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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Royal Caribbean Cruises**.

Royal agent comp

RCI, Celebrity, and Azamara have launched a Summer of Consultant Rewards promotion with three cruises to be won - see **front page** for more information.

Mekong food tours

AQUA Expeditions has announced two new cruises in 2019 aboard *Aqua Mekong* featuring food created by Aussie chef David Thompson.

The four-night journeys depart from either Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, or Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Royal details 2020/21 int'l deployment

ROYAL Caribbean International has released further details of its 2020-21 international season, providing info on itineraries in the Caribbean, Europe and United States on board its fleet of "Royal Amplified" vessels.

Adventure of the Seas will return to Cape Liberty in New Jersey following a refurbishment in 2019, sailing a combination of five- and nine-night itineraries to Bermuda, New England and Canada, The Bahamas and the Caribbean.

Royal also revealed *Symphony of the Seas* and sister ship *Harmony of the Seas* will return to Port Miami and Port Canaveral, Florida, respectively, offering seven-night itineraries to a variety of Caribbean destinations.

For passengers wanting shorter Caribbean itineraries, a revamped *Mariner of the Seas* and *Navigator of the Seas* are



scheduled to carry out three- and four-night sailings to The Bahamas.

Canada and New England will have plenty of cruise options with *Brilliance of the Seas* sailing seven- to 10-night cruises to Canada from Boston starting in Sep 2020, while *Grandeur of the Seas* will continue to offer nine-night itineraries to Canada and New England year-round from her homeport in Baltimore.

Anthem of the Seas will return to Southampton, England, for the first time in five years, embarking on eight- to 14-night cruises to coastal towns along the Mediterranean, Northern Europe and the Canary Islands.

RCI's private island Perfect Day at CocoCay will also welcome 10 ships from an unprecedented number of ports including the newly added Galveston, Texas.

Pictured: *Symphony of the Seas*.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Monday 17th December 2018

Belmond to LVMH

UPMARKET river cruise, hotel and train operator Belmond has been purchased by luxury goods maker LVMH for US\$3.2 billion.

LVMH, which has brands including Louis Vuitton, Moët and Bvlgari Hotels, will move further into the high-end travel and hospitality sector through the deal, with spokesman Jean-Jacques Guiony saying the company planned to develop and improve the profitability of the Belmond portfolio "and nurture complementarity with the LVMH group brands".

LVMH expects to complete the transaction H1 2019 pending shareholder approval.

Belmond operates river cruise vessels in France and Myanmar as well as luxury hotel barges in France.

New Funchal hotel

THE ship which formerly sailed as *MV Funchal* is set to become a hotel ship in London, after being sold at auction for €3.9 million by the administrators of the now defunct Portuscale cruises.

Funchal was set to visit Australia a few years ago (*CW* 04 Sep 2014) but her maiden Down Under season, which had included proposed visits to Geelong and Newcastle, was cancelled when Portuscale was placed under administration.

The 524-passenger ship, built in 1961, has been sold to UK hotel operator Signature Living, which plans to relocate *Funchal* from Lisbon to Central London where it will be converted into a hotel.

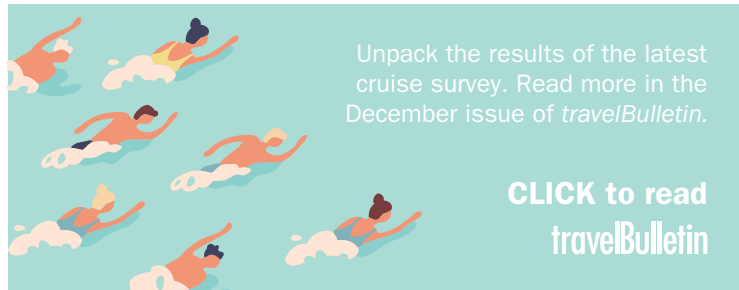
New cruise port plan for Buenos Aires

A MAJOR modernisation plan for the Port of Buenos Aires has been unveiled by the Argentinian Government, which will include the development of a new cruise terminal.

The public-private project is estimated to be worth US\$1.9 billion over 50 years, with a bidding process kicking off today and a first stage involving \$300 million of government funding and about \$760 million from the private sector.

Officials want to redress a decline in Argentina's cargo capacity as well as separating passenger cruising from commercial shipping, with the plan envisioning a new rail line, improved traffic flows, a single customs zone and capacity for larger vessels.

Specification documents are online at argentina.gob.ar.



FACE-2-FACE: Jacqueline Tan

Senior SDM, WA/SA, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours.



1. What is the favourite part of your job?

I love seeing the faces of agents, the public or the audience light up in awe and wonder when presenting on a Scenic experience.

2. Why did you choose a career in the cruise industry?

I love the simplicity of cruising - that is, only unpacking once. And let's not forget the ability to wake up every morning in a new exotic location.

3. What is the key to your success?

My motto in life is always be kind. Treat others the way you want to be treated. And to remember that when all else fails, your personal brand will pick you up and allow you to keep going.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Travel agents thinking that the internet is a threat. Don't underestimate the power of the personal touch - as Mastercard says, that's "priceless".

5. What is your advice for up-

and-comers?

Surround yourself with positive people. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

6. What was your best fam trip?

A Scenic South America fam trip to Patagonia. The mountain peaks, the glaciers, stunning national parks, such natural beauty - get this on your bucket list people!

7. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Professionally - leading a high performing, cohesive and motivated sales team. Personally - happy and healthy with my loved ones around me.

8. The celebrity you would most like to cruise with?

I can't choose between David Attenborough and Nigella Lawson. Regardless of which though, both of my passions of travel and food would be satiated.

9. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

It's already been built hasn't it? The *Scenic Eclipse*!

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LAWRENCE DURRELL



CRUISE



Monday 17th December 2018

A new
publication
for travel
and cruise
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Travel & Cruise
Weekly

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Carnival Legend</i>	17 Dec
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	17 Dec
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	18 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	18 Dec
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	19 Dec
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	20 Dec
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	20 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	21 Dec
<i>Maasdam</i>	21 Dec
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	22 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	22 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	23 Dec
<i>Sun Princess</i>	23 Dec

MELBOURNE

<i>Golden Princess</i>	17 Dec
<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	17 Dec
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	18 Dec
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	19 Dec
<i>Viking Orion</i>	19 Dec
<i>Sun Princess</i>	21 Dec
<i>Golden Princess</i>	22 Dec
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	23 Dec
<i>Maasdam</i>	23 Dec
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	23 Dec

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	18 Dec
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	20 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	20 Dec

CAIRNS

<i>Pacific Aria</i>	17 Dec
<i>Regatta</i>	18 Dec
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	21 Dec

FREMANTLE

<i>Astor</i>	17 Dec
<i>AIDAura</i>	20 Dec
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	21 Dec

ADELAIDE

<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	20 Dec
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	21 Dec

HOBART

<i>Sun Princess</i>	18 Dec
<i>Golden Princess</i>	19 Dec
<i>Viking Orion</i>	21 Dec

First roller coaster at sea



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced that its new *Mardi Gras* ship will feature the first ever roller-coaster at sea when it launches in 2020.

The "BOLT Ultimate Sea Coaster" is an all-electric roller coaster which takes two riders in a motorcycle-like vehicle along a track about 60m above the ocean "enabling guests to experience the sea in an exciting new way with breathtaking 360° views," according to the cruise giant.

Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy said BOLT was the cornerstone of a range of innovations being designed for *Mardi Gras* to make it the "ultimate playground at sea".

When she debuts *Mardi Gras* will be based in Port Canaveral, Florida, sailing out of a new state-of-the-art terminal.

Mardi Gras is the first of two "XL-Class" ships under construction for Carnival, with a second vessel to arrive in 2022.

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CULINARY aficionados are avidly embracing the "farm to plate" movement - but until now that's been somewhat difficult on a cruise ship.

However a newly launched residential cruise company called Storylines is promising to solve that problem, with plans for an on-board farm.

The company has announced its mission to create the world's "first affordable premium lifestyle at sea," developing ships where cabin-condo owners can "write a new chapter for their lives".

The fresh produce farm will feature "ship-to-plate" menu items using hydroponic food production techniques.

"This will enable portions of the menu and indeed whole dishes to be grown right onboard our cruise condo ship," the company said.

"Side benefits of this are better quality and better tasting food with a lower carbon footprint, as our food produced this way only travels a few feet, not thousands of miles," it added.

The hydroponic garden will be located near the main dining room, allowing chefs to enter the two-level facility to select ingredients while preparing meals.

Green-thumbed guests would also be able to help cultivate the plants, Storylines said.

CRUISE
WEEKLY

www.cruiseweekly.com.au

Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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Every Thu we publish our consumer
newsletter - *Travel & Cruise Weekly* - sign up
free at www.travellandcruiseweekly.com.au.

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