

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### RCI reclass cabins

**ROYAL** Caribbean will introduce fleet-wide changes to stateroom names and deck plan codes in an effort to make “ship categories easier to understand and more marketable,” the cruise line said.

The structure will introduce new category codes, “intuitive category names” and changes based on stateroom attributes, size, location and occupancy.

RCI swapped the term “family” for “spacious” or “ultra spacious” for high occupancy staterooms, noting the rooms “are not only appealing to family travellers but also other groups of individuals”.

From tomorrow 08 Mar, the updates will be reflected in the opened deployment for the 2018-2019 season.

## Intrepid’s adventure cruising takes off

**INTREPID** Group’s adventure cruise program will be ramped up and enter into new markets in 2018/19, building on the success of a program endorsed by agents.

Managing director-turned-ceo, James Thornton said Peregrine’s small ship Adventure Cruising program had proven ripe for the picking for travellers who hadn’t considered themselves as traditional cruise customers.

Launched in Nov, the Adventure Cruising comprises 10 itineraries, based on “boats” with a maximum of 50 passengers, in destinations including Croatia, Greece, Spain, Iceland, Portugal and Cuba.

“We have been quite successful and surprised by the strength of the initial uptake,” Thornton told *Cruise Weekly* yesterday.

“I guess we pondered new areas post-TUI we could move into,” he said, referring to the split from the travel giant 20 months ago.

“Could we create a style of travel that delivers some of the benefits of cruising in terms of unpacking once, returning to your own cabin each night without having to change locations and waking in a new place each day?”

Due to its size, adventure cruises are able to obtain access to ports large cruise ships cannot reach, with disembarkation “quick and seamless”.

He said there was a gap in the market for genuine local experiences that benefit travellers and the people they visit, such as enabling pax to sample local food from local businesses, rather than on the ship itself.

“The boat isn’t the highlight, the destination is the highlight.”

Thornton had a dig at large ship operators and their impact on communities they visit.

“Arguably, it’s not the most sustainable way to get around

and see a place.

“Two-thousand passengers suddenly arrive in a location and are in port one day and it’s often having a detrimental impact on certain places in the world.”

Thornton cited the situation in Venice which is “struggling to cope” with cruise ship demand.

He said Intrepid was keen to get a larger slice of the cruise market, building on its modest program to polar regions, the Galapagos and Croatia coastal cruising, available through Intrepid and Peregrine.

“For a number of years we did quite well...but this is a different style to which we’ve offered before under the Peregrine brand, with each cruise carbon-offset.”

“The Australian travel trade has really gotten behind it and is supporting our ambitions.”

Expect to see Southeast Asia and Central America added to the program next year, he told *CW*.

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New CLIA MD Joel Katz spills the beans on his top selling tips. Don't get left behind, check out the March issue of *travelBulletin*.



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## MSC Dubai-Japan trip

MSC Cruises has announced its first foray into Japan, with a 28-night *MSC Splendida* cruise departing Dubai on 31 Mar 2018.

The itinerary will include Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Colombo, Phuket, Langkawi, Penang, Port Klang, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong and Shanghai before concluding in Yokohama, Japan.

Reduced rates and \$100 on board credit are available until 13 Mar, prices lead in at A\$2,619pp. For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Agents enjoy Oceania Sirena



**THIS** group of cruise experts were among a horde of travel industry people who were hosted aboard Oceania Cruises' *Oceania Sirena* in Sydney yesterday.

The agents met with vice president of sales, Lisa Pile and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Asia-Pacific md Steve Odell after a tour of the 684-passenger vessel which is visiting Australia for the first time.

Odell confirmed that Australia is now Oceania's second biggest global market after the USA, with the local office overtaking the UK in just the last week or so.

*Sirena* set off last night full of excited Aussie passengers for a 34-night circumnavigation of the country visiting destinations such as Kangaroo Island, Tasmania, Broome and the Whitsundays - as well as calls in Bali, Komodo and Papua New Guinea.

The ship is fresh from a US\$50 million makeover and offers four gourmet restaurants, six lounges and bars and an on board Canyon Ranch SpaClub.

The group **pictured** were hosted for lunch in the Grand Dining Room, while *Sirena* also offers the new Red Ginger Asian-inspired eatery on the top deck, alongside the new Tuscan Steak culinary concept which is inspired by Oceania's popular Polo Grill steakhouse and the Toscana Italian restaurant.

Odell said the Oceania brand was particularly popular with local cruisers because it "suits our lifestyle" with casual informality, no jackets or ties and extensive culinary offerings.

Public areas aboard *Sirena* have been totally revamped from her former identity as Princess Cruises' *Pacific Princess*, while accommodations have also been upgraded with new beds in every cabin featuring Oceania's signature mattresses.

The Australian circumnavigation will be followed by a 14-day trans-Tasman cruise and then *Sirena* will head across the Pacific for her North American summer sailing season.

## Agents turn to Isaac

**PRINCESS** Cruises says its 'Ask Isaac' click-to-chat service is increasingly popular with travel agents, with the system fielding over 84,000 queries since it launched in Australia in late 2015.

Named after Isaac from the TV series *The Love Boat*, the platform has earned the Princess team a Best Improvement Project award at last month's Contact Centre Excellence Awards.

The service is available through [www.onesourcecruises.com](http://www.onesourcecruises.com).



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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

AGENT  
UPDATE

Tuesday 07 Mar 2017



## Brochure Spotlight

### Coral Expeditions - Tasmania



**CORAL** Expeditions' 2018 Tasmania brochure details seven-night coastal expedition voyages departing Jan-Mar. On board the refurbished *Coral Discoverer*, the sailings explore the Freycinet Peninsula, Maria Island National Park, Tasman National Park & more.

### Destiny godmother

**EVERGREEN** Waterways' cruise product *Emerald Waterways* has chosen newscaster Coleen Christie to be its first Canadian godmother, for *Emerald Destiny*.

Lisa Norton, vp of brand management for *Emerald Waterways North America* said "Canada is a strong market for us, and Ms. Christie's impeccable reputation as a newscaster along with dedication to charitable work makes her an excellent fit".

### G Adventures sale

**G ADVENTURES** is running a Great Expedition sale offering savings of up to 15% across Arctic, Antarctic and Norway expedition voyages.

Tours on sale include the *Realm of the Polar Bear* (priced from \$3,869pp), *Antarctica Classic* (from \$1,239pp) and *Norwegian Fjords & Arctic Discovery* (from \$5,354 per person). Visit [gadventures.com](http://gadventures.com).

## Norwegian Joy's float out



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's first ship custom-designed for China, *Norwegian Joy* was floated out of Meyer Werft's covered building dock over the weekend.

"We are thrilled that *Norwegian Joy* is now one step closer to delivery and one step closer to delivering on our promise to create a First Class at Sea experience for our Chinese guests," said David J. Herrera, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings China president.

The vessel will now move into the final phase of construction & delivery will take place 27 Apr.

*Norwegian Joy* is pictured above in Papenburg, Germany.

### Viking ocean brox

**VIKING** Cruises has released its 2017-19 ocean brochure, including 13 new itineraries to Alaska, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and South America.

New additions in local waters include the 15-day Australia & New Zealand and 17-day Komodo & the Australian Coast.

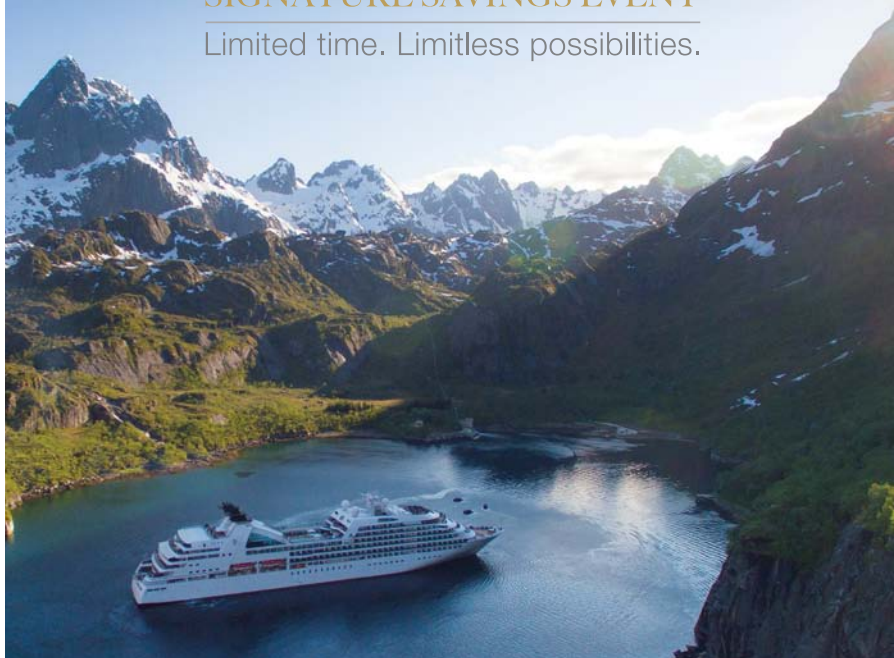
The release is being supported by a series of TV commercials which kicked off over the weekend and will run over nine weeks on metro and regional free to air and digital channels.

Viking Cruises has also changed its Australian reservations number to 138 747.



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## Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Emerald Princess</i>	07 Mar
<i>Sun Princess</i>	07 Mar
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	08 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Mar
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	09 Mar
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	10 Mar
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	12 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	13 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	13 Mar
<i>Costa Luminosa</i>	13 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	12 Mar
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	13 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>MS Sirena</i>	08 Mar
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	10 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	11 Mar
CAIRNS	
<i>MS Insignia</i>	09 Mar
<i>MS Sirena</i>	11 Mar
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	12 Mar
DARWIN	
<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	09 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Mar
<i>MS Insignia</i>	13 Mar
ADELAIDE	
<i>Astor</i>	09 Mar
HOBART	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	11 Mar

## TUI UK-based ship

BRITISH travel giant Thomson will base its *TUI Discovery* cruise ship in the United Kingdom for the first time next year.

*Discovery* will be homeported in Newcastle, UK from May 2018, operating Baltic itineraries taking in the Norwegian fjords and cities including Stockholm, Tallinn and Reykjavik.

Later in the year the ship will move to Southampton to operate a series of European voyages.

## Staiger to Silversea

BARBARA Staiger has been appointed as vice president of strategic partners for Silversea Cruises in the Americas, moving on after 23 years with Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

## RCI WOW sale

ROYAL Caribbean's Worldwide WOW sale is offering discounts up to 30% for sailings departing after 15 Mar.

Bookings more than 70 days in advance can access 50% reduced deposits and up to US\$200 on board credit per stateroom.

Guests sailing for five nights or less will receive US\$50 on board credit per stateroom and passengers booked on six- to nine-night stays will receive US\$100 per stateroom.

Sale ends Sat 11 Mar.

For more information, head to [www.royalcaribbean.com.au](http://www.royalcaribbean.com.au).

## Splendor slow speed

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has confirmed that its *Carnival Splendor* is affected by a technical issue which is impacting its maximum cruising speed.

Itineraries last week and this week have been modified.

In a statement, Carnival said a full assessment is being conducted "of the repairs and time required to restore the ship's maximum speed and the cruise line is working through potential implications for cruises departing March 12 and 19".

## SeaDream 10% off

SEADREAM Yacht Club says it's seeing increasing numbers of Australians undertaking back-to-back sailings, and is offering 10% savings for the second week on these 14-day itineraries.

The twin *SeaDream I* and *SeaDream II* carry 112 guests served by 95 crew, priced from US\$4,926pp per seven day trip.

For more information, email [jdenovan@seadream.com](mailto:jdenovan@seadream.com).

## P&O dance lessons

REDED (Raw Energy Dance Education) has confirmed it will return to P&O's *Pacific Jewel*, offering free on board dance lessons to kids from 07-23 Apr.

The program was a huge success over Jan aboard *Pacific Pearl* with about 350 children taking part in daily dance classes.

## CCC Vivid cruises

FROM 26 May-17 Jun, Captain Cook Cruises will operate a range of special sailings to celebrate Sydney's Vivid festival.

CCC will offer hourly cruises for \$39pp, departing nightly at 6.45pm and 9.15pm, and guests can enjoy a three-course dinner at 5.00pm or 7.30pm.

*MV Sydney 2000* and *MV John Cadman II* are the official 'Harbour Lights' vessels.

For further info, [CLICK HERE](#).

## PORTHOLE

THE Cat in the Hat was on board *Carnival Spirit* last week (pictured) to celebrate the birthday of author Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Carnival Cruise Line hosted fleetwide activities to pay tribute to what would have been Dr Seuss' 113th birthday.

Activities to mark the occasion include face painting, arts and crafts and appearances by popular characters by popular characters from Dr. Seuss' books.

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