

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 24 Aug 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Eden's cracker season

**PACIFIC Eden** sailed into Cairns this morning, signalling the start of a record three-month homeported cruise season.

The recently refurbished vessel will sail on 10 roundtrip cruises from Cairns this year, including a mix of short breaks to Fraser Island and the Whitsundays and longer itineraries to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell said "It's now even easier for residents of Far North Qld to take a break and explore the idyllic remote beaches, culture and history found on the relatively untouched Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea".

Over 14,000 pax will sail on *Eden* between now & 06 Nov.

## Ponant expeditions brox

**PONANT** has released its first brochure dedicated to global expeditions, with a whopping 65 polar and tropical voyages scheduled to sail between Jun 2018-May 2019.

The 112-page Luxury Expeditions brochure includes itineraries to the Arctic, Iceland and Alaska in the north and to Antarctica, South Georgia and Chilean fjords in the south.

Inaugural expeditions of Ponant's new ships, *Le Champlain* & *Le Laperouse* feature in the release, with *Le Laperouse* to spend time down under during the season.

*Le Laperouse* will arrive in Australia in Jan on a 15-day sailing from Bali which ends in Cairns, before offering a food and wine cruise to Sydney.

In May the ship will end an Ancient Cultures of Papua New Guinea cruise in Cairns, followed by a sailing via PNG to Darwin.

Australia's Kimberley makes an appearance in the program, with *L'Austral* offering sailings to the region in Jul and Aug.

Monique Ponfoort, vp Ponant Asia Pacific said the voyages explore the outer reaches "yet they are done so with the comfort and the eco-responsibility befitting the world's youngest fleet of luxury expedition cruise ships".

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the brox.

## New look CW on Mon

**KEEP** your eyes peeled for a slick new look for **Cruise Weekly** starting next week.

The redesigned layout will zone in on the people behind the cruise industry, examine what's fresh and dive into the biggest issues facing Australia's cruise industry, along with unpacking all the latest news.

## Cruise360 kicks off

**CRUISE360** will kick off in Sydney tomorrow at the Hyatt Regency, featuring a packed program of speakers, masterclasses and networking.

The sold out event will include sessions led by international and local execs including Azamara ceo Larry Pimentel and Silversea ceo Roberto Martinoli.

**MEANWHILE**, Jan Swartz, group pres Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia will no longer be attending Cruise360 "due to a personal issue in the US".

In her place, Terry Thornton, svp commercial port operations and international, Carnival, will be delivering the Keynote "A Peek into the Future of the Cruise Guest Experience".

This year's event also includes a ship inspection on *Pacific Explorer* on Sat and an optional fam on the vessel.

There will be a special Cruise360 edition of **Cruise Weekly** on Mon.

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

**CLICK to read**  
**travelBulletin**



## MSC Seaview floats out



MSC Cruises and Fincantieri this week celebrated the "floating out" of the new *MSC Seaview*, with a ceremony (pictured) taking place at Italy's Monfalcone shipyard.

*Seaview* is the second of MSC's 'Seaside' generation of cruise ships, with a maximum capacity of almost 5,200 passengers.

Scheduled for a cruising debut

in Jun 2018, *MSC Seaview* will sail her inaugural season in the Mediterranean before sailing south to Brazil for the winter 2018-19 season.

MSC Cruises executive chairman Pierfrancesco Vago said the float out of *Seaview* was another significant milestone in the MSC fleet expansion, part of a 10 year investment plan which will see six new ships delivered by 2020.

Sister ship *MSC Seaside* is set to enter service this coming Nov.

## A decade of RCL in Australia

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises will celebrate its 10th year of sailing to Australian waters this year, promising agents and guests "some very special birthday surprises" throughout the season.

The first of six RCL ships to be based in Australia this season, *Radiance of the Seas* will arrive into Sydney on 08 Oct.

RCL Cruises managing director, Adam Armstrong said the debut of *Rhapsody of the Seas* 10 years ago marked "a new era" in cruising for Australia.

"And today, we make a commitment to Australians that they can expect continued excellence in cruising, and even bigger, better, bolder and more modern ships from Royal Caribbean for the next 10 years."

Royal Caribbean Int'l, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara will offer 97 cruises throughout Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Asia during the 2017/18 season.

MEANWHILE, product pricing on Royal Caribbean International's Pre Cruise Planner have been adjusted to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates.

The base US\$ price is the same but the strong Aussie dollar means the items are cheaper for Australian passengers.

## Flight Centre shuts Cruiseabout Canada

FLIGHT Centre this morning released its full year results, along with a transformation program currently under way to help improve performance.

A range of strategies to lift returns include the "removal of loss-making businesses," with progress so far including the closure of the company's cruise-focused Cruiseabout brand in Canada.



**THERE'S** nothing like a solar phenomenon to boost your popularity - at least if one of your hits is called *Total Eclipse of the Heart*.

Welsh pop star Bonnie Tyler - who was on board Royal Caribbean's *Oasis of the Seas* this week for a special voyage to view the solar eclipse in North American waters (CW 17 Aug) - is certainly enjoying her place in the (lack of) sun after her song hit the top of the iTunes charts.

Tyler's eyes would be particularly bright after Spotify saw plays of *Total Eclipse of the Heart* increase almost 3,000% in the USA, while iTunes sales of the US\$1.29 single also jumped 500% this week.

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## Carnival Spirit storm

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has assured *Carnival Spirit* was operating "well within capability" when it encountered high seas off the NSW coast last weekend.

*Spirit* was returning to Sydney from Mooloolaba with 2,550 guests on board, including 38 Australian travel agents who were on board for a Travel Agent Seminar at Sea.

CCL has advised photos of broken dishes posted on social media "need to be viewed in context," explaining "some dishes stored for the breakfast service falling to the floor after a storage container malfunctioned and spilled its contents in the early hours after most guests had retired for the night".

Pax were advised earlier by the Captain to expect strong winds & swell during the night due to the prevailing weather system.

CCL said "*Carnival Spirit* guests were in good spirits and praised the Captain and crew".

## World Dream floated

**DREAM** Cruises' second vessel, the *World Dream*, will float out of the Meyer Werft building dock in Papenburg, Germany this weekend.

The shipyard said extensive tests of the safety systems had been undertaken in recent weeks along with machine and equipment trials and interior works.

After leaving the dock the ship will berth at the adjacent pier to be fitted with its funnel.

*World Dream's* transit to the North Sea is scheduled for 09 Sep.

## Silversea snappers

**SILVERSEA** Cruises has announced a new "global creative partnership" with photographer Steve Curry, most famous for his haunting National Geographic pic of a green-eyed Afghan refugee.

The pact will see Curry chronicle Silversea's extensive fleet and portfolio expansion taking guests to the globe's farthest corners.

## Azamara gong for dynamic Dudley



**AZAMARA** Club Cruises has awarded the top gong for fourth quarter sales in Australia and New Zealand to cruise holiday specialist ecrusing.

Belle Osmic, bdm for Azamara Club Cruises Australia & New Zealand sales remarked that "it's a phenomenal achievement for a single agency", with both firms committed to further developing their long standing relationship.

**Pictured** is Belle Osmic and Brett Dudley, ecrusing's founder and chairman.

**MEANWHILE**, ecrusing's wholesale division CruiseAgents is providing a cash-back incentive of \$400 per booking for new reservations of its *Azamara*

*Journey Christmas* and New Year's package departing 23 Dec.

The 19-night itinerary from Hong Kong to Singapore is priced from \$5,959ppts and includes a 15-night cruise, pre- and post-cruise accommodation as well as return Economy airfares.

For details call 1300 558 864.

## AIDA Captain's Cruise

**AIDA** Cruises will hold its first Captain's Cruise sailing from Venice to Dubai on 15 Nov and hosted by Captain Hoppert.

The voyage will include 10 days at sea, during which Hoppert will attend events which revolve around sea travel and navigation.



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## Riviera's first Aussie famil



**RIVIERA** Travel hosted its first famil for the Australian travel industry on its European river ships ahead of its Aussie showcase at Cruise360 tomorrow.

Three reps from Cruise Traveller - which helps distribute Riviera Travel product in Australia - joined the seven-day famil on the Rhone River in France aboard the five-star river ship, *Lord Byron*.

Cruise Traveller's Sam Patton, product manager; Karen Revelle, bdm and Madeline Bielak, travel consultant, experienced Riviera's Burgundy, River Rhone and

Provence cruise.

Riviera Travel's sales manager for Australia Shelley Davey will host a booth at the CLIA Cruise360 Australasia Conference tomorrow and a CLIA webinar on 30 Aug.

Davey said "hosting the Cruise Traveller team was important as part of our bid to familiarise the Australian travel industry on our product and we'll be running more famil in the future as part of our solid commitment to Australian travel agents".

Sam Patton and Madeline Bielak are **pictured** in France.

## Lines eye off Harvey

**TROPICAL** Depression Harvey could become a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico on Fri and seas are forecast to increase to 14ft by Thu morning local time, the United States National Hurricane Centre (NHC) warned.

Royal Caribbean Cruises told **CW** it was currently monitoring the path of the storm and would inform guests and travel partners should any itinerary change.

Carnival Cruise Line said sailings on board *Carnival Paradise* from Tampa and *Carnival Breeze* from Galveston had been adjusted.

CCL was also monitoring the situation of the storm.

## Ovation roles named

**SEABOURN** has named Stig Betten as Captain of *Seabourn Ovation* and Helmut Huber as hotel director.

The vessel is scheduled to launch in Italy in May and will be sister ship to *Seabourn Encore*, which debuted in Dec.

## Celebrity partnership

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has partnered with the Regional Maritime University (RMU) in Ghana to launch the Celebrity Cadet Program.

The initiative will recruit female bridge officers and aims to "inspire and disrupt the social norms that burden female officers in western African nations, such as Ghana," said Patrik Dahlgren, svp of global marine operations, Celebrity Cruises.



AUSTRALIAN  
CRUISE  
ASSOCIATION

ACA  
UPDATE

with Jill Abel - CEO

## Viking Cruises into Aus

**WHEN** Matt Grimes from Viking Cruises speaks at ACA's conference in Sep, it will be six months prior to their newest ship, *Viking Sun* arriving into Australia. That visit, which kicks off in Feb 2018, is taking in seven ports including three in Queensland - home state to our conference this year.


The ship's visit also marks the company's exciting debut into Australian waters - the latest cruise line to recognise the growing importance of this region.

Viking's itineraries are created with fewer sea days and more time in port than any other cruise line. They are also very much focused on selecting curated shore excursions that are designed to showcase the best of the ports they visit.

That puts them squarely in line with ACA's belief that the destination is now a key focus for passengers when they are making decisions around their next cruise.

In his role, Matt is responsible for itinerary development and deployment. As such we welcome his insights during his presentation titled "A Different Approach", which will explain the offerings that set Viking apart & the opportunities the company brings to the destinations they will visit in Australia.

Last year we heard an inspiring presentation from Crystal Cruises on how they were growing their brand in this market. We look forward to hearing from Matt this year to continue that story and are delighted that Viking has chosen our Conference as their platform to do so.



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