

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 18 May 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from JITO.

## Statendam bookings

**BOOKINGS** will open tomorrow for the premiere voyage and 2018/19 inaugural Caribbean cruise season of Holland America Line's *Nieuw Statendam*.

Due for delivery 01 Dec 2018, the second Pinnacle Class ship in the fleet is currently under construction at Fincantieri's Marghera shipyard in Italy.

Her maiden voyage will be a 14-night sailing from Rome to Fort Lauderdale, where the ship will spend the winter cruising the Caribbean on three-, four- and 10 day itineraries.

Fares for the first *Nieuw Statendam* three-day Caribbean cruises lead in at \$799 per person twin share.

## Fred Olsen river charter

**FRED** Olsen Cruise Lines will foray into river cruise holidays in 2018, this week launching a dedicated river cruise program.

The cruise line will offer a total of 30 departures in Europe between 05 Apr and 03 Nov 2018, which will range from five to 25 nights in length.

Fred Olsen promised to bring its "unique style of destination exploration to the river cruise market" and said it would incorporate a large amount of scenic cruising in daylight hours to its itineraries.

"Fred Olsen river cruises will be underpinned by the usual high standards, award-winning customer service and understated elegance that they have come to expect of our ocean-going offer," said Justin Stanton, Fred Olsen sales and marketing director.

"We firmly believe that we have crafted the perfect formula to

ensure that our new river cruise guests are able to get the most out of their holiday with Fred Olsen," he said.

The cruise line will charter Amadeus' *Amadeus Princess*, which will be renamed *Brabant* and rebranded to Fred Olsen.

*Brabant's* 2018 itineraries include Düsseldorf to Amsterdam; Düsseldorf to Nuremberg; Nuremberg to Budapest; Budapest to Hirsova (Bucharest); Düsseldorf to Basel and Hirsova to Düsseldorf.

The 110m-long vessel has four decks and less than 80 rooms and suites, staffed by 40 crew.

Due to *Brabant's* small size, Fred Olsen said pax "will enjoy the usual hallmarks of Fred Olsen's 'closer' approach to cruising", describing the vessel as having the "style, atmosphere and elegance of a country house hotel".

Bookings open 26 May.

## ACA conf line-up

**REGISTRATIONS** are open for Australian Cruise Association's annual conference, themed "Together Towards Tomorrow" taking place from 06-08 Sep.

Four keynote speakers are secured to headline the conference, which will be held in Mooloolaba, Sunshine Coast.

Steve Odell, svp and md Asia Pacific for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, will present on opportunities, challenges and brand diversity, while Matt Grimes from Viking Cruises, Sarina Bratton from Ponant Yacht Cruises and Expeditions and Tammy Marshall from The Hive will also speak at the event.

The conference agenda will also be supported by a line-up of activities to showcase the host venue & the welcome event will be held at Mantra Mooloolaba.

For more details on the conference or to register, visit [australiancruiseassociation.com](http://australiancruiseassociation.com).

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

**CLICK HERE to read**

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## Final Infinity Crail Crusade



**THE** top 20 retail sellers of Infinity Cruise and Rail were rewarded recently with the third and final "Crail Crusade" for 2017.

The team embarked on a 13-day itinerary of Canada and Alaska, spending seven nights on board *Norwegian Jewel* and experiencing the GoldLeaf Rocky Mountaineer journey from Vancouver to Calgary.

Next year the Crail Crusade will be split into two trips, one for cruise and one for rail.

The inCrowd Cruise group will

travel to New York City and sail on *Norwegian Escape*, while the inCrowd Rail participants will enjoy a Rovos Rail Journey and animal safari in South Africa.

Participants are **pictured**.

### Concordia Capt jailed

**ITALY'S** highest court has upheld the 16-year jail sentence for former Captain of *Costa Concordia* Francesco Schettino for his role in the 2012 shipwreck, *BBC News* reports.

The ruling marks the end of the appeals process and Schettino handed himself into a prison in Rome after the verdict.

He was sentenced in 2015 after a court found him guilty of manslaughter, causing a maritime accident and abandoning ship.

A total of 32 people died when *Costa Concordia* capsized in 2012 after hitting rocks off the Tuscan island of Giglio.

## APT's Russia river return

**APT** will return to river cruising in Russia, with the luxury cruise and tour operator scheduling two sailings for Aug 2018.

The 13-day Russian Waterways cruise was unveiled in APT's just-released Russia 2018 brochure and has been designed to tie in with APT land journeys.

It includes a 10-night sailing on *ms Excellence Katharina* on the network of rivers and lakes between Moscow and St Petersburg and two nights' land accommodation in St Petersburg and Moscow.

The itinerary includes a visit to Catherine Palace, time with a local family in Svirstroy, exploring Transfiguration Church and more.

### Virtuoso on the river

**FIVE** competing cruise lines will play host to attendees of Virtuoso's 2018 Symposium in the Netherlands on 17-22 Mar.

AmaWaterways, Avalon Waterways, Crystal Cruises, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises and Viking Cruises will each dedicate one ship to host Symposium attendees and all will follow an identical itinerary.

Virtuoso Symposium is a high-level business meeting of key agency members and preferred partners and covers travel trends, challenges, opportunities, and the future of the industry.

The cruises will sail roundtrip from Amsterdam on 18 Mar, stopping by Arnhem, Rotterdam and Kinderdijk.

APT exec general manager Steve Reynolds said Russian river cruising offered "stunning scenery, fascinating history, and the comforts and conveniences of returning to the river each night".

The 13-day Russian Waterways cruise departs on 19 and 29 Aug and is priced from \$7,995ppts.



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### NCL Jewel credit deal

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is celebrating six months until the start of *Norwegian Jewel's* inaugural Australian season by offering up to US\$500 on board credit for use on Australia and New Zealand sailings.

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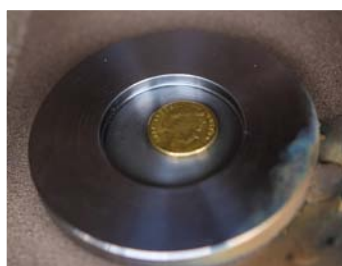


## Scenic Eclipse's keel is laid



**THE** keel of *Scenic Eclipse* was laid in a ceremony at the Uljanik Shipyard JSC in Pula, Croatia.

Glen Moroney, founder and chairman of Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours was joined at the event by reps from the shipyard, Marinko Brgic, member of the management board; Serdjo Pajkovic, sales & project department manager; Mario Planinac, deputy director; and Diego Bilic, project manager. *Scenic Eclipse* will be



delivered in Aug 2018 and will accommodate 228 passengers in 114 all-veranda suites.

The ship will feature close to a 1:1 guest-to-staff ratio.

Moroney is **pictured** above, while below is the fixing of the coin, and inset is the coin.



## Elation's new itinerary

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has released a new eight-day roundtrip voyage on *Carnival Elation*, departing Jacksonville on 07 Apr 2018.

The sailing will include an overnight call in Heritage Wharf, Bermuda, as well as an extended stay at Half Moon Cay.

## P&O shore additions

**P&O** Cruises UK has introduced a new program of shore excursions, on 2017 European itineraries including freefalling in Flam, Tuk Tuk-ing in Dubrovnik and paddle boarding along the Basque coast.

P&O Cruises senior vice pres Paul Ludlow said: "This fabulous new selection of excursions includes a number of firsts which truly provide something for everyone, whether they are an adrenaline junkie, SUP fan or just prefer to relax playing golf or sipping tea in a teepee".

See [www.pocruises.com](http://www.pocruises.com).

## Goodwin on Scenic

**AUSTRALIA'S** first *MasterChef* winner, Julie Goodwin, will join *Scenic* for an *Australian Women's Weekly* culinary cruise in 2018.

The 11-day roundtrip from Bordeaux will stop at Saint-Émilion, Blaye, Bourg and Arcachon along the way and visit wineries and vineyards.

The sailing departs 08 Mar and is priced from \$6,895pp including return flights from France.

Visit [scenic.com.au/aww](http://scenic.com.au/aww).

## Ama's new investor

**US-BASED** travel and hospitality investment firm Certares LP has joined as a partner in the AmaWaterways business.

APT Travel Group md Chris Hall said Certares was a like-minded group that strongly supported AmaWaterways board, current strategy and shared their commitment to "long-term growth, innovation & excellence in customer service delivery in the river cruise industry".

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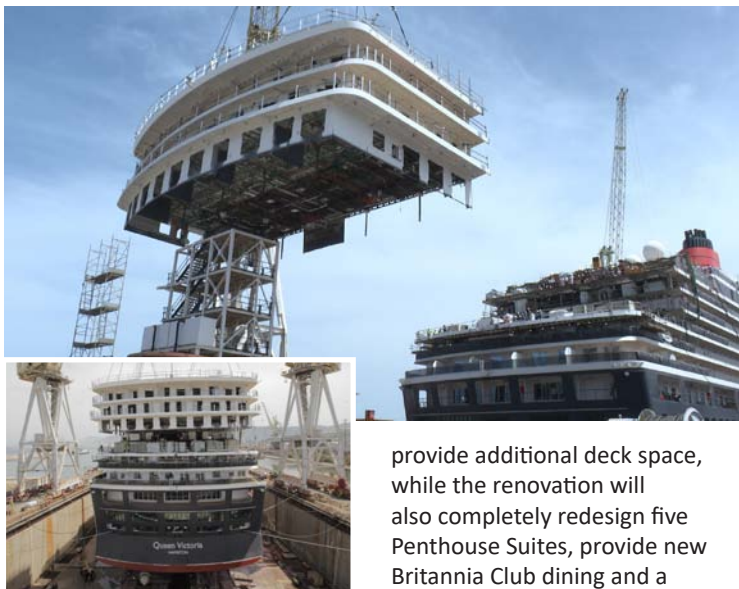
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### Hurtigruten suite deal

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### Queen Victoria's new spaces

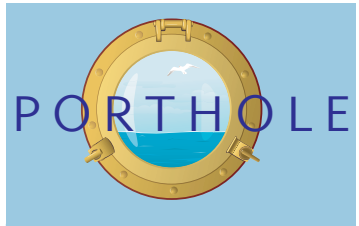


**CUNARD** has revealed behind-the-scenes images and a video of *Queen Victoria's* new aft lido sundeck being lifted into place. The vessel is undergoing a \$59 million refurbishment at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Palermo, Italy, which is scheduled for completion on 04 Jun. The extended lounge will

provide additional deck space, while the renovation will also completely redesign five Penthouse Suites, provide new Britannia Club dining and a broader bar offering.

After the refit, *Queen Victoria* will return to Southampton before sailing a four-night roundtrip voyage via Amsterdam and Bruges.

Watch the installation [HERE](#).



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's vice president sales and trade marketing Adolfo Perez has thrown his support behind the trade and tattooed "Travel agents rock" on his arm.

Marking the kick off of Carnival's Agentpalooza bus tour in the US, Perez surprised attendees at the New Orleans event with the tattoo ceremony, which was live streamed on Facebook.

Perez's freshly tattooed deltoid is pictured.



### Le Boat Rideau Canal

**LE BOAT** has opened reservations for the 2018 boating season for its first North American destination, Rideau Canal in Ontario, Canada.

The company's cruises will start and finish at the Smith Falls base, which will launch with a fleet of 16 Horizon cruisers.

### MSC kids web series

**MSC** Cruises is adding to its family entertainment offering by holding auditions on board until Jan 2018 for the second web series of "Kelly & Kloe".

The series will consist of four episodes, one focussing on the new ship, *MSC Meraviglia*.

Parents can purchase a video of their child's audition as a souvenir of their cruise.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch series one.



### Kangaroo Is showcased

**LAST** week we headed to Kangaroo Island in SA to continue the highly successful Destination Development workshops which ACA has been hosting around the country in partnership with STOs.

The workshops serve two purposes – they showcase the experiences available at the destination for our members & also provide opportunities for the local industry to enhance their cruise knowledge and better understand what the cruise lines and ground handlers are looking for.

Thanks to local operator, Exceptional Kangaroo Island, our team, which included Toby Biddick (A&K), Martin Bidgood (InterCruises) and Tyler Wood (Bob Wood Cruise Group), had a fabulous tour of the Island.

Travelling to landmarks such as Flinders Chase National Park, Remarkable Rocks, Admiral's Arch and Seal Bay, we were able to get a terrific insight as to the diversity of experiences available to cruise pax including local wildlife, stunning beaches and fabulous food and wine.

The workshop which we ran for local operators was really exciting as the industry is so committed to the future of cruising and understands its importance to the local economy.

Leah Clarke, SATC has been working closely with the team on Kangaroo Island & attributes the attention to infrastructure investment as a reason for the growth in cruise calls.

Visits grew from 16 in 2016/17 (including *QM2's* maiden visit) to 21 this year. 27 visits are due next year with Carnival's recent announcement of home porting from Adelaide.

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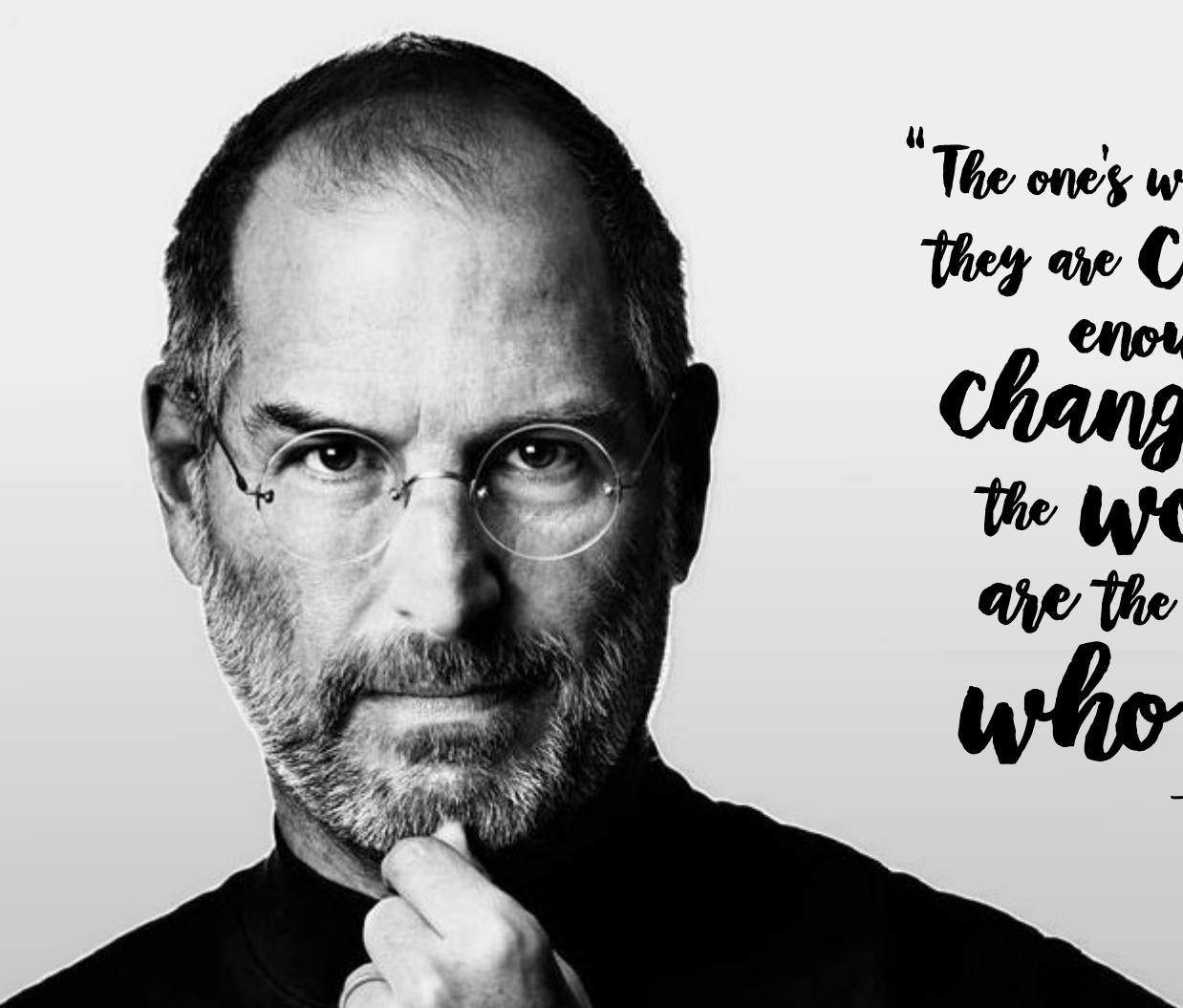
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