

Cruise Weekly today

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

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location on
The Danube

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from Budapest, Hungary, courtesy of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection.

UNIWORLD's Super Ship *Beatrice* made its first voyage last night (with paying pax on board) following its 140-day refurbishment, with an evening sailing on the Danube to showcase the "Paris of the East" - Budapest, Hungary.

View images on the CW FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM.

Royal Caribbean reveals 2019/20

ROYAL Caribbean International has released details of its 2019/20 local season, and announced a new "non-refundable deposit program".

The season will see RCI maintain three ships in local waters for the second year running, after announcing last year it had to scale back its deployment from the five ships in 2016/17 to three in 2018/19 due to capacity constraints (CW 27 Apr).

Ovation of the Seas, *Radiance of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas* will all be based out of Sydney in 2019/20, confirming *Explorer of the Seas* will not return and instead be deployed in Europe and the Caribbean (CW 13 Mar).

Explorer's regular South Pacific routes will be replaced by *Voyager of the Seas*, which returns after a one-year hiatus of sailing in Asia.

When *Voyager* arrives, she will



be fresh from a multi-million dollar revitalisation in late 2019 as part of the Royal Amplified program (CW 20 Mar).

Voyager of the Seas will focus on South Pacific and sampler voyages, while *Ovation* will sail a collection of South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand itineraries and *Radiance* will cruise to NZ and the South Pacific.

RCI is also introducing a non-refundable deposit program

offering best available rates for pax who have confirmed travel dates when making a booking.

A refundable deposit scheme will still be offered.

The cruise line has also updated its groups policy, reducing the max cabins from 99 to 50 and advising that utilisation recalls will now be policed at 300, 200 and 170 days prior to departure.

Bookings for the 2019/20 season open on Tue 10 Apr.

Regent

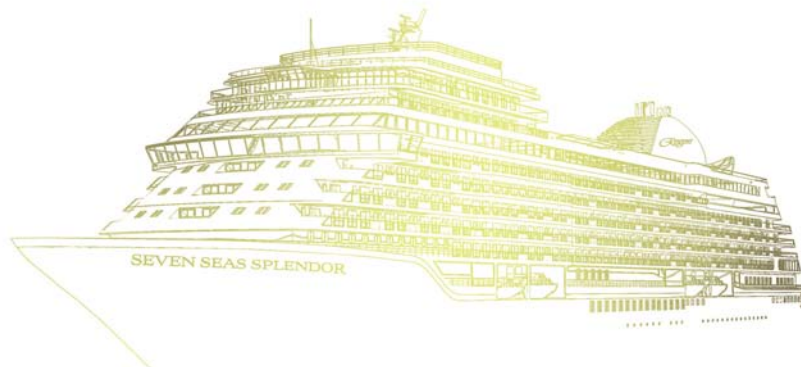
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Discover Silversea's splitting of *Silver Spirit* in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

Viking expedition deal?



VIKING Cruises has inked a letter of intent with Vard for design and construction of a "new series of cruise vessels".

The potential contract is for two ships worth approx NOK4.5b (AU\$750m), with an option for two more "special cruise vessels".

A final contract is anticipated by mid-2018 and the ships are scheduled for delivery by Vard in Norway in 2Q 2021 and 2Q 2022.

Roy Reite, ceo and exec director of VARD, said it was a pleasure to work with Viking to develop a new series of cruise vessels.

"The company is well known for its expansion in River Cruises and Ocean Cruises, and they are now looking to Norway for the design and construction of its new cruise fleet," he said.

It will mark the first vessels Vard has built for Viking Cruises, which works with Vard's parent company, Fincantieri, for construction of its ocean fleet and with Neptun Werft for its river ships.

Vard is the shipbuilder which

will deliver six expedition ships for Ponant and has been tasked with building the new Coral Expeditions expedition ship.

A key driver of the concept behind the new Viking ships will be industry demand for environmentally friendly and safe operations, with the new vessels to be "among the most environmentally friendly ships".

Earlier this year during a visit down under, Viking Cruises' svp marketing Richard Marnell treaded carefully around questions on whether the line would move into expedition.

Marnell told **CW** Viking's future involved "a continuation of the great things that we've done on rivers and oceans" as well as another element, which he said could not yet be disclosed.

Pictured are: Ghislain Lemarie, vp new ship design & ship construction Viking; Torstein Hagen, chairman Viking; Magne Haberg, evp sales and marketing VARD, and Rune Rodset, senior vice president VARD.

SS Beatrice goes grand



THE enhancement of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's *Super Ship Beatrice* (**CW** 29 Mar) took 20 weeks to complete over the northern winter, with almost every square centimetre stripped back and re-imagined and a grand staircase added.

SS Beatrice is the first of Uniworld's ships to receive the enhancement, joining four other Super Ships in the cruise line's fleet.

The addition of another Owner's Suite & two Royal Suites resulted in the loss of seven cabins from inventory.

The 12 existing suites were refreshed, while *SS Beatrice* also introduces three restaurants from which guests can choose to dine - Mozart's, Max's and Schubert's.

CW understands the Super Ship transformation has been so successful the remainder of Uniworld's European fleet are also set to receive the upgrade, over time.



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Carnival Bermuda

CARNIVAL Corporation has revealed it is backing legal action which aims to overturn Bermuda's recent decision to revoke same-sex marriage (**CW** 29 Mar).

The company is actively supporting OUTBermuda, a charity supporting the LGBTQ community, along with another plaintiff, Maryellen Jackson, with financial, civic and public relations support.

Carnival Corporation will also be filing an affidavit supporting the legal action submitted by OUTBermuda and Jackson.

Legend leaves town



CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Legend* bade Sydney a fond farewell on Tue and set sail to Alaska for her annual northern hemisphere summer season.

The ship will arrive in Portland, Oregon, in May for a A\$65 million drydock which will see it fitted with "Funship 2.0" features.

The new-look *Legend* will cruise from Hawaii to Sydney, departing Honolulu on 24 Sep and visiting Papeete, Moorea and Bora Bora during its 19-day journey.

The new-look *Carnival Legend* will return to Australia for the summer season from 13 Oct.

Photo credit: James Morgan.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Safety and security

CLIA's cruise lines have no higher priority than the safety and security of our guests.

The industry has a strong and robust approach, intended to ensure shipboard safety and security, and guest care.

As cruise capacity has grown, CLIA's cruise lines maintain an impressive safety & security record.

Although allegations of crime on board cruise ships are rare, CLIA cruise lines take such allegations very seriously, & make every effort to deter criminal or inappropriate activity on board our ships.

The safety and security policies are included in each cruise line member's internationally mandated Safety Management System, and as such are subject to annual audit.

Since 2013, it has been a condition of CLIA membership that each cruise line's chief executive verifies implementation of the policies.

While cruise ships remain one of the safest ways to travel, and serious crimes and incidents are very uncommon, cruise lines work with law enforcement around the world, and CLIA cruise lines must comply with CLIA's policies on reporting of crimes and preserving incident evidence for investigation by law enforcement authorities.

In all cases, serious crime allegations are reported as quickly as possible to the proper law enforcement authorities.

In this region, protocols have been established with relevant police forces which provide for alleged crimes on cruise ships to be investigated without delay.

For more information, head to www.cruising.org.au.



Carnival promotes Anthony Kaufman

CARNIVAL Corporation has promoted Anthony Kaufman as exec vp, professional services and chief financial officer for Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, Seabourn and Carnival Australia.

He now reports to Stein Kruse, ceo of these business units.

Kaufman was most recently exec vp, int'l ops for Carnival plc's Princess Cruises brand, leading the line's Asia, Australia, United Kingdom and Europe business operations.

The appointment follows last year's promotion of Stuart Allison to svp, Asia-Pacific planning and ops for Princess Cruises (**CW** 21 Dec).



JUST when you thought wine couldn't get any more enjoyable, MSC Cruises has found a new way for travellers to experience the goodness of grapes: in a series of spa offerings.

The aptly-named Vinotherapy treatments have been exclusively created for the MSC Aurea Spa.

The treatments are being touted as providing boosted circulation, reduced signs of ageing, improved digestion and brightened skin tone.

Eight different luxury, wine-based treatments have been developed for MSC Cruises, including three body treatments, a Mediterranean citrus body massage and four facials.

Cheers to that!



MSC CRUISES CRUISE CONSULTANT

Due to further expansion MSC Cruises Australia is looking for a Cruise Consultant, located at King St Wharf, Sydney.

The successful candidate must have a minimum four years experience in the retail or wholesale travel sector, exceptional cruise and sales knowledge, strong airfare and ticketing skills with GDS and system knowledge, excellent attention to detail and a good work ethic.

The successful candidate will work in our reservation team and liaise closely with our marketing, sales and product departments.

For further information and to submit your resume

hr@msccruises.com.au

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