

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 16 May 2017

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from AA Appointments.

Explorer incentive

P&O Cruises is offering six travel agents a chance to be among the first to taste its soon-to-debut ship *Pacific Explorer*.

Through its Flagship Achievers program, the line is offering six twin-share balcony rooms on the ship's one-night showcase cruise on Wed 21 Jun.

Agents who chalk up the highest revenue booked on any *Pacific Explorer* sailings deposited by 28 May will be in the running.

The top-sellers will have a chance to try new on board offerings including Luke Mangan's pool-side grill Luke's and the Archie Rose Distilling Co's Bonded Store small bar.

For full details [CLICK HERE](#).

New cruising highs: CLIA

THE Australian cruise market has continued its sharp incline, recording a growth of 222,378 passengers in 2016 on the prior year, the biggest on record.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia yesterday released its 2016 Australian Ocean Passenger Cruise Industry Source Market Report, revealing more Aussies per capita take a cruise than anywhere in the world.

The figures show domestic cruises continue to surge, with local cruisers growing by 23.4% in 2016 on 2015.

The South Pacific proved the most popular destination for Aussie cruisers, attracting more than 42% of ocean cruise pax, followed by Australia at 26% and New Zealand (8.3%).

Australia's 21% growth in pax numbers (CW breaking news) was only surpassed by the emerging

market of China, and then New Zealand but was still well ahead of established markets such as Germany (11.3%).

Carnival Australia exec chairman Ann Sherry said that within the growth was a "cautionary tale", emphasising the future growth of the cruise industry in Australia relied on port infrastructure challenges being addressed, particularly in Sydney.

Similarly, RCL Cruises md Adam Armstrong declared "We are now at the cross roads of the future of cruising in Australia".

"In order to continue to capitalise on the very significant economic benefits that cruising brings, the government and people of Australia, particularly NSW, now have the opportunity to review the berthing capacity for big ships in Sydney, east of the Harbour Bridge," he concluded.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full report.

Katz adds Asia to role

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia managing director Joel Katz has recently added Asia to his portfolio of responsibilities.

CLIA Australasia said Katz's role in Asia would include managing member services, as well as member engagement.

The association has already begun rolling out travel agent memberships in India, with Indonesia and Singapore to follow next month.

Initial services will be operated out of Sydney, while the Pan-Asian board is being established, as well as the Asian office.

Royal 2018/19 delay

ROYAL Caribbean International's 2018/19 summer season, due to go on sale today, has been pushed back until early Jun, with the line promising more information in coming weeks.

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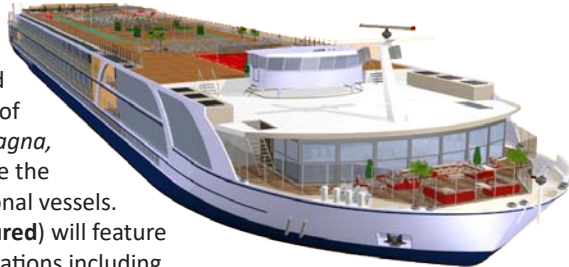
*Combination of offers valid on Oceanview Staterooms and above. Offers correct as at 15 May 2017 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Offers end 25 May 2017 unless extended. For full terms & conditions, visit ncl.com.au.



Step on board Uniworld's newest ship in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

APT AmaMagna set for 2019



APT and AmaWaterways have announced the 2019 debut of the new *AmaMagna*, a river ship twice the width of traditional vessels.

The ship (pictured) will feature a range of innovations including a quieter and more fuel-efficient engine and an open-water sports platform which will be equipped with Zodiac boats, canoes and recreational equipment.

Its larger size means there is significantly more space for public areas, restaurants and a spa, with *AmaMagna* to also feature a large heated sundeck swimming pool with whirlpool and sky bar.

APT Travel Group managing director Chris Hall said "as our guests' appetite for luxury river cruising continues to grow, APT and AmaWaterways will lead the way in industry innovation".

"*AmaMagna* will provide guests with generous personal space, the freedom of multiple dining choices and exceptional stateroom comfort.

"Combining this with our award-winning cuisine, signature and exclusive shore excursions and remarkable on board service, we feel this ship is a game-changer," Hall enthused.

The ship will have a total of 97 staterooms, the majority of which will be over 28m².

There will be an al fresco glass-enclosed restaurant, more onboard activities and enhanced evening entertainment, he said.

"Our guests deserve the very best and we are always thinking about new opportunities that will give them the vacation of a lifetime...now is the perfect time for us to introduce a new concept of luxurious European river cruising," Hall added.

The ship's width means it will not be able to traverse locks, so *AmaMagna* is set to operate on the lower Danube with the ability to cruise to the Black Sea.

APT expects to release itineraries for the new ship by the end of the month.

APT and AmaWaterways have also confirmed another new ship to operate on the Rhine/Main/Danube in 2019, the *AmaMora*.

The *AmaMora* will be a sister ship to the *AmaKristina* which was christened last week.

OOE influencers prog

ONE Ocean Expeditions has announced a new program of on-board speakers and influencers aboard its polar expeditions.

The program includes guests from areas including education science and adventure, such as Canadian Olympians Kelly Vanderbeek and David Ford.

Viking US agent policy

VIKING Cruises has introduced a new policy prohibiting travel agents in the United States from advertising or promoting any Viking product for less than the published rate.

The rule also specifies that agents must not promote, market or provide cash or non-cash marketing incentives on any Viking product, without Viking's prior written consent.

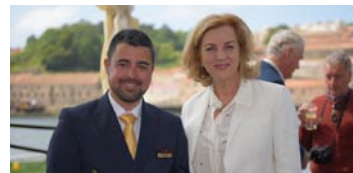
Viking confirmed the new policy does not affect Australian agents.

Chimu's polar deals

CHIMU Adventures is offering charter specials for 2017/18 and earlybird deals on selected 2018/19 departures.

Savings of up to 25% are available on numerous charters, while earlybirds deals on the *Le Boreal* fleet are offering up to a 30% discount - **CLICK HERE**.

Scenic Azure debut



POPULAR Australian performer and writer Jean Kittson became godmother to Scenic's 96 pax, 48 cabin *Scenic Azure*, which will sail on Portugal's Douro River.

Scenic said it was the first line to own and operate a purpose built river cruise ship in the region.

Azure joins Scenic's fleet of 16 luxury river cruise ships.

Pandaw's new club

PANDAW River Expeditions has launched a new members club for its past guests who have future travel plans.

The new club allows loyal Pandaw fans to enjoy an array of special privileges including a free wine package, laundry credit, discounts & other special offers.

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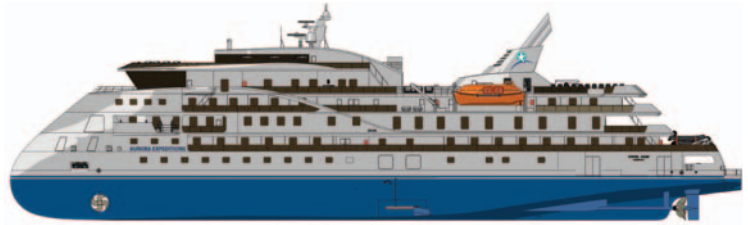


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Aurora's first ever newbuild



Evergreen Destiny christened



EMERALD Waterways, sister brand of Evergreen Cruises & Tours, has christened *Emerald Destiny*, the final of its three new European ships for 2017. The occasion was marked last week with a christening ceremony in Vienna, officiated by the ship's godmother, Canadian broadcaster Coleen Christie. *Emerald Destiny* will sail through

the heart of Europe on the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers. Angus Crichton, gm Evergreen Cruises & Tours said the three new ships represented a 75% increase in fleet size. Evergreen/Emerald Waterways owner, Glen Moroney (founder and chairman of parent company, Scenic) is **pictured** second from left with Christie and guests.

AURORA Expeditions, the Australian polar cruise pioneer established by mountaineer Greg Mortimer and his wife Margaret, is set to chart a new course in cruising with the construction of the company's first ever purpose-built expedition vessel (**CW** breaking news).

The class 1A ship will be the first expedition newbuild from SunStone Ships, which in Mar inked an agreement to build four expedition vessels, with options for six more ships (**CW** 21 Mar).

SunStone told **Cruise Weekly** the ship will be on a long term, year-round charter to Aurora Expeditions, and will be exclusively for Aurora.

The vessel will use an X-BOW hull design to improve fuel efficiency and make travelling in rough waters more comfortable.

The yet-to-be-named ship will feature a water level Zodiac platform for multiple daily shore visits, as well as facilities for kayakers, divers, climbers & skiers

- and in between adventures pax will return to the "warm, friendly and inclusive on board atmosphere for which Aurora Expeditions is well known".

The ship will be delivered in time for the 2019/20 Antarctic season, with itineraries available later this year.

HAL's record season

HOLLAND America Line has wrapped up one of its most successful local seasons, sailing a record 22 full voyages and 32 sectors around Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific during the 2016/17 period.

The season broke a series of records, including the number of homeport departures, the int'l guests visiting the region and the amount of ship inspections for agents and media.

The upcoming 2017/18 cruise season will just fall short of the 2016/17 record, offering 20 full voyages and 32 sectors.

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Seven Seas Explorer Gala feed



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) and Monaco Government Tourism & Convention Authority came together last week to mark one year since the christening of *Seven Seas Explorer*. NCLH svp and managing director Asia Pacific, Steve Odell said the ship's return to Monaco marked a successful first year of voyages on

both sides of the Atlantic. **Picture** are: Andrew Cannon, honorary consul of Monaco; Steve Odell; Lisa Pile, vp sales Australia & NZ RSSC; Guillaume Brahimi, chef; Alison Roberts-Brown, regional director Australia & NZ Monaco Tourism; Hadrien Bourely, honorary consul of Monaco and Mathew Butterworth, guest.

Select focuses on Cruise

TRAVEL agency members of Express Travel Group's (ETG) Select brand are showing strong growth in their cruise sales,



Another key cruise partner for ETG is Royal Caribbean, with a session at the conference featuring RCI sales chief



with the company now engaging even more closely with The Travel Corporation's Creative Cruising as a key wholesale partner.

Speaking at the conference, Creative Cruising NSW/ACT sales manager Susie Goumas highlighted the range of product on offer to members, with most delegates receiving new logins to the Creative platform.

Goumas highlighted the Creative Cruising offering which combines a wide range of cruise product with accommodation and TTC wholesale airfares, and the company prides itself on exceptional customer service.

Interestingly for the Select members, Creative Cruising also has Mandarin and Cantonese consultants in its call centre, and Select agents booking via Creative Cruising also earn Express Rewards loyalty points.

Call wait times are significantly shorter than other suppliers, Goumas claimed, and Creative also offers a full online booking portal for the travel industry.

Peter McCormack who gave an overview of the cruise industry and its rapid ongoing growth.

McCormack said year-to-date in 2017 Select Travel Group members were showing a 24% increase in new RCI bookings, with departed sales up 30% and 2018 sales already 21% ahead.

He told **CW** the strong results were pleasing given that Royal Caribbean had engaged closely with the Express Travel Group for a number of years.

The Strand themed

THE Strand Cruise has released new dates for its series of themed sailings for 2017 and 2018.

Professional photographer Lucas Guardjian will host The Strand's first photography voyage on 16 Oct and then in Nov and Feb 2018, classical musicians from the Opéra de Paris and Orchestre de Paris will join for a music sailing with performances.

For more information, head to www.thestrandcruise.com.



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NCLH's revenue rises

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings has released its financial results for the first quarter of 2017, posting a record revenue of US\$1.2 billion, a 6.8% increase on the US\$1.1 billion in 2016.

Frank Del Rio, president and ceo of NCHL said 2017 was off to a solid start and the operating environment remained favourable with strong demand for Caribbean sailings.

Norwegian reported recent "uncertainties" in *Norwegian Joy's* Chinese source market due to the Sth Korea travel restriction.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	17 May
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	18 May
<i>Golden Princess</i>	19 May
<i>Sea Princess</i>	20 May
<i>Sun Princess</i>	21 May
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	22 May
MELBOURNE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	22 May
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	19 May
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	20 May
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	20 May
<i>Golden Princess</i>	21 May
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	18 May
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	16 May
AUCKLAND	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	16 May

Travel Associates Rendezvous



SEVERAL Travel Associates staff have just returned from a whirlwind tour of the United Arab Emirates and France courtesy of Etihad Airways, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection and Abu Dhabi Tourism.

The famil included Business class flights, two nights of luxury accommodation at Jumeirah Etihad Towers, a seven-night river cruise on board Uniworld's SS *Catherine* plus pre- and post-cruise accommodation in Paris staying at Westin Paris-Vendome and Prince de Galles hotel.

Oceania wellness

OCEANIA Cruises is now offering complimentary fitness and wellness classes aboard its six ships as they sail to more than 370 ports around the globe.

The cruise line conducts more than two dozen classes, all with professional instructors.

Classes include a sunrise stretch or relax, sunrise yoga on deck, indoor cycling, boot camp, full body strength training, core conditioning, body weight training and more.

The Travel Associates agents are pictured in Paris.

Northern Lights deal

HURTIGRUTEN is offering on board credit or a 10% discount on its Norwegian coastal voyages.

The deal applies to select cruises between Sep-Dec and must be booked by 30 Jun.

CLICK HERE for more details.

TUI Discovery 2 sails

THOMSON Cruises launched *TUI Discovery 2* over the weekend in Malaga, Spain.

The 915-cabin vessel is based in the Mediterranean out of Malaga and in Sep will reposition to Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

TUI Discovery 2 was formerly *Legend of the Seas* and made its last roundtrip Brisbane cruise under the Royal Caribbean International brand in Feb, after being sold to Thomson Cruises mid last year (*CW* 09 Feb).

With the launch of the vessel, Thompson has introduced a new on board app *Navigate*, along with a virtual reality experience.

New Disney options

DISNEY Cruise Line will sail on new itineraries and to new ports, including first-time visits to Bermuda & Quebec City, Canada.

Three special sailings from New York will take guests to Walt Disney World and Disney's private island in the Bahamas in 2018.

Disney will also offer sailings from California, Texas & Florida.

Vancouver record

THIS Sat is expected to bring a record number of cruise passengers to Canada Place in Vancouver this year, reaching nearly 16,000 pax in one day.

Passengers are asked to not arrive at the terminal before their scheduled boarding to avoid congestion while those disembarking leave their ships.



WHEN *Golden Princess* visited Alotau in Papua New Guinea last week, it added the final chapter to the miracle find of a high school ring lost by an American soldier in WWII.

After the ring was discovered by PNG villager Liam Ngahan it was returned to the family of Sgt Edward Dodds last year.

Dodds' New Jersey high school decided to complete the circle by commissioning a unique Audubon High class ring for Ngahan, which was delivered by *Golden Princess*.

When the ship docked in Alotau, Ngahan received his own Audubon High class ring in a ceremony.

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