



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Vard order cancelled

A LETTER of Intent for design and construction of an expedition vessel with shipbuilder Vard Holdings has been canned.

The deal was with “an international cruise company” and was inked in Jan (**CW** 17 Jan) but expired without the parties reaching agreement to enter into a firm shipbuilding contract.

Ponant told **CW** it was not the mystery line, and said its commitment to build four ships with Vard had not changed.

### Duchess christened

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company’s new all-suite, 166-guest paddlewheeler *American Duchess* was christened overnight in New Orleans.

Marissa Applegate, daughter of chairman and ceo John Waggoner and godmother of the vessel broke a bottle of Maker’s Mark bourbon on the boat’s hull as part of the ceremonial festivities.

### Lindblad coo leaves

CHIEF operating officer, vp and treasurer of Lindblad Expeditions, Ian Rogers, has left the company “to pursue other opportunities”, Lindblad revealed in a statement.

He has been coo since Mar 2014 and was previously cfo.

## Intrepid, Chimu polar pact

EXCLUSIVE

CHIMU Adventures will ramp up its cruise charter business to polar regions as part of a strategic partnership with Intrepid Group.

Under an alliance formalised on Fri between the two Australian travel companies, the small group adventure travel specialist will be able to offer polar products for the first time under its primary tour operation, Intrepid.

Intrepid Group has offered Polar product through the Peregrine brand for a number of years, but the arrangement with Chimu will present new options, including a potential ship of its own.

The pact will see Intrepid buy a 50% stake in Chimu Adventures, its Asia based tour operator, Get About Asia & three sales offices in the United Kingdom, Sydney and the Sunshine Coast, as well as a 50% investment in three DMCs Chimu operates in South America.

Both companies will continue to operate autonomously, with Intrepid set to inject funds into securing extra cruise charters for Chimu to Antarctica for future years, Intrepid chief exec James Thornton told **Cruise Weekly**.

Thornton, who previously flagged Intrepid’s expansion into Polar regions exclusively to **Cruise Weekly** (**CW** 07 Mar), said he was “very excited” about the tie-up.

Chimu Adventures already offers a diverse mix of Antarctica and Arctic cruises, and this year chartered four sailings.

Co-founder Chad Carey said Chimu has a “huge range” of cruises to Antarctica, offering almost 30 sailings, whether it be a charter, allocation or free-sale.

“We have something for all ranges and all budgets - top-end right through to the lower-end.

“It’s really exciting to grow on that and to be able to offer more competitive rates in the Australian market space.”

Fellow co-founder Greg Carter said Chimu was the only operator who chartered boats out of both South America and Australia.

“We’re keen to grow on that with the Intrepid Group and their Polar program through Peregrine. We are hoping to expand on that and increase our charters,” Carter told **Cruise Weekly** this morning.

Charter expansion is likely to see more departures from Hobart to Antarctica for the 2019/2020 season, the Intrepid boss added, with ship availability for the 2018/19 season a challenge.

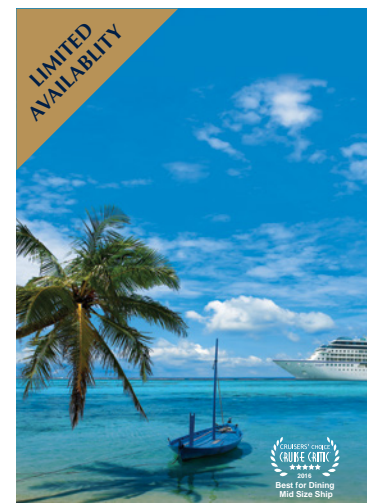
Questioned if the pact with Chimu would span ship building, Thornton said: “For now we want to start by increasing the number of charters that Chimu can operate...but of course in time as our volume grows and awareness through the region grows, it’s natural that we’ll have to consider those options and it will be specific on whether we can get the right ship and right product for our style of travel”.

More in **Travel Daily** today.

### Cruise360 sold out

TICKETS are now sold out for Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia’s 2017 Cruise360 conference.

In its fourth year, Cruise360 2017 will be held 25 Aug at Hyatt Regency Sydney.



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# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 15 Aug 2017



## Norwegian Bliss' big reveal



**THE** largest race track at sea and new dining concepts are among the features Norwegian Cruise Line has revealed will be on board its 16th ship, *Norwegian Bliss*.

The vessel will sail to Alaska and the Caribbean with select voyages to the Mexican Riviera from Jun.

In response to the popularity of the race track introduced on *Norwegian Joy*, NCL will also introduce a two level, 305m-long electric-car race track, the longest at sea (pictured above).

The ship will also feature an open-air laser tag course themed as an abandoned space station, two pools and six infinity hot tubs, and an Aqua Park with two multi-storey waterslides, one of which extends over the side of the ship.

*Norwegian Bliss* will introduce a Texas Smokehouse called Q (pictured below) and relaxed 24-hour pub fare dining at The Local.

*Bliss* will also feature Mexican restaurant Los Lobos, American-style Cagney's Steakhouse, The A-List Bar, dessert venue Coco's and more.

NCL president and ceo Andy Stuart declared the vessel "will no doubt be our most incredible ship to date".

"We have elevated *Norwegian Bliss*' on board experience to new heights, bringing the best features from across our fleet plus exciting new first-at-sea activities like the largest race track and new dining concepts to create the ultimate cruising experience," he said.



## Kimberley fee introduced

**AN** ABORIGINAL group in Western Australia has begun charging cruise ship operators a fee to visit 50 visitor locations in the Kimberley.

The Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation (WGAC) said it had introduced the Unguu Visitor Pass under a plan which aims to help traditional owners look after culture, create jobs & develop tourism products.

Over the next five years WGAC plans to establish ranger stations at key visitor locations, with traditional owners welcoming, guiding and sharing culture with travellers and developing capacity for rangers to interact with passengers on cruise vessels.

For 2017, cruise operators face a one-off \$200 payment per registered pax berth, per vessel but in 2018 the levy will be \$86 per registered passenger berth

per voyage and for 2019/20 it will rise to \$152.

Currently Silversea, Cannon Charters & Ocean Dream Charters are the only tour operators listed as having been granted access to the Unguu Coast by WGAC.

Aurora Expeditions said it supported the move by the WGAC in principal & over coming weeks would study the details, assess the likely implications and seek further clarity on the fee.

## NextCruise update

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has this month altered its on board cruise booking incentive program, NextCruise.

Instead of a reduced deposit incentive, passengers can now choose to opt for a non-refundable deposit and choose from either up to US\$500 of on board credit or up to US\$500 off their cruise.

If travellers book more than six months in advance and opt for a non-refundable deposit, they can receive up to an extra US\$100 off their cruise or to spend on board.

The option to book with a refundable deposit is still available, and comes with up to US\$150 in on board credit.



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Carnival Fun Zone

# ...WITH CARNIVAL



Learn what's on the horizon for river cruising in 2018 in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**



## Carnival Dream halted

**CARNIVAL Dream** has had to cut short a cruise and return to New Orleans after experiencing engine problems, according to *WBRZ-TV* in Baton Rouge.

*Dream* was forced to cancel its final stop in Cozumel on Fri as a result of the issues.

## Bach's godmother

**SOPRANO** vocalist and German performer, Anna-Maria Kaufmann, will be godmother of *Crystal Bach*.

## Norovirus on Sun

**AT LEAST** 91 passengers on board Princess Cruises' *Sun Princess* were sickened by a norovirus outbreak on a South Pacific voyage last week.

Princess Cruises said "proactive and successful steps were taken" on board to limit the spread.

## Scenic Eclipse coming together



**SCENIC** has released images showing an update on the construction of *Scenic Eclipse*.

The vessel's bow thrusters (pictured) have now been transported onto the slipway.

The six-star *Scenic Eclipse* is under construction at the Uljanik Shipyard JSC in Pula, Croatia, and is due to launch in the Mediterranean on 31 Aug 2018.

*Scenic Eclipse* will be built to Polar Class 6 standards.

## L'Austral NT arrival

**PONANT'S** *L'Austral* arrived in Darwin Harbour on Sat, where it will homeport through to Sep.

NT Minister for Tourism and Culture Lauren Moss said the deployment showed the Top End tourism industry was beginning to see the return on the Govt's investment into cruise tourism.

*L'Austral* is scheduled to return for another homeport season in Jul next year.

## Azamara train pact

**AZAMARA** Club Cruises has partnered with the Venice-Simplon Orient-Express train to offer a new inclusive pre- and post-cruise land & sea 2018 program in Europe.

Guests will be able to travel from London to Venice on the train pre-voyage or Venice to London post-voyage.

## Werften new build

**CONSTRUCTION** has begun on a new €80m shipbuilding hall at MV Werften in Rostock, Germany.

The facility is slated to be operational in 2018.

### Cruise Calendar

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

<b>SYDNEY</b>	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	17 Aug
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	17 Aug
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	19 Aug
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	21 Aug
<b>BRISBANE</b>	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	19 Aug
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	19 Aug
<i>Sun Princess</i>	20 Aug
<b>DARWIN</b>	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	20 Aug

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**A UKRAINIAN** man has learnt the hard way about the perils of falling sleep on an inflatable water toy, after he drifted out into the Black Sea.

Russian coastguards near Crimea found the "distressed" 19-year-old man on an inflatable trampoline after he had been drifting for three days.

Mykhaylo Doroshenko had fallen asleep on the toy in Kherson Region in southern Ukraine and was swept out to sea, travelling some 64km from where he originally dozed off.

Doroshenko told Russia's *Ren TV*, "on the second day, when I couldn't see the shore, I didn't think it was funny any more. I started crying, I was in shock."

He was treated in Crimea for sun stroke and dehydration, but is now on the path to recovery.