

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 20 Apr 2017

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Tauk ships & trips

TAUCK has launched its 2018 European river cruise offering, revealing it will complete its two-year reconfiguration project of half its river fleet by 2018.

Newly refurbished *ms Treasures* and *ms Esprit* will return to service next year with 20 cabins measuring 21m² each on the Ruby deck, replacing 30 14m² cabins in the original layout of the ships' configuration.

Both vessels will be reduced in capacity from 118 pax to 98.

New itineraries on the Danube and Rhine have been released, featuring the 14-day "Royal Danube, Berlin & Krakow" cruise.

The itinerary starts from \$5,990pp and includes a three-night hotel stay in Berlin.

Scenic Eclipse brochures

FRESH details on Scenic's "6-star ultra-luxury mega yacht", *Scenic Eclipse* have been released today in three new brochures.

The just-released *Scenic Eclipse* catalogue includes information on the on board offering and the 2018/19 voyages, while the heftier *Scenic Discovery Voyages: Europe & The Americas*, and *Scenic Polar Voyages – Arctic and Antarctica* brochures dive deeper into the itineraries.

Previously announcing there will be five restaurants on board the mega yacht, Scenic is now touting "ten dining experiences".

Diners will be able to choose from Elements (main restaurant), Lumiere (contemporary French fine-dining), Azure Bar & Cafe (all-day grazing) and Yacht Grill (poolside grill, buffet and bar).

Three offerings have been packed into Koko's (Asian-fusion restaurant and Sake bar),

including private dining called Teppanyaki @ Koko's and an "authentic Japanese experience" at Sushi @ Koko's.

In addition, there will be degustation dining offered at a Chef's Table, culinary courses at cooking emporium Epicure and 24-hour in-suite dining.

The 228-passenger vessel will be equipped with two helicopters in Antarctica and one in other destinations and a submarine capable of diving to a depth of 200 metres.

Scenic founder and managing director Glen Moroney said over the last 12 months, "our team of experts have honed the concept to fine tune each area".

Scenic has also opened preregistration for 2019/2020, driven by "such strong demand", Liz Glover, national marketing manager, Scenic told **CW**.

CLICK HERE for the brochures.

Survey last chance

OVER 300 travel agents have shown their enthusiasm and participated in the latest **CW** survey, which closes tomorrow.

The 2017 results will for the first time show changes in perceptions and the market when contrasted against last year's findings.

It's not too late to participate with prizes including Fitbit products and Event Cinema tickets up for grabs.

To get involved, **CLICK HERE**.

CCL Sushi pop-ups

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has added sushi pop-up venues on the Lido deck of *Carnival Conquest*, *Carnival Valor*, *Carnival Liberty* and *Carnival Glory*.

The new eateries serve sushi and sashimi from \$1.50 per piece, along with rolls from \$5 per roll.

Guests place their order at the counter and are paged when their food is ready.

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*Terms & conditions apply. Offer correct as at 19 April 2017 and is subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 24 April 2017 unless extended. For full terms & conditions, visit ncl.com.au.

Viking ocean fleet grows

VIKING Ocean Cruises has inked a memorandum of agreement with Fincantieri for the construction of two additional cruise ships, with an option for another two.

The newbuilds will join the fleet in 2021 and 2022 and follow the design of the six ships already ordered or in operation.

Under the agreement, the Viking Ocean fleet would expand to eight vessels and potentially up to ten, if the option for two more newbuilds is enacted.

By 2019, when Viking Ocean Cruises' yet-to-be-named sixth ship is delivered, Viking will be the largest small ship ocean cruise line.

Torstein Hagen, chairman of Viking Cruises, said the additional newbuilds "are needed to meet the demand we are experiencing".

"Our guests and the industry have spoken, and they love the

ocean ships that we have built with Fincantieri," he said.

Viking Ocean has grown rapidly since the delivery of its first ship, *Viking Star* in 2015, which was quickly followed by *Viking Sea* in 2016 and *Viking Sky* in 2017.

A fourth vessel, *Viking Sun* will join late this year and a fifth, *Viking Spirit* in 2018.

The two newbuilds, in line with the entire fleet, will offer all-veranda rooms and accommodate 930 guests in 465 cabins.

The agreement will be effective subject to financing and other customary closing conditions.

Carnival Anzac Day

CARNIVAL Cruise Line will mark Anzac Day with a special service in Sydney Harbour on board *Carnival Spirit*, led by former Royal Australian Navy Commander John Hodges.

The service will be followed by a "Gunfire Breakfast".

Silver Muse christened



SILVERSEA has christened its new flagship *Silver Muse* overnight in Monaco.

The ship was christened by Silversea chairman Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio's daughter Costanza Lefebvre.

Prince Albert II of Monaco led the VIP guests at the event in Port Hercule, which featured a performance by Sinfonietta Orchestra of Rome.

The 596-pax *Silver Muse* carries 596 guests and is the ninth ship in the Silversea fleet.

Pictured during the ceremony are Roberto Martinoli, ceo Silversea Cruises and Alessandro Zanello, *Silver Muse* captain.

NCL adds lifeguards

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line will begin employing certified lifeguards at all family pools across its fleet.

Lifeguards will begin appearing over the Northern Hemisphere summer on *Norwegian Escape*, *Norwegian Getaway*, *Norwegian Breakaway* and *Norwegian Epic* - and on the remainder of the fleet by early 2018.

The line will also offer complimentary swim vests for adults and children on the line's four largest ships.

Certified by the American Red Cross, the lifeguards will operate during pool hours.



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LEARN MORE

Your mouth will water when you read our comparison of the food offerings on ships homeporting in Australia in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**



Lunch @ Chops Grille

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has expanded Chops Grille from a dinner-only venue to offer lunch during sea days on all ships except *Enchantment of the Seas* where lunch at the venue will be offered on embarkation day only. The charge for lunch is US\$19pp.

Hurtigruten new vid

HURTIGRUTEN has released footage of the *MS Roald Amundsen*, which will be the first ship to ever sail with electric hybrid technology. **CLICK HERE** to watch the video.

Solstice's Sydney send off



TONIGHT *Celebrity Solstice* will sail out of Sydney for the last time this season, wrapping up the vessel's biggest Australian season. The ship hosted more than 50,000 pax during its fifth Aussie season and injected an estimated \$35 million into the local

economy in passenger spend. *Celebrity* is holding a farewell sale until 28 Apr - **CLICK HERE**. *Solstice* is **pictured** in Sydney this morning.

Young Explorers prog

HURTIGRUTEN will offer a complimentary, year-round Young Explorers' program on *MS Finnmarken* from Apr 2018. Provided for kids aged 7-13, a dedicated host will plan and organise a program of daily on board activities which "focus on fun and eco-friendly learning".

Global Ports IPO

GLOBAL Ports Holding has announced its intention to proceed with an IPO on the London Stock Exchange. The company has an existing portfolio of 14 cruise ports.



IMAGINE packing the kids off to a world of Transformers and My Little Pony aboard a cruise? Carnival Cruise Line's *Imagination* will be the venue for their first 'Carnival Playtime', an extension of their partnership with toy manufacturer Hasbro and sees the likes of Optimus Prime, Bumblebee, Pinkie Pie and Twilight Sparkle entertain kids for hours.

Set on a series of three- and four-night cruises between 13 Jul and 17 Sep departing from Long Beach California, kids will be entertained with photo opportunities, movies and games including Rainbow Dash's cupcake toss and knocking out the Autobots. Parents may need to escape the frenzy by slipping into the Blue Iguana tequila bar. Salud!

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CRUISE WEEKLY



Cruise industry booms

AS ANOTHER wave season draws to a close, it is interesting to reflect on the highlights and look ahead. In the last few months we welcomed *Ovation of the Seas*, the largest ship ever to visit Australia and *Seabourn Encore*, that line's newest ultra-luxury addition.

We have seen more visits to regional ports such as Eden and Mooloolaba and increasing southern Australian itineraries to ports such as Esperance, Kangaroo Island, and Burnie balancing the more traversed routes up the eastern seaboard.

Expedition cruising has become increasingly popular as passengers show more interest in visiting destinations such as the Tiwi Islands or Thursday Island.

Recognising the importance of the luxury market to Australia, Crystal Cruises opened an office in Sydney and Azamara's "azamazing" evenings continued to delight passengers with cultural performances and bespoke events.

Looking ahead we are excited for the first ever P&O winter sailing to Tasmania visiting Dark MOFO.

Debut visits are also on the horizon - NCL's *Norwegian Jewel* will be based in the region from October 2017. Viking Ocean Cruises will enter the Australian market in 2018 and *Majestic Princess* will homeport in Australia from September 2018.

Further into the future, MSC Cruises will return to Australia with the *Magnifica* in early 2019.

Our region continues to deliver as a cruise destination and we are excited about the opportunities to support the cruise lines as they develop new itineraries and bring new ships to our shore.

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