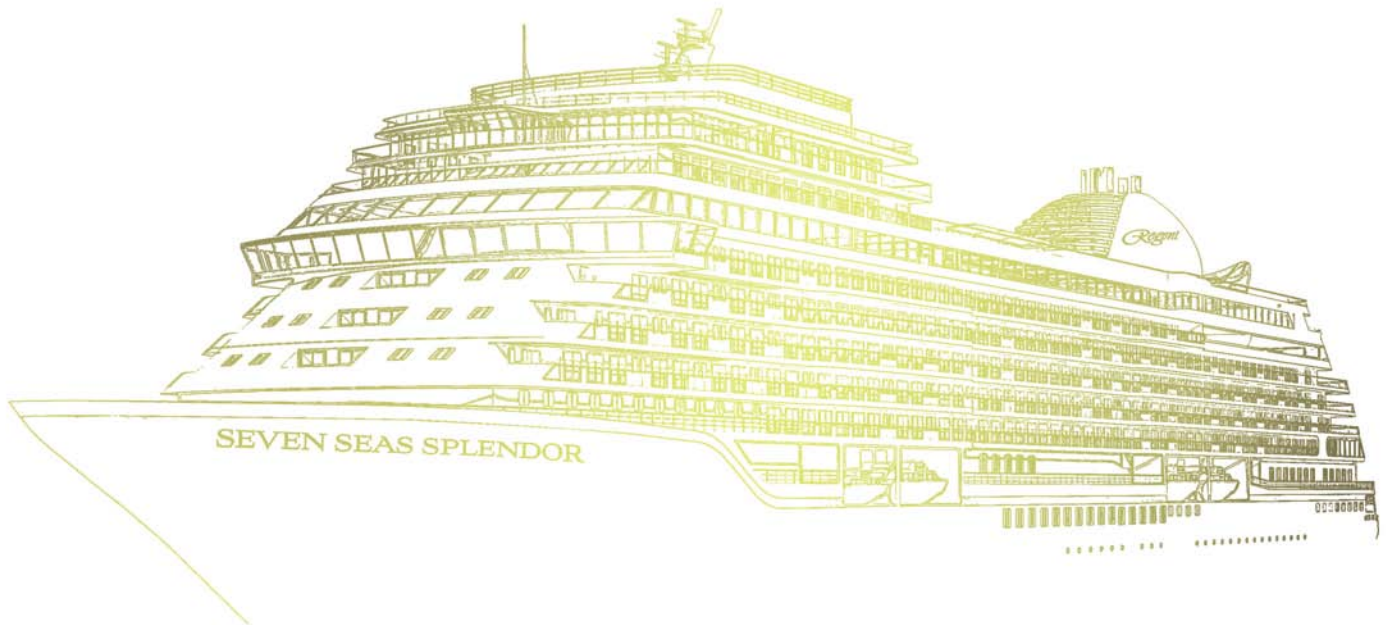


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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

Uniworld open to ocean combos

A FRUITFUL partnership with active land touring firm Butterfield & Robinson may prove a catalyst for Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection to consider other joint initiatives.

Speaking exclusively with **Cruise Weekly** last week aboard *Super Ship Beatrice*, Uniworld chief executive officer Ellen Bettridge indicated the luxury river cruise line would be open to talks with an ocean cruise line to offer a combination itinerary.

Viking Cruises already offers connecting cruise journeys which link its river and ocean voyages.

Citing the Viking example, **CW** questioned Bettridge if Uniworld would evaluate providing a similar offering through a partner on the open sea, such as Azamara Club Cruises.

"I previously worked at Azamara and I know Larry Pimental very well. I don't think it's out of the



question to explore it," she said.

Bettridge said the agreement with Butterfield & Robinson sees the pair collaborate to offer a unique biking experience/river cruise and Uniworld is currently evaluating how to expand that pact with hiking experiences.

"I think the good news is that we started that very slow and we've seen that grow and grow and grow," she commented.

"So that doesn't mean we wouldn't find the right ocean experience, as long as you

could match it up with the right destination," Bettridge said

She noted that because Azamara owns its ships, it would be "much easier" for them to match their cruises to Uniworld's.

"I would have to talk to Azamara about their deployment, they would have to look at ours, and figure out where we could link it.

"I think as time evolves, you have to always look and say what else is next. What else can we do. What else is different. What makes us unique," she added.

Splendor sales open

RESERVATIONS are now open for the inaugural season of Regent Seven Seas Cruises' new ship, *Seven Seas Splendor*.

The ship will launch in Feb 2020 and call on locations throughout the Caribbean, North America and the Mediterranean.

Regent Seven Seas Splendor will visit ports of call such as San Juan, Barcelona, Cabo San Lucas, New York, Saint-Tropez, Portofino, Los Angeles, Dubrovnik, Amalfi/Positano, Corfu and Cartagena.

For more information, see the cover page.

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Ritz-Carlton inaugural

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has released itineraries for its inaugural full season in 2020.

The program details voyages which stretch across the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Canada and New England.

A four-night roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on 01 Feb, 2020 will kick off the season, followed by a 10-night Christening voyage which will sail to Barbados.

In the Mediterranean, itineraries will include a 12-night Barbados to Lisbon and 11-night Venice to Rome while in Northern Europe cruises include a nine-night London-Hamburg and 14-night Reykjavik to Halifax.

Canada and New England



departures feature a 12-night Boston to Montreal and nine-night Boston to Nassau.

Construction on the first 298 passengers vessel is underway (CW 16 Jan), with two more ships set to follow.

Priority access reservations open for rewards members in May, and bookings for the public in Jun.

Initially Ritz-Carlton announced its first ship would debut in late 2019 (CW 27 Jun).

See the eBrochure [HERE](#).



THE inaugural CLIA Asia River Cruise Conference and Destination Forum is underway, with close to 40 delegates from Australia and New Zealand heading to the event in Vietnam.

A total of 130 delegates attended from countries including the UK, Ireland, India & the USA.

The official conference element is now wrapped up and agents are currently on a Pandaw Cruise across the Mekong Delta.

Pictured at the APT hosted dinner at Vietnam House, Luke Nguyen's restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City are: Luke Nguyen; Deb Fox, cco APT Travel Group & Peter Kollar, head of int'l training and development, CLIA Australasia.

MEANWHILE, CLIA Australasia has announced its 2018 Masters Conference will be held on a week-long cruise to the Pacific

Islands aboard P&O Cruises' *Pacific Aria*.

Agent members who have achieved Ambassador status can use the event to advance their sales and marketing skills in a conference setting, while also experiencing a CLIA cruise line member vessel first-hand.

US-based sales guru and motivator Scott Koepp will return to oversee the 21st Masters and will host seminars covering hands-on sales skills to understanding marketing, mastering customer service and even life planning.

The conference cruise will depart Brisbane on 19 Oct, with the itinerary including calls to Noumea and Lifou, New Caledonia and Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Prices start from \$1,595 for twin share accom - [CLICK HERE](#).

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

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

CLIA & SPTO renewal



CLIA Australasia has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO).

Announced yesterday during SPTO's conference in Adelaide, the aim of the pact is to drive the growth of cruise tourism to the South Pacific in a manner that is both sustainable and brings economic and social benefits to the region.

CLIA Australasia managing director Joel Katz said the MoU would support the

development of cruise tourism and help to deliver further economic benefits to the South Pacific over the years ahead.

"It is very important to our member cruise lines that we support South Pacific nations to better understand the cruise industry and recognise the importance of sustainable cruise tourism in the region," Katz said.

Pictured are: SPTO chief executive Chris Cocker and Joel Katz, CLIA Australasia md at the signing of the MoU.

Royal ups Singapore



ROYAL Caribbean Int'l has announced *Quantum of the Seas* will arrive back in Singapore to spend six-months homeporting in the 2019/20 season.

The move will mark the line's longest Singapore deployment for a Quantum Class ship, and will boost the cruise line's capacity in the city by 30%.

Ahead of her arrival, *Quantum of the Seas* will undergo a multi-million dollar upgrade.

President and ceo of Royal Caribbean International Michael Bayley said that the commitment to bring in ships like *Quantum* demonstrates the company's confidence in the region to continue experiencing record-breaking growth.

The ship will depart for the first of its 34 sailings in Nov 2019, and will include stops at the ports of Penang, Phuket, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.

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ACCC Carnival/Bris Port decision for May

THE ACCC has confirmed it has pushed back the date of its final decision on the authorisation application by Port of Brisbane and Carnival (CW 02 Nov) to 11 May.

A spokesperson for the competition watchdog told CW "the ACCC asked the applicants to agree to an extension of the time to consider the application, because we required additional time to seek and consider further information to inform its decision".

The ACCC previously said it would make a decision by 11 Apr.

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Oceania cooking classes



OCEANIA Cruises has bulked up its culinary offering by introducing 16 new cooking classes for the European season aboard *Marina* and *Riviera*.

The new programs were developed by director of culinary enrichment, chef Kathryn Kelly, and will debut with the first European sailings of the year this month and next.

Highlights of the program include what the line said is the first knife-skills-only class to be offered at sea, called "Slice:

Mastering Chef Knife Skills".

Also on offer is "Rethink the Crepe", which will explore sweet and savoury crepes and "The Nordic Kitchen", discovering the cuisine of Scandinavia and Northern Europe.

"As the only foodie-focused cruise line, we strive to provide our guests with one-of-a-kind, hands-on culinary experiences that immerse them in the culinary cultures of the world," said Bob Binder, president and ceo of Oceania Cruises.

CroisiEurope's three fresh ships

EUROPEAN river cruise operator CroisiEurope will inaugurate three new ships this northern spring.

The *MS Van Gogh* and *MS Renoir* have been completely redesigned and redeccorated and *MS Van Gogh* will cruise on the Rhone and Saone Rivers, while *MS Renoir* will be deployed on the Seine between Paris and Honfleur.

The *MS Elbe Princess II* (pictured) will also debut, cruising on the Elbe and Vltava rivers.



Spacious suites on *Beatrice*



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection's newly refurbished (and renamed) European river cruiser *Super Ship Beatrice* boasts an array of suites.

The 20-week remodelling of *SS Beatrice* resulted in a number of new suites being introduced.

The ship now featuring a mix of two top-of-the-line Royal Suites, two Owner's Suites (Grand Suites), a dozen junior suites (Suites) - all equipped with French balconies and located on the Rhine Deck.

Located towards the rear of the Rhine Deck are 13 Category 1 staterooms, each with deluxe French balconies.

The Rhine Deck also has a new 24hr Coffee & Tea Station, located near *Beatrice's* atrium.

CW was fortunate to be aboard *SS Beatrice's* first sailing last week & we nabbed some photos of most of the suites - click on the images to preview.



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Fiji cyclone update

SOUTH Sea Cruises has announced resumption of services to the Mamanuca and Yasawa regions following the departure of Cyclone Keni from the Fiji area.

Resort connections are now operating as per schedule, with day trips, snorkel trips, sailing expeditions and three-night cruises expected to resume over the next few days.

MSC Armonia mishap



MSC Cruises' *MSC Armonia* struck the dock at port of Isla Roatan, Honduras, on Tue, causing minor damage to the ship.

The cruise line said there was never any risk for guests or the crew on board and there was no impact on the environment.

"While manoeuvring alongside, for reasons that are currently still being duly investigated, the ship deviated from her course and grazed the end of the pier," MSC

Cruises said in a statement.

"...While there was a slight delay for our guests to disembark, all who were scheduled to go ashore on excursions and other activities disembarked as planned."

MSC Armonia was cleared by authorities to continue her journey as soon as the necessary repairs were concluded and the ship has reportedly set sail for its next port of call.

CLICK HERE to watch a video.



WHAT price would you pay to score your very own cruise ship?

One cheeky teenager from Iowa decided it should be in tweets - two million, to be exact.

Dylan Baer tweeted that cruising company Royal Caribbean International would give him personal dibs of *Oasis of the Seas* if he managed to have his message retweeted two million times.

The youngster went so far as to post alleged screenshots of a conversation between himself and the cruising giant that showed it was - shall we say, on board with the crazy plan.

Despite being called out by dubious followers, Dylan remained adamant the deal was legitimate to the very end, until the charade was shut down by the company's official Twitter account after 66,000 retweets.

Ten points for trying, Dylan - you'd better start saving real dollars if you want that holiday!

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Cruise Product Manager

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Great knowledge of the cruise industry and negotiation skills are required. Beachfront Gold Coast location, salary details on application.

Cruise Product Co-ordinator

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You will be working very closely with the Cruise Product Manager, sales team and Marketing department to deliver unique and innovative cruise holiday packages to market.

Great attention to detail required, cruise industry knowledge preferred, however not required.

Beachfront Gold Coast location, salary details on application.

For more information or to apply contact (07) 5555 8888 by 27th April 2018.



Cruising by the numbers

LAST year at our annual conference, Tammy Marshall from member organisation, The Bhive, released initial findings from The Cruise Industry Report commissioned by ACA to look at the future demand and needs for the industry in Australia.

The final report, which included feedback from 1,200 Australians, has now been released with some interesting findings which should prove helpful in planning for the continued growth of the industry.

A critical question for our destination members in shaping their cruise strategy has always been whether cruise growth replaces land-based visits or whether it drives new visitation.

The report found that three out of five travellers consider cruising a good way to sample a destination and two thirds of those who have taken a cruise to a destination have actually returned.

A small number also reported extending their time onshore with pre- or post- cruise stays citing that land packages were an important incentive for this.

Another interesting finding is the changing face of cruise passengers.

While currently dominated by couples, especially empty nesters - families and under 35s are showing growing interest in cruising suggesting a new opportunity for our destinations.

This market is more likely to be adventurous - reflected in their interest in expedition and small ship cruising; great news for our regional ports who can easily support visits by this style of ship.

Headlining the places to visit - remote locations like Broome, islands or capital cities - Hobart and Darwin for small ships and Sydney for luxury.