

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 19 Apr 2016

## Avalon Passion debut

**AVALON** Waterways has once again expanded its European fleet, christening its latest Suite Ship *Avalon Passion* on the Danube last week, just one week following the launch of *Avalon Imagery II* on the Rhine.

The 83 cabin vessel was launched by godmother Jill Ellis (pictured below), head coach of the championship US Women's National soccer team at a naming ceremony in the Austrian city of Linz.

Avalon Waterways now features a fleet of 16 vessels in Europe, 12 of which offer its Suite Ship concept of two entire decks of all-suite accommodation.



## RCI pulls Legend from Qld

**ROYAL** Caribbean has released details of its 2017/18 Australasian summer season, including confirmation that *Legend of the Seas* will relocate to Europe after next year's Brisbane-based deployment.

The move will mean RCI no longer has a summer vessel based in the Queensland capital after next year, with facilities there unable to cope with larger ships.

In fact *Legend of the Seas* is one of the only Royal Caribbean ships that can berth at Portside in Brisbane until a new terminal is constructed on the eastern side of the Gateway Bridges.

RCI md Australasia, Adam Armstrong, said while *Legend* would only be cruising out of Brisbane for one more season, "we will continue to bring holidaymakers into Brisbane, Cairns and other Queensland ports on a regular basis on our other ships, including *Ovation of the Seas*."

*the Seas*."

A proposal by the Port of Brisbane to develop a new cruise terminal at the mouth of the Brisbane River will allow larger Voyager and Quantum-class vessels to be based there.

"We fully expect to return to home-porting in Queensland in the future," Armstrong said.

The 2017/18 RCI program includes the second Australasian season for *Ovation of the Seas* which makes her down under debut later this year.

RCI said the itineraries mean it will be the largest cruise operator out of Sydney Harbour for the season, with *Ovation*, *Explorer*, *Voyager* and *Radiance of the Seas* offering a total of 66 sailings ranging from two to 23 nights.

*Explorer* and *Voyager* will specialise in the South Pacific, while *Radiance* and *Ovation* will focus on Australian and New Zealand itineraries including open-jaw options to allow longer land-based add-ons.

The voyages will include a maiden call by *Explorer of the Seas* at Port Kembla on the NSW South Coast as part of a seven night Tasmania sailing departing in Mar 2018.

Overall during the 2017/18 Australasian season Royal Caribbean will offer departures from Sydney, Fremantle, Auckland, Singapore, Honolulu and Seattle - for more information call 1800 754 500.

## Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos.

## Uniworld preview

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises will add 24-hour room service and concierge services to its 2017 programs, which are claimed as the "most all-inclusive European river cruise experience".

The operator has just released a 2017 preview brochure covering voyages in Europe, Russia, India, China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Egypt.

The program includes two new all-inclusive European itineraries - the 10-day "Rhine-Main Discovery & Munich" which combines a seven night cruise from Nuremburg to Cologne with two nights in Munich, and the 10-day "Paris & Impressions of the Seine".

Itineraries include all meals and unlimited beverages on board, personalised onshore experiences and all gratuities, with early booking savings worth up to \$2,400 per couple - see [www.uniworld.com](http://www.uniworld.com).

## Carnival dividend up

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has announced a 17% increase in its quarterly dividend payments, with shareholders to receive US35c/share reflecting "sustained earnings improvement".

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## Costa to add fifth ship for China

**COSTA** Cruises has announced the deployment of the *Costa neoRomantica* in China next year, with the vessel to become the line's fifth ship in the region.

*neoRomantica*, which has capacity for 1,800 guests, will be based in Asia year round, with Costa Group ceo Michael Thamm saying the deployment, in addition to the two previously announced China-specific newbuilds, "will allow us to continue to significantly grow the Asian cruise market, in particular China, which is set to become the second largest in the world by the end of the decade".

*Costa neoRomantica* will arrive in Shanghai on 10 Apr 2017 after a 23-day positioning cruise from Mauritius via the Seychelles, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and Hong Kong, prior to a drydock upgrade to "customise the ship for its new Asian guests".

## Fathom Cuba reopen

**CARNIVAL** Corporation's new Fathom experiential cruise brand has reopened bookings for its planned Cuba voyages, saying it "remains optimistic" that the destination will allow cruise ships to carry Cuban-born American citizens.

Last week the company was sued by two Cuban Americans (*CW* 14 Apr) who claimed their civil rights were violated by being barred from a voyage aboard the *Adonia* due to a boycott by Cuba.

However Fathom says it's now updated its reservation processes to welcome bookings from all travellers, and will delay the Cuba voyages if a decision is delayed.

The "historic inaugural voyage" is currently scheduled for an 01 May departure, and Fathom cited the example of air charters which are permitted to transport Cuba-born individuals to the island.

Fathom's *Adonia* will visit Havana, Cienguegos and Santiago de Cuba during its Cuba cruises.

## itravel agents experience Spirit



**ABOVE:** This group of itravel consultants were given the opportunity to experience life aboard the *Carnival Spirit* at recent ship inspection in Sydney.

Managing director, Steve Labroski, commented "ship inspections are a great way for our agents to experience the product and promote the unique selling points to our clients".

The team observed the waterpark, mini-gold course, two-deck fitness centre, jogging track and sports course, before heading off to a morning networking event on board.

Agents were treated to a three-course lunch before experiencing the rest of the amenities the ship had to offer such as the Serenity Adult Only Retreat, Spa Carnival

and Cocktail bar Alchemy.

**Pictured** above is Carnival Cruises' Heather Pryde with the itravel team during the visit.

## ATSB Spirit report

**THE** Australian Transportation Safety Bureau has released a report on the *Spirit of Tasmania II* which was blown off the wharf at the Port of Melbourne while loading passengers on 13 Jan this year during a severe storm.

Nobody was injured in the incident but wharf cargo and vehicle loading infrastructure was seriously damaged.

A band of severe thunderstorms was passing through the area with little notice, with the ship's crew responding quickly to the incident - see [atsb.gov.au](http://atsb.gov.au).

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## Carnival salutes ANZACs

**PASSENGERS** travelling on board *Carnival Legend* will be joined by special guest, Vietnam War veteran, Bob Metcalfe this Anzac Day.

Anzac Day will be commemorated with a dawn service in which Metcalfe will read *The Ode* and lay a wreath.

Following the service, breakfast, Anzac biscuits and games of two-up will be available on board.

Metcalfe joined the Australian army at 19-years-old, and served in South Vietnam as part of the withdrawal of forces from Nui-Day to Vung-Tau in 1971.

He has since returned to Vietnam twice, and on his second trip, was invited as a guest of the NSW Premiers Anzac Memorial Scholarships - Singapore and Vietnam Tour in 2013.

Carnival Cruise Line vp Australia, Jennifer Vandekreeke, remarked that the cruise line was honoured to have Mr Metcalfe join *Carnival Legend* for the poignant occasion.

"Anzac Day is an important occasion for guests," she said.

"It's a day of remembrance and reflection but also a celebration of the Anzac spirit and we are pleased to have Mr Metcalfe join us for the service.

Both *Carnival Legend* & *Carnival Spirit* will offer special screenings of the movie *Gallipoli* on 25 Apr and a friendly game of backyard cricket to mark the occasion.

## New Lindblad journeys

**IN CELEBRATION** of Lindblad's 50th year anniversary, the line has released a new itinerary recreating the historic South Georgia voyage which begins at King Haakon Bay in the south to Stromness Bay.

Highlights include observing albatross at the Falklands and walking amongst tens of thousands of king penguins on a beach in South Georgia.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

## CroisiEurope on Elbe

**CROISIEUROPE** has debuted its new *Elbe Princess* which was christened earlier this week in Germany.

Like the line's *Loire Princesse*, the 80-passenger vessel is driven by a paddlewheel which allows it to navigate the shallow waters from Berlin all the way to Prague - including a section of the river which is so shallow that most cruise lines utilise coaches to bypass it.

*Elbe Princess* draws just under a metre of water, with the ship's honorary godparents named as Anke Rehlinger, minister of economic affairs for the German region of Saarland, and Philippe Etienne, the French ambassador to Germany.

## Rhapsody to Big Apple

**ROYAL** Caribbean's *Rhapsody of the Seas*, well known to Aussie cruisers as the cruise line's first local deployment, will operate out of the New York area during the northern summer of 2017.

The 2,040 passenger ship will join the 4,180 lower berth *Anthem of the Seas* in cruising out of the Cape Liberty terminal in Bayonne, New Jersey.

*Rhapsody* will operate seven night voyages to the Bahamas across the season.

## Cozumel extension

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has announced an extension of the time in the Mexican port of Cozumel on over 750 Caribbean voyages, to allow guests more opportunities to experience the destination.

On so-called "Cozumel Plus" itineraries guests will be able to access tours of up to 8 hours in duration including visits to Chichen Itza, swimming with whale sharks and snorkelling in the Xei-Ha lagoons.

## Seabourn ventures

**SEABOURN** has announced the expansion of its 'Ventures by Seabourn' expedition program in northern Europe, offering a series of excursions allowing guests to explore the region's secluded inlets, waterways, fjords and scenic islands via Zodiac inflatable boats or double sea kayaks.

The excursion boats are launched from the unique fold-out water sports marina on all Seabourn vessels.

*Seabourn Quest* will offer more than 30 optional Ventures by Seabourn excursions during its northern Europe season, led by an expert team of scientists, scholars and naturalists with a maximum 1:14 guide to guest ratio on each trip.



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## All aboard the SS Maria Theresa

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	20 Apr
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	22 Apr
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	23 Apr
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	23 Apr
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	25 Apr
BRISBANE	
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	20 Apr
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	20 Apr
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	22 Apr
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	22 Apr
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	23 Apr
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	22 Apr
<i>Veendam</i>	25 Apr
CAIRNS	
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	23 Apr
AUCKLAND	
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	19 Apr

**UNIWORLD** executives from all around the world gathered on board the luxurious *SS Maria Theresa* for their annual sales meeting.

Departing from Cologne and culminating in Amsterdam, the team were united to a number of exclusive Uniworld experiences between planning sessions.

Highlights of the educational included a gondola ride to Niederwald Monument in Rudesheim and an exclusive wine tasting at Castle Vollrads.

The group continued on to Moselle in Germany, where they had the choice of either taking a Go Active hiking tour of Alken Village and Thurant Castle, or visiting the Marksburg Castle.

Amsterdam marked the end of the group's journey, where they experienced the infamous Keukenhof Gardens and took a Harlem walking tour with a Teyler Museum visit.

**Pictured** enjoying the sights are (from left): Kathlenne Jordan, sales manager NSW/ACT; Anastasia Kotanidis, sales manager VIC/SA and Philippa Walker, head of marketing.

## MS Hanseatic voyage

**HAPAG** Lloyd is inviting travellers to follow in the footsteps of famous seafarers such as James Cook, on its all-new expedition to the South Seas and Easter Island.

Cruising on board the *MS Hanseatic*, the 24-day cruise departs Tahiti and travels to Puerto Montt, with port calls at Tuamotu Islands & Pitcairn.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

## Queen Godmother

**HOLLAND** America Line's latest Pinnacle class ship *ms Koningsdam* will be christened by Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, at a naming ceremony in Rotterdam on 20 May.

So far, 11 Holland America Line ships have been christened by members of the Dutch royal family, with then-Princess Maxima christening the *ms Nieuw Amsterdam* in 2010.

"We are incredibly honoured that Her Majesty Queen Maxima will carry on the tradition of Dutch Royalty christening Holland America Line ships, which began 87 years ago," remarked HAL president, Orlando Ashford.

"We chose Rotterdam as the location for the official ceremony because of the deep historic connection between Holland America Line, the city and the people of the Netherlands."

Following her European season, *Koningsdam* will sail to Fort Lauderdale, Florida for winter and spring Caribbean cruises.



**THE** controversy around Britain's new research ship continues, with a UK government minister saying he believes it's unlikely it will be named *RRS Boaty McBoatface*.

The public were invited to name the ship (**CW** 05 Apr) and the online campaign went viral after a number of tongue-in-cheek suggestions garnered thousands of votes.

*Boaty McBoatface* came in top with 124,109 votes ahead of *RRS Poppy-Mai*, named after a baby with terminal cancer, with 34,371.

In the latest development UK Science minister Jo Johnson said he was very impressed at the "very imaginative" suggestions, but said he hoped the vessel's name would be "something that captures the spirit of scientific endeavour".

That has in turn sparked a whole new poll, with Britain's *Metro* newspaper now asking readers (**below**) whether they would like the boat to be called "Boaty McBoatface," "Jo Johnson the Spoilsport" or "Something boring but scientifically significant".

What do you think the boat should be called

Boaty McBoatface
Jo Johnson the Spoilsport
Something boring but scientifically important

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