

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 12 Nov 2015

Today's issue of CW

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news and photos, including our latest **Face to Face** interview.

Uniworld appoints

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has announced the appointment of Kathleen Jordan as sales manager for NSW and ACT, working alongside fellow NSW sales manager David Doyle.

She joins the Travel Corporation from her previous role as a Cruise Wholesale Specialist within Flight Centre, and prior to that she was a Senior International Consultant where she was named Top Seller of Cruises in NSW for 2013/14.

Un-Cruise permits

THE US National Park Service has awarded Un-Cruise Adventures 102 permit entries per year into Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park for a five year period from spring next year.

The small ship adventure cruise operator will utilise six vessels carrying 22-84 guests exploring the pristine region on week-long voyages which also feature an on-board National Park ranger to enrich the experience.

Fares for the voyages start at US\$2,295 per person twin share including meals and adventure activities such as hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, skiff excursions and whale watching.

Genting's third cruise line

GENTING Hong Kong, the Asian conglomerate which owns Crystal Cruises and Star Cruises, overnight confirmed details of a third brand which will target Asia's premium cruise market.

Dubbed "Dream Cruises," the move was announced at an event on board *Superstar Virgo* by Genting HK ceo Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay, who said the concept had been conceived three years ago "to be the only purpose-built premium category for the Asian, and specifically Chinese, market".

Details of the offering were hinted at during the recent Cruise Down Under conference in Darwin, where Genting HK's executive vice president of marine operations, Michael Hackman, described the new ships' extensive onboard spa facilities (**CW** 03 Sep).

Tan said the launch of Dream Cruises "completes the company's mission of having a brand for each of the three major cruise segments - Crystal Cruises for the luxury segment, Dream Cruises for the premium segment and Star Cruises for the contemporary segment".

Genting already has the first Dream Cruises newbuild under construction, with the vessel



previously expected to become part of the Star Cruises fleet.

Instead the new 3,400 passenger *Genting Dream* (pictured) will launch the new line in Nov 2016 - followed by another newbuild named the *World Dream* twelve months later.

Genting said the vessels will be the most spacious cruise ships in the Asia Pacific region, offering two exclusive floors of "Dream Suites" ranging from 32 to 183 square metres, featuring "European butler service and special privileges".

70% of staterooms will offer private balconies and *Genting Dream* will have more than 100 connecting rooms to help cater to extended families.

The ship will offer more than 35 restaurants and bars with an Asian culinary emphasis.

Crystal Cruises veteran Thatcher Brown has been appointed as president of the new operation, with all front line staff to speak Chinese as well as English.

Genting Dream will initially operate from Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Sanya.



Island Escape Cruises - Tahitian Affair 2016



ISLAND Escape Cruises has released its 2016 Tahitian Affair brochure featuring seven- and ten-night "cruises in paradise" departing from Papeete and Bora Bora between May and October next year.

Described as "small boutique ship lagoon cruising at its best," the cruises carry a maximum of 24 passengers in 12 cabins, making them also ideal for group and charter bookings.

12% commission is paid on the whole cruise fare and charters qualify for an additional 5% saving plus a complimentary solo cabin for a guide/escort.

Brochure launch specials include \$2,000 savings per couple for bookings made and paid in full, or \$1,000 per couple for bookings with a 25% deposit, both with a 16 Dec 2015 deadline.

For more information on Island Escape Cruises and its new Tahiti program call 1800 584 869.

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Low Europe levels

EUROPEAN river cruises are being disrupted right at the end of the 2015 season due to low water levels in several rivers.

Passengers cruising on Uniworld Boutique River Cruises' *SS Maria Theresa* have been told a 15 Nov departure from Amsterdam has been cancelled, because the ship has stopped in Passau and can't continue north due to low levels in the Danube.

Viking River Cruises is also telling guests to check for itinerary changes due to low levels on the Elbe, Rhine and Danube Rivers which have necessitated "ship swaps" on several departures, with excursions to be operated by motorcoach from the vessels in some cases.

Viking said having operated river cruises since 1997, its nautical staff have "extensive experience in delivering contingency plans that remain focused on exploring the destinations you have travelled to see".

Viking Ocean Cruises orders 2 more ships

VIKING overnight confirmed orders for two more newbuild vessels from Italy's Fincantieri shipyard, with the expansion set to see the Viking Ocean Cruises fleet grow to six vessels.

Like the rest of the Viking fleet, the new vessels will each carry 930 passengers in 465 all-balcony staterooms.

Fincantieri has already delivered the *Viking Star*, with the *Viking Sea* scheduled to arrive next year followed by *Viking Sky* in 2017.

The line's fourth ship hasn't been named at this stage.

The new order will see the latest newbuilds join the Viking fleet in mid-2018 and at the end of 2020.

As for the previous ships the interiors will be created by Los Angeles-based Rottet Studio and SMC Design of London.

Fincantieri is currently in the process of designing or building a total of 14 cruise ships.

RCI Cruise Week winner

ROYAL Caribbean has named Sarah Darby of Dreamlines at Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast as the winner of its Cruise Week giveaway.

During National Cruise Week agents received an entry in a draw with every new Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises or Azamara Club Cruises booking.

The overall prize is a seven night Mediterranean

cruise for two in a balcony stateroom aboard *Harmony of the Seas* - including return economy airfares, with Sarah and a friend to experience Royal Caribbean's newest ship after she launches in Apr next year.

Harmony will be the first in a new generation of Oasis-class ships featuring all of the groundbreaking technologies introduced with Royal Caribbean's Quantum-class vessels.

Sarah is **pictured** accepting her prize - and a big bottle of bubbly - from RCCL's Tony Soden.



TTW JB culinary pact

A SAVING of more than 60% is available when booking Travel the World & Windstar's new culinary cruise of Spain and France.

Sailing from Lisbon on 10 Jun & Dublin on 09 Aug aboard *Star Legend*, the cruises are part of the James Beard Foundation Collection and include a Windstar Private Event and regional cooking demonstration at a Chateau in Bordeaux.

The itinerary is priced from \$4,192 per person twin share - call 1300 857 037 for more info.

A large advertisement for Royal Caribbean International. The background shows a white cruise ship sailing on turquoise water under a blue sky with palm trees. In the foreground, a person's feet are visible on a sandy beach. The text 'Live life BIGGER This Summer' is prominently displayed. A yellow circle contains the offer 'BUY 1 GET 1 up to 50% OFF'. A dark blue circle contains 'plus FREE BALCONY UPGRADE'. The Royal Caribbean logo is at the top. A small circular logo with 'Live Life BIG' is also present.

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Jill Abel - CEO

ACA Update



2016 - a big year for Queensland's cruise sector

CRUISING in Queensland is set for a number of firsts next year.

In 2016, Cairns will become the state's first regional home port when P&O Cruises' *Pacific Eden* is based there for a season to PNG and the South Pacific.

Good news for our Platinum members Ports North and Tourism Queensland, and our newest member, Noumea Discovery Travel Company, with *Pacific Eden* calling at Noumea next year.

P&O Cruises is also including Fraser Island for the first time, with calls in April and December, following recent announcements of Gladstone, Mooloolaba and Hamilton Island. Again, good news for our bronze members, Gladstone Area Promotion and Development.

Royal Caribbean's *Azamara Quest* will also arrive in Cairns in January, with calls to Port Douglas and Cooktown.

Queensland has more cruise destinations than any other state. In a typical year Queensland producers supply 380,000kg of fruit, 500,000kg of vegetables and 40,000 litres of milk for P&O's Brisbane-based *Pacific Dawn*. And, tourism companies operate around 130 shore tours for Carnival Australia ships visiting local ports.

These Queensland 'firsts' are made possible by a number of stakeholders, not least the cruise line increasing its fleet size so it can safely navigate and anchor at different ports; state and regional tourism organisations giving support and advice; and valuable partnerships with private resorts and shore excursion companies.

MSC in Miami

MSC Cruises has welcomed *MSC Divina* back to Miami, from where she will sail year-round to as part of MSC's US growth strategy.

MSC will also shortly open sales for *MSC Seaside* which will join *Divina* in Miami from Dec 2017.

NZ celebrity for Avalon

AVALON Waterways is enlisting some Kiwi star power for the christening of one of its new Suite Ships in Europe next year.

Judy Bailey (pictured) is a popular journalist and TV news presenter, and will formally name the new 64-cabin *Avalon Imagery II* at a ceremony at Engers on the Rhine River on 05 Apr 2016.

She'll be the first New Zealander to launch an Avalon Waterways ship, with Avalon gm NZ, Troy Ackerman, saying the move was a "fitting tribute to the growing number of New Zealanders cruising on Europe's rivers".

Avalon Imagery II will offer two decks of all-suite accommodation featuring the line's panoramic "open-air balcony" windows.

Ackerman said the vessel would mainly operate Avalon's eight-day Romantic Rhine itinerary between Amsterdam and Basel.

Imagery II will become the twelfth Suite Ship to join the fleet since the concept was introduced just four years ago.



Escape self-ordering

THE new *Norwegian Escape* is offering a first-at-sea cloud-based Northstar iPad ordering system in the District Brew House and FoodRepublic onboard eateries, with the system authenticating passenger age and then allowing guests to "pace their meal and beverage service".

Creative Cruising Cruise Consultant

2015 has been a great year for Creative Cruising, so it's time for you to cruise on over into your new role! To meet demand, we are excited to announce 3 newly created roles within the Cruising Reservations team.

When you join Creative Cruising, you'll become part of a brand with over 30 years' experience.

With this opportunity, you'll sell the world's most fabulous cruise lines to exciting and exotic destinations globally. Enjoy being the first point of contact for our travel agency partners, providing expert advice and exceptional customer service.

Working within a small, close-knit team, you'll be provided with full training and with extensive career opportunities within Creative Cruising and The Travel Corporation. When you aren't busy making your clients happy, you can take advantage of our amazing travel industry benefits.

Make a career move and bring in 2016 with your role at Creative Cruising.

[Click here to Apply](#)

P&O's TODAY show

CHANNEL 9's TODAY show will host a "ground-breaking television event" on Wed 25 Nov, broadcasting live from Sydney Harbour during P&O Cruises' Five Ship Spectacular.

Celebrations will kick off at 5.30am and continue all morning as the cruise line makes history by bringing its newly expanded fleet together for the first time.

The event will commemorate the arrival of *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden*, with TODAY show personalities taking up positions on various vessels as well as on Fort Denison and at Mrs Macquarie's Chair.

Home & Away star Kate Ritchie and pop singer Jessica Mauboy will officially name the new ships during the broadcast, with the assistance of TODAY's entertainment reporter Richard Wilkins who will host all the event's entertainment action.

And weatherman Stevie Jacobs will be on shore at a big barbecue organised for onlookers.

P&O Cruises senior vice president, Sture Myrmell, said "this is going to be a day like no other on Sydney Harbour, so we're thrilled that all of Australia will be able to be part of the action with the TODAY Show onboard".

New QM2 lounge

CUNARD has announced the introduction of the stylish new "Carinthia Lounge" aboard its *Queen Mary 2*.

The venue will be created via a transformation of the vessel's existing Winter Garden during an upcoming multi-million dollar refit from May 2016.

During the day the Carinthia Lounge will serve light breakfast and lunch dishes, becoming an "elegant evening destination" after the sun sets, with premium wine, small plates and relaxed entertainment.

It's named after Cunard's famed Carinthia ships which embodied the spirit of travel in the 1920s.

"We believe this space will truly elevate the *Queen Mary 2* experience, adding new innovative culinary options, as well as another level of refined relaxation and entertainment for our guests," said Richard Meadows, Cunard's president for North America.



FACE : FACE

JESSICA JONES

District Sales Manager NSW/ACT - RCL Cruises Ltd



Welcome to Face to Face, where we chat to cruise industry leaders.

How/why did you get into the cruise industry?

I started in my career in the travel industry straight out of school as a cruise travel agent knowing nothing about cruise ships and not having even seen one in the harbour. I quickly fell in love with cruising, moved my way up the ranks and have been in the cruise industry ever since!

How many cruises have you been on in the five years?

I have taken 15 cruises in the past five years. My partner & I always like to take a cruise on our own holiday and I have been lucky enough to have cruised on a few one night trade/media cruises highlighting the new local ship, plus some agent famils.

What is your favourite destination, and why?

Mexico, from Cabo to Cozumel. There is so much to do - plenty of great food, cheap drinks, the Mayan Ruins, stunning rock formations and the warm turquoise ocean for swimming or participating in the abundance of water sport options!

What was your most memorable moment on a cruise?

I will never forget the time I stepped onboard *Oasis of the Seas* a few years back, I was overwhelmed by the size & everything the ship had to offer. It really is unlike any cruise ship I have ever been on!

How do you spend days at sea?

I like to wake up, head to breakfast in the dining room and then plan my day by checking out the Cruise Compass. I usually like to attend some trivia, spend some time in the sun doing something active and spending the evening eating at a specialty restaurant followed by catching the show.

What is the next "hot spot" in cruising destinations?

Asia, across our three brands we have several ships based in the region so there is plenty of choice! From the innovative *Quantum of the Seas* to experiencing modern luxury on *Celebrity Millennium* or

immersing yourself in the destination with Azamara Club Cruises there is really something for everyone. The flights from Australia are quite economical and it's not too far away either making it the next logical choice.

What is the most important issue in the cruise industry today, and why?

Port infrastructure would have to be the most important issue for us, as we would like to bring the big ships down here, however we are restricted by berthing space as our ships don't fit under the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

What do you think is the most underrated aspect of cruising?

That it's not all about being on the ship even though there is plenty to do. There are some amazing destinations and ports that cruise ships sail to, and depending on where you are in the world you can actually sample a few different countries on the one cruise!

What is your best tip for sea-sickness?

Fresh air and sea sickness tablets.

Describe your perfect cruise in 25 words or less?

Cruising the Mediterranean, having all my drinks included, docking close to port and spending plenty of time immersing myself in the destination.



Jessica's Cruise Favourites

Ship: *Celebrity Solstice*

Ship Activity: Trivia

Shore excursion: Dog sledding with Alaskan huskies

Region: North America from the Caribbean to Alaska there's so many options!

Port: New York City

Onboard food/drink: Johnny Rockets burgers and milkshakes onboard Royal Caribbean

Perk of the job: The opportunity to cruise on the finest cruise ships in the world!

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