM, CLIA Australasia

Circular Quay

IF YOU attended our recent Cruise360 Conference in Sydney, you will have heard NSW Ports Minister Duncan Gay provide a preliminary update on planned works at Sydney's iconic Overseas Passenger Terminal.


In the past 48 hours, more details have been released from the Minister's office showing work on the OPT upgrade which is planned to commence shortly & continue until the start of our 2014/15 cruise season.

Once completed, the upgraded OPT will allow for faster turnarounds and an improved passenger experience which will in turn enable more large ships to use the berth efficiently.

The ships that visit Sydney bring enormous economic benefits to the NSW economy as they draw hundreds of thousands of intrastate, interstate and international tourists to the city, injecting hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy and generating thousands of jobs.

What is just as important to this work being completed in Sydney is the flow on effect it will have on other ports in the region.

Sydney is the gateway to cruising in the Australasia region and the OPT investment being made by the NSW Government should ensure other ports gain confidence to also invest further.



Duffy touts Europe at ITB

CHRISTINE Duffy, president and ceo, CLIA, has outlined the potential of the cruise industry in Europe and globally in a speech at the annual ITB tourism industry conference in Berlin.

Although the latest European statistics date back to 2012, which saw 5.7 million embarking passengers, Duffy reiterated that this figure made Europe the second largest market for cruise passengers worldwide.

"CLIA Europe and our national chapters throughout Europe are proud to represent the industry and support our members by working with various stakeholders to continue the growth of cruising in this very important market".

Duffy highlighted the significant role of Germany, which is tipped to overtake the UK as the biggest European cruise market.

She also addressed the cruise industry's sustainability efforts in Europe and globally, and its work to promote and maintain a healthy planet.

"No industry has a bigger stake in maintaining a pristine environment - both in the waters we sail and the ports we visit," Duffy explained.

"We will continue to forge new paths toward a greener, more sustainable planet."

Cruise lines are already testing and installing catalytic converters and scrubbers (CU 18 Feb), which will greatly reduce emissions

and "will make cruising more environmentally conscious than ever before," she said.

Summarising the outlook for the cruise industry globally, Duffy concluded: "Our future is defined by new opportunities for growth, new ships that will broaden cruising's appeal to even more passengers, and exciting new itineraries that will open up more ports and destinations."

Limo cruise transfers

LUXURY car hire firm Royale Limousines says it has seen huge demand from passengers seeking a limo transfer to hotels on arrival from a cruise ship in Australia.

Royale managing director John Bartolotta, speaking at the recent opening of the firm's new desk at Sydney Airport, described the cruise demand as "off the dial".

"All of a sudden, high-end cruise visitors are starting to spend".

Third Galveston port

BOOMING demand in cruises from the Texan port of Galveston has seen city officials engage a Los Angeles architect to devise a design on a third city terminal.

In addition to a third facility in the US' largest non-Florida cruise market, port authorities are investing US\$10m on upgrades to its second in exchange for a larger ship commitment from Royal Caribbean Int'l (CU 13 Feb).

Canaveral future set

NEW multi-year agreements are set to be signed by both Royal Caribbean and Norwegian Cruise Lines for cruise operations from Port Canaveral, Florida.

Pen is expected to be put to paper confirming both deals next month, with the former agreeing to pay an additional US\$48m over a ten-year deal to ensure priority use of the new terminal 1, which is currently under construction.

The line will base *Explorer of the Seas*, *Freedom of the Seas* and *Enchantment of the Seas* from Nov, while NCL will operate *Norwegian Gem* and *Norwegian Breakaway* from the Florida port.

WIN TICKETS TO TASTE OF SYDNEY



TD Cruise Update and **Celebrity Cruises** are giving two lucky readers the chance to win a double pass to *Taste of Sydney*.

Modern luxury cruise brand **Celebrity Cruises** is sponsoring *Taste of Sydney* (13-16 Mar 2014). Those who visit this year's event can sit back, relax and enjoy a taste of modern luxury on board **Celebrity Cruises Lawn Club at Taste of Sydney**. For more info, [click here](#).

For your chance to win, send in an answer to the below question by COB today 6th Mar to: tasteofsyd@traveldaily.com.au.

Celebrity Cruises' John Suley has made two special cocktails for *Taste of Sydney*. In 25 words or less, tell us what is your perfect cocktail and why?



* Passes valid for either evening (5.30 - 10pm) on Thu 13 March, or anytime on Friday 14 March 2014 (lunch or dinner sessions)



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Beyond Europe bonus

EASTERN Europe specialist
 Beyond Travel is now offering a last-minute \$1,000 bonus credit per couple on May departures of an eight-day round-trip Croatian islands cruise from Dubrovnik.

Valid for four departures on 03, 10, 17 and 24 May, the cruise is operated by the newly-built *MS Princess Aloha* or the *MS Vita*, with the sailing now priced from \$2,165ppts.

Credit can be put towards any other Beyond product in Croatia, including day tours, transfers or additional accommodation.

Phone 1300 363 554 for details.

Legend now ready for Aus

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines has refloated *Carnival Legend* from its two-week "Aussification" drydock ahead of its arrival in local waters, which is scheduled for 22 Sep.

Carnival Legend will bring a first for the Australian market in Hasbro, The Game Show, which will see passengers able to become pieces in life-size versions of their favourite board-games including Connect4, Yahtzee, Operation and more.

Hasbro, The Game Show made its debut on *Carnival Breeze* as part of the FunShip 2.0 concept

rollout (*CW* 17 May 2012).

The vessel entered the shipyard in Freeport, Bahamas mid last month (*CU* 13 Feb) to be fitted with all of the same features and attractions currently enjoyed by Australian travellers aboard sister-ship *Carnival Spirit*.

More than 2,000 workers busily installed popular features such as the Red Frog Pub, Bonsai Sushi, candy store Cherry On Top and the Dr Seuss at Sea kids program.

"*Carnival Spirit* has been so warmly received by Australians these past 18 months, so we are excited to be welcoming sister ship *Carnival Legend* as a new holiday option for Australia," Carnival Cruise Lines vice-president Australia & New Zealand Jennifer Vandekreeke said.

"The result is a ship filled with delicious dining destinations, thrilling waterslides, vast spaces to chill out with a cocktail in hand, and a myriad of entertainment options - it's a new and different experience in Australian waters".

Also to debut in the Australian market aboard *Legend* will be the line's Playlist Productions onboard entertainment program, which incorporates short, sharp productions with special effects in various theatres & bars ship-wide.

Dry dock works also saw the addition of Australian electricity sockets, poker machines, new spa treatment rooms and pool area including the Green Thunder waterslide and a US\$450m revamp of the onboard fitness centre.

Legend will operate its first paid passenger sailing on 24 Sep, two days after its arrival in Sydney.

Olsen caters to solos

FRED Olsen Cruise Lines is waiving single supplements for solo travellers on a range of cabin categories on selected voyages.

Cabins are available to single travellers at the twin-share price on all four of the line's vessels for select sailings between Aug & Jan.

Phone Cruise Abroad for more details on 1300 669 369.



IF CARNIVAL Australia is ever short of a musical talent to perform on one of its ships, it should look no further than one of its staff members - Onboard Revenue Director Greg Wilson.

Wilson has been an on-again off-again music star since the 1970s in his band, MadFish, and has just completed a new album using modern technology due to the fact the rest of his band live in the UK.

After writing the songs himself, Wilson's band-mates practiced their individual parts & recorded them, with technology able to mix it all together into a track.

The "punk-mod" band has maintained a notoriety of sorts in both mainstream and underground circles & continue to perform live every few years.

Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry and the entire team are firmly behind Wilson as he goes for success with his new record "Introducing MadFish".

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