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# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 02 Mar 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front full page wrap from HAL.

## Viking info sessions

**THIS** month Viking Cruises is holding three information sessions designed to introduce guests to the brand's new ocean and river cruise itineraries as well as its ships.

Attendees will receive exclusive specials and sessions will be held in Melbourne (23 Mar, Grand Hyatt), Brisbane (28 Mar, Pullman King George Square) and Sydney (04 Apr, Primus Hotel).

Each day there will be two sessions on river cruising and ocean cruising.

River cruising sessions will be held from 10-11am and 2-3pm, while ocean cruising will be 12-1pm and 6-7pm.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

## Collette eyes cruise agnts

**COLLETTE** is having "great success" working with agents who are strong in cruising to add on a pre- or post-cruise land-based tour, Alison Mead, the company's Australian business manager, told *Cruise Weekly*.

In the next six weeks Collette will have released all of its product through until Apr 2019, a move Mead said had been fuelled by the early-release of cruising programs and designed to allow agents to pair up land and cruise departures.

"Cruising is competing with us but we like to think that we're working together with them," Mead said.

The company offers a number of Spotlight tours (single city stays) in major port cities such as New York & Rome which tie in with cruise arrivals or departures.

Collette offers some river cruise departures on Luftner

Cruises' vessels, but Mead said the company was not looking at having its own ships.

"Not owning our own boats means that we don't have the high risk," she said.

"If we don't fill it or we want to change it to the next season we don't have to worry about what we're going to do with this hardware," Mead added, reinforcing that Collette was "absolutely focussed on land-based touring".

## McEvoy out of Fairfax

**CHAIRMAN** of the Board at SeaLink Travel Group, Andrew McEvoy has resigned from his role as managing director of life media & events at Fairfax Media, *Mumbrella* is reporting.

Prior to Fairfax, McEvoy spent four years as managing director of Tourism Australia.

## Ponton on Carnival

**HEALTH** and fitness expert Shannan Ponton will jump back on board Carnival Cruise Line in Oct this year, with a special fitness-themed cruise.

Guests will be able to participate in Ponton's Biggest Bootcamp on the top decks on an eight-night roundtrip cruise to New Caledonia, sailing out of Sydney on 10 Oct.

During the cruise Ponton will also host a nutrition seminar.

## Uniworld upgrade

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruise Collection has launched a "You Deserve the Best Upgrade" promo for select Europe, India and Vietnam trips in 2017.

The deal includes stateroom upgrades and Economy return airfares to Europe from \$499, while free Economy airfares are offered to Vietnam or India.

Book by 30 Apr to avail the deal.

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## RCL 2016 earnings

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises achieved a 25% rise in earnings for the full year 2016 & is predicting a fifth successive year of double digit earnings growth in 2017.

The company reported its US GAAP net income of \$1.28 billion, versus \$665.8 million in 2015.

Constant-currency and as-reported net yields are expected to be up 4.5% to 5.0% and approximately 5.0%, respectively, in the first quarter of 2017 from demand in Australia for *Ovation of the Seas* and in the Caribbean for *Harmony of the Seas*.

**MEANWHILE**, in Feb Royal Caribbean Int'l & Celebrity Cruises settled all claims related to alleged violations of the Alaska Marine Visible Emission Standards that occurred over the previous 5 years on certain vessels.

The company agreed to pay an undisclosed amount and to perform certain remedial actions.

## Disney river cruises

**ADVENTURES** by Disney has released new themed offerings for its 2018 European river cruises sailing with AmaWaterways.

*Six Beauty and the Beast* departures are scheduled for the Rhine River, while the line's Danube River cruise will have an adults-only Oktoberfest sailing in Sep 2018 - **CLICK HERE**.

## Film makers cruise

**WILDLIFE** film makers, Karen Bass and Neil Nightingale will join One Ocean Expeditions on three cruises across the Antarctic and Canadian Arctic in 2017 and 2018.

The pair will offer pax advice and personalised workshops.

They will be on the Falkland Islands, South Georgia & Antarctica 18 Oct 2017 departure, Canada's East Coast Fins & Fiddles (14 Jul 2018) and Labrador & Torngat Explorer (24 Jul 2018).

## ACL's new riverboats



**AMERICAN** Cruise Lines has unveiled details and a rendering (**pictured**) of the first of five riverboats in a new class which is scheduled to sail from 2018.

Accommodating 200 passengers, the new riverboat will be 105m long and feature the largest staterooms in the US.

"For over a decade, we have led the way with ship innovation in the United States and we continue to raise the bar with this new class of modern riverboats," said Timothy Beebe, vice pres of American Cruise Lines.

"American Cruise Lines has consistently pursued its newbuild program, as it considers refurbished boats unable to meet the modern expectations of today's river cruise passengers."

Construction of the new riverboat is underway at

Chesapeake Shipbuilding in Salisbury, Maryland.

The cruise line is building two more vessels with the shipbuilder, *American Constellation*, due in May 2017 and its sister ship, which will sail from 2018.

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## Expedition to Alaska

**SEABOURN** has announced its expedition team ahead of the 2017 Alaska cruise season.

Peter Damisch, historian and lecturer, heads up the team and is joined by photographers who will offer coaching.

The expedition will feature lectures on topics such as whale identification, brown and black bears, and tribal culture.

Seabourn will welcome guests aboard *Seabourn Sojourn* for a series of 11- to 14-day itineraries from Vancouver and Anchorage between Jun and Sep.

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## Makassar swapped

P&O Cruises has dropped calls in Makassar, Indonesia to make room for an overnight stay in Bali on two 12-day cruises sailing from Fremantle on 09 Apr and 28 May (CW Tue).



### INTERNATIONAL Women's Day just keeps on giving.

Star Cruises has revealed it will commemorate the occasion - which has been set aside to help forge a more inclusive, gender equal working world - by helping women work on their looks.

The cruise line will this month hold seminars on board *SuperStar Virgo* hosted by top model Wang Yiyi and her team, teaching pax about "physical movement, facial expressions, grooming & photogenic skills".

To top it off, women can put their new skills to the test in the "Miss Photogenic Contest".

Not forgetting that "a true lady would not be satisfied with outer beauty alone", the cruise line said it will also run flower arrangement classes to help a woman to "enrich herself with knowledge & skills to amplify her inner beauty".

Also on offer this month to empower women are staterooms which feature agarwood incense, Cheongsam (a traditional dress) tea parties, and a complimentary professional photography service on designated departure dates.



## Viking Sky's maiden voyage

**VIKING** Ocean Cruises' *Viking Sky* has set sail on its maiden voyage, departing from Rome's Civitavecchia port to Barcelona.

The third ship in Viking's Ocean Cruises' fleet carries 930 passengers and is nearly identical to sister ships *Viking Star* and *Viking Sea*.

The 47,800 tonne ship *Viking Sky* begins her season by sailing throughout the Western and Eastern Mediterranean, before making her way to be officially christened under Norway's midnight sun on 22 Jun in Tromsø as a nod to Viking's Norwegian heritage.

### Strand theme cruises

**THE** Strand Cruise has announced dates for new themed cruises in Myanmar.

Following on from its first classical music voyage along Myanmar's Irrawaddy River last month, *The Strand* will host a series of cruises on its four-night Bagan-Mandalay itinerary.

Themes include culinary, a photography cruise and classic music sailings with musicians from Opéra de Paris and Orchestre de Paris.

She will then spend the European summer sailing Scandinavian and Baltic itineraries before crossing the Atlantic in Sep, and finishing the year in the Americas and the Caribbean.

### Wildlife cruise lecture

**PAUL** Gauguin Cruises has announced a partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society for a lecture series as part of the new Wildlife Discovery Series program aboard *The Gauguin*, which will allow guests to learn about marine wildlife and habitats.


The lecture will be presented by scientists Emily Darling and Sangeeta Mangubhai.

### Growth for Cruises

**RESEARCH** from the US shows solid growth for cruise bookings in 2017 according to Travel Leaders Group Survey.

Nearly 87% of travel agents who book cruise vacations stated that their 2017 cruise bookings were equal to or higher than the previous year.

For US travellers, Caribbean, Alaska and European cruises were the most popular destinations.



## CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

### Are you a CLIA Accredited travel agent?

**THE** CLIA Cruise Accreditation Program was established to support consultants to develop their cruise industry knowledge and superior selling skills, and is recognised as the industry benchmark for consultants wishing to specialise in the cruise sector.

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