

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 06 Jun 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Trimarchi to Uniworld

LINA Trimarchi has taken a new role with Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection as trade marketing executive.

She joins The Travel Corporation brand after three years as marketing manager with Cruise Office Australia.

## Borders close to Qatar

SAUDI Arabia and Bahrain have closed all sea, air and land borders with Qatar indefinitely and have severed diplomatic ties over Qatar's alleged involvement in funding Islamic militants.

MSC Cruises said it was reviewing the situation but there were currently no changes to its sailings to Qatar.

## MSC's new 'World Class'

MSC Cruises has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with STX France for two LNG-powered mega cruise ships, with options for two more.

The four vessels will form a new "World Class" category, featuring 2,760 cabins and a maximum occupancy of 6,850 guests - the highest in the fleet.

The first vessel is set to be delivered in 2022 and the second in 2024, while the options are for 2025 and 2026.

Featuring family-friendly villages, a panoramic aft and a glass pool lounge, the 330m-long vessels will be equipped with a new generation of LNG-powered engines and next generation waste water treatment system.

Making the announcement at the handover ceremony of *MSC Meraviglia* last week, MSC executive chairman Pierfrancesco Vago said "These new vessels will



further expand our partnership with STX France all the way to 2026, with up to seven additional innovative ships to be built during this period".

The World Class vessels will bring the number of ships in MSC's fleet built by STX France in Saint-Nazaire to 20.

MSC Cruises said the "Y" shape structure of the ships (pictured) will enable panoramic sea views and increase the proportion of balcony cabins.

Read more from MSC Cruises on [page three](#).

## Gold Coast port plans

A GOLD Coast homeport cruise ship terminal is one step closer, with the council last week agreeing to move to the next phase of planning followed by a project business case.

The study highlighted the potential for a cruise terminal to turn around a nearly 20% drop in domestic visitor numbers over past 10 years - the same period in which Australian cruise pax numbers increased by 480%.

Council is working with PwC and AECOM to assess feasibility of an ocean-side terminal close to the city's accom centres, including Surfers Paradise and Southport.

"A homeport would make the Gold Coast a serious contender in the cruise market, delivering up to 480,000 visitor night stays annually," Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said.

The facility could include a 900m-long jetty capable of hosting two ships up to 364m.

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Compare the range of onboard thrills available in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

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**travelBulletin**

## CRUISE WEEKLY

en route to HKG to preview **Norwegian Joy**

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which will showcase its new *Norwegian Joy* at a special event in Hong Kong tomorrow.

**AFTER** an earlier unveiling in Singapore, Norwegian's newest vessel *Norwegian Joy* is now in Hong Kong, with a VIP preview event taking place at the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to highlight the features of "the first-ever contemporary cruise ship custom-built for China".

*Joy* features a host of innovations including a go-kart track, karaoke booths, virtual reality simulators and a "serenity park" for those wanting to take a break from the action - see Thu's issue of *Cruise Weekly* for all the details.

## River lines pulling ahead

APT and Scenic have dominated the river cruise space in *Cruise Weekly's* 2017 Cruise Industry Survey, showing a strong lead over rivals in agent perceptions.

The two operators top the list of the most frequently sold river cruise lines, backed by their high-profile advertising campaigns.

Prepared by Stollznow Research for *Cruise Weekly*, the survey has been compiled from the responses of 350 travel agents around the country (*CW* 30 May).

It shows APT and Scenic are the most commonly booked river cruise lines among Australian agents, with 61% saying they make regular sales of both.

They were followed by Travelmarvel, regularly sold by 40%, Avalon Waterways (39%), Viking (31%), Evergreen/Emerald (30%) and Uniworld (28%).

Scenic is the line most often asked for by name, agents say, followed by APT and Viking.

APT was said to offer the best commissions, ahead of Scenic and Uniworld, while Crystal River Cruises was best for sales rep service, tied with AmaWaterways.

To enquire about the full report, **CLICK HERE**.

## RCI Lifou calls back

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's *Voyager of the Seas* and *Explorer of the Seas* will return to Lifou this summer cruise season, after 26 calls by the vessels to Lifou last season were cancelled due to the tender pier being unable to safely receive the larger ships (*CW* 20 Sep).

In a statement, RCI says it is "working closely with local authorities in New Caledonia to develop a solution to tender port infrastructure limitations in order to ensure our two larger *Voyager Class* ships can visit".

## P&O's agent fares

**TRAVEL** agents now have access to a Flagship Fare, a permanent 20% discount on P&O Cruises' "Go" fares.

The Flagship Fare allows agents to book a variety of cruises across the fleet year-round and the discount extends to guests staying in the same room as the agent.

P&O Cruises said the fares would allow agents to plan their holidays in advance, rather than waiting for late availability.

The industry rate can be booked via the Flagship website - head to [flagship.pocruises.com.au](http://flagship.pocruises.com.au).

## Scenic 2018 brochure

**SCENIC** has unveiled its 2018 The Natural Wonders of Canada, Alaska & USA brochure, detailing the operator's tours and cruises in the region.

New to the line up is the 21-day Breathtaking Alaska & Canadian Rockies which includes an 11-day sailing on *Seabourn Sojourn*.

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## Brochure Spotlight

### Princess Cruises - Alaska and the Americas 2018/19



**THE** 2018/19 Alaska & the Americas brochure for Princess Cruises details both cruises and land and sea holidays in Alaska. Also packed into the new release are sailings in America, the Caribbean, Panama Canal, South America, Canada & New England and Mexican Riviera & California coast. The brochure highlights the on board offering, including the benefits of the introduction of the Ocean Medallion, such as storing preferences to make recommendations, the ability to use it as a room key & to keep track of your group on the ship using location-based services.

## MSC Meraviglia christened



**ACTRESS** and godmother of all of MSC Cruises' ships, Sophia Loren, christened *MSC Meraviglia* on Sat in a ceremony at Le Havre.

The event culminated when Loren cut the ceremonial ribbon and named the vessel as the champagne smashed on the hull and fireworks signalled the end of the christening (pictured).

A lavish gala dinner prepared by two-star Michelin chef H  l  ne Daroze followed.

MSC Cruises is working to extend the collaboration with the chef and establish a partnership.

The vessel then commenced her maiden voyage from Le Havre to Genoa where she will cruise around the western Med.

## Royal solar eclipse

**ROYAL** Caribbean International is holding a seven-night Total Eclipse Cruise on *Oasis of the Seas* featuring a concert performed by a yet-to-be-announced headliner.

The Caribbean sailing will cruise to the optimal spot at sea for guests to observe the total solar eclipse on 21 Aug.

*Oasis* will depart Port Canaveral on 20 Aug and visit eastern Caribbean destinations.

## Cost of cutting Cuba

**THE** United States stands to lose US\$6.6 billion over four years if the Trump Administration reverses current Cuba policies, an economic impact analysis released by Engage Cuba shows.

The biggest loss would come from air travel, at US\$1,990m, followed by cruise at US\$1,520m.

There are roughly 140 commercial cruises scheduled for 2017 from the US to Cuba which could carry up to 205,000 pax to the country this year, amounting to over US\$200m in revenue.

## P&O's whopper NZ

**P&O** Cruises has added five more voyages to its record season of sailings from Auckland next year, racking up a total of 22 roundtrip cruises from NZ.

The cruise line released details of its extended six-month 2018 program last week - its largest New Zealand program to date - with *Pacific Jewel* to be based in Auckland from Mar to Aug.



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### HAL Oprah sailing

**AUTHOR** Elizabeth Strout, comedian Rita Rudner and *O, The Oprah Magazine* books editor Leigh Haber will join Holland America Line and *O, The Oprah Magazine's* Share the Adventure special sailing on 15 Jul.

The new additions will join Oprah on the seven-day Alaskan cruise - **CLICK HERE** for more.

### Constellation emerges

**CELEBRITY** Cruises' *Celebrity Constellation* is sporting a new look following a two-week drydock last month (**CW** 09 May).

Some rooms on the vessel were fitted with the Infinite Veranda, a window that drops down into a veranda which is also planned for *Celebrity Edge*.

Every Penthouse and Royal Suite has also been refreshed with a new powder room, updated fixtures, plush furniture and linen.

The rooftop terrace has been fitted to the vessel, offering the Taste of Film at night and new dining options Top Deck Burger Bar and Sushi on 5 introduced.



### Cruise Calendar

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

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	09 Jun
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Jun
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	08 Jun
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	09 Jun
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	12 Jun

### Blues take over P&O



**CLOSE** to 2,000 New South Wales supporters were on board P&O Cruises' first Blues Cruise last week on *Pacific Jewel*.

The seven-day return sailing delivered a shipload of fans to Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium for the State of Origin game, boosting NSW supporters at the stadium by around 50%.

Fans were joined on board by footy legends Steve Menzies, Steve Mortimer, Eric Grothe, Steve Price and Brent Tate.

The cruise features footy-themed activities throughout such as Origin trivia hosted by Fox

Sports presenter Steve Hart, State of Origin touch footy on Moreton Island plus photo opportunities and Q&A sessions with the former players.

**Pictured** on *Jewel* are: Steve Price; *Pacific Jewel* entertainment director Sandy Cadwallader; Steve Menzies and Steve Hart.

### STX France review

**FRENCH** President Emmanuel Macron intends to review the terms of the deal to sell a large stake in STX France to Fincantieri, *Reuters* are reporting.

### Cruise ship park LOI

**FINCANTIERI** has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with China State Shipbuilding Corporation and with Shanghai City's district of Baoshan to create a cruise ship industrial park.

Under the agreement, when it is economically feasible, the three parties will engage for the creation of a cruise hub for activities and shipbuilding.

### Globus appoints GTI

**GLOBUS** family of brands has appointed GTI Tourism as its Australian public relations firm.

The Globus brands include river cruise operator Avalon Waterways.

GTI Tourism will work to drive and build the profile of the company via consumer and trade media channels, as well as famils and profiling opportunities.



### ARE you a Star Trekker?

If so, you might want to sit down as the line-up for the two *Star Trek: The Cruise II* sailings have been unveiled.

The cast features George Takei, Vaughn Armstrong, Rene Auberjonois, Casey Biggs, LeVar Burton, Jeffrey Combs, John de Lancie, Michael Dorn, Jonathan Frakes, and many others.

*Star Trek: The Cruise II* will depart from Miami, with guests sailing on board *Norwegian Jade* in Jan (**CW** 22 Jan).

Takei will serve as the host of both week-long cruises.

Guests will interact with the actors, take part in themed shows and events.

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