

Cruise Weekly today

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

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location aboard

Norwegian Jewel

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line.

CRUISE Weekly was lucky enough to spend the last week sailing from Sydney to Tasmania on board the newly refurbished Norwegian Jewel, making calls at Bernie, Hobart and Melbourne along the way.

The updated ship offers an extensive range of new activities, entertainment and dining options on board.

CruiseCO launches new agent portal

CRUISECO has consolidated a number of its platforms to launch CruisePRO, an agent portal that incorporates a new booking system, website, member white site solutions, online payment gateway and members' area.

CruisePRO allows its members to make online bookings in real time from a choice of over 300 packages across 21 cruise lines.

"It is important to integrate our business support platforms to enable quick and easy business operations for members, which in turn allows members to deliver best-in-class service in market," said CruiseCO Chief Executive Officer Amanda McClelland.

"The new CruisePRO platform drives speed to market, enabling members to take advantage of as well as market cruise line offers more seamlessly to their clients," she added.

A further 32 cruise line brands

are available through traditional channels, with a consumer-facing version of the platform also allowing members to service their clients' needs "24 hours a day".

The integration of many APIs into the new portal means CruiseCO members can tailor individual packages across air, cruise and land to better match the travel needs of clients.

A number of launch incentives

have been announced by CruiseCO that award those who use the new CruisePro booking platform before 31 Jan 2019.

Incentives include agents who book a Music cruise going in the draw to win a cabin on Rock the Boat 2019, the first booking of each day rewarded with a bottle of Penfolds wine, and the agent who books the most Dream Cruises winning an ocean cruise.



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Wednesday 19th December 2018



Unpack the results of the latest cruise survey. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*

Ships get 20 of the best



SYDNEY Harbour Yacht Charter has celebrated 20 years of sailing Sydney's most iconic body of water by refurbishing both of its vessels - *A.Q.A.* and *State of the Art*.

Upgrades on board the *A.Q.A.* include the addition of a 10-seat teak dining setting in the main aft deck lounge refit (**inset below**), a full redesign of the bow sun bed and lounge area (**top**), and touch ups to its Sky Lounge (**bottom**) which boasts some of the best views on board the vessel.



State of the Art has also received a lot of attention, with a resurfacing of its timber floor panelling, a new air conditioning system, and a full suite upgrade (**inset above**) installed across the ship.

Sydney Harbour Yacht Charter has hosted a number of famous celebrities over the years including former President George W Bush, Richard Branson, Will Ferrell, Robert De Niro, and the late Robin Williams and Michael Jackson.



Triple the Douro

LUXURY small ship cruise operator Tauck Australia has announced three new cruise packages on Portugal's Douro River in 2020.

The additions include the 12-day Exploring the Douro itinerary which includes visits to the village Pinhao, the Douro Valley, and two-night stays in Lisbon and Madrid.

Also new is the seven-night Douro Discovery cruise, kicking off with a two-night stay in Lisbon where guests can check out a variety of museums, before sailing to the home of Port wine, Porto.

An eight-day Villages and Vintages sailing is hosted by expert wine makers who take passengers through the best of Douro Valley wines.

Full pricing will be available to the public in Feb 2019.

For reservation information, call 1300 732 300.

Majestic branding

PRINCESS Cruises has released the second instalment of its Aussie brand campaign, showcasing the features on board *Majestic Princess*.

The Symphony of Service marketing push focuses the life of the crew as they create memorable moments for their guests everyday.

The campaign will be rolled out across TV, cinema, print, social media and digital platforms throughout 2018 and 2019.

Ponant Asia 19/20

PONANT has released its Asia, Oceania and Indian Collection for 2019/2020, offering a range of cruises departing from 10 Oct.

Highlights include a 10-day cruise from Ho Chi Minh City to Singapore, plus a 16-day voyage from Honolulu to Papeete - **CLICK HERE** to view.



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Captain Easter trip

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has introduced a new Easter Cruise product exploring the Murray River in Apr next year.

The three-day voyage offers a range of on-shore day trips such as Murray Bridge where passengers can visit Monarto Zoo for \$62 per person.

Onboard activities include participating in fun quizzes, playing bocce on the riverbank, and fishing off the side of the ship.

Orion plots course for NZ



VIKING Orion departed Sydney this week to begin her inaugural cruise to Auckland.

The vessel is now embarking on a 15-day journey from Sydney to New Zealand carrying 930 international guests from the US, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia and New Zealand.

"It has been a couple of spectacular days in Sydney for *Viking Orion's* maiden visit," said Viking Cruises Australia and New Zealand Managing Director

Michelle Black.

"The guests have enjoyed time exploring the best our city has to offer whilst we have been busy taking our valued travel partners through the ship," she added.

Viking Orion will spend the next three months sailing between Sydney and Auckland on Viking's new Australia & New Zealand cruise itinerary before plotting a course north to service the Komodo and the Australian Coast itinerary in early Mar.



THE world's first preview of Carnival Cruise Line's upcoming *Carnival Panorama* will arrive in the form of a giant floral display during Pasadena's iconic Rose Parade.

The first new ship based in California in 20 years, the real *Panorama* is scheduled to begin sailing from its homeport of Long Beach in Dec 2019.

As for what will happen to the floral replica once the parade is done and dusted? Well, either way we would suggest not buying tickets on board the replica, getting refunds on ships comprised entirely of flowers can be a very "thorny" issue.



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The year that was

AND so another prosperous year draws to a close for the cruise industry, with some major highlights propelling us into 2019.

Brisbane Terminal has started accepting bookings for the 20/21 season even before the exciting \$158M construction project commences early next year.

Brisbane is one of many ports that will receive investment to grow its facilities. \$120M has been pledged to Cairns, Port Melbourne's Station Pier is to receive \$5.8M and regional ports such as Newcastle and Broome will also be upgrading. Whole of industry discussions will continue in 2019 around finding solutions for Sydney's fast-growing cruise visitation schedule.

New ships have also arrived into Australia – we welcomed *Majestic Princess* in November ahead of news that sister ship, *Regal Princess* will homeport in Sydney at the end of 2019.

In the wake of *Viking Sun's* maiden visit, the stunning *Viking Orion* has arrived in Australia for cruise season and *Le Laperouse* – the first ship in Ponant's new explorer series - will arrive in early 2019.

It has also been an exciting year for ACA with our organisation growing our membership including welcome additions from Norfolk Island and harbour towage company, Svitzer. Our MOUs with CLIA and NZCA have also seen us release joint Economic Impact numbers and more recently a Sustainability Guide.

On this positive note, I would like to thank you all for your support in 2018 and wish you and all your families a happy and safe festive season.

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Managing Editor – Jon Murrie
Contributors – Adam Bishop, Sarah Fairburn, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Anastasia Prikhodko
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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