

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Legend to the US

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Legend* will stay in the United States in 2020, to be replaced in the local market by the larger *Carnival Splendor*.

Until Nov 2019, Carnival Cruise Line will have *Carnival Spirit* sailing locally year-round and *Carnival Legend* cruising in the region seasonally.

"We're going from two 2,600 passenger ships, one sailing year-round and one seasonal, to two ships year-round, one of them 3,900 [passengers]," Carnival Cruise Line vice president and general manager Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke told **Cruise Weekly** yesterday.

Splendor to sail in Aus year-round

CARNIVAL Cruise Line will up its capacity in Australia by 66% through the introduction of *Carnival Splendor* to the local fleet to sail year-round (**CW** breaking news).

The ship will arrive in its new homeport of Sydney in Dec 2019, fresh from an "extensive drydock".

Carnival Cruise Line president Christine Duffy told **Cruise Weekly** yesterday that the nearly 30-day drydock would see *Splendor* fitted with "all of the major Funship 2.0 features," such as the Green Thunder Waterslide and Waterpark, Guy's Burger Joint, Blueguana Cantina and Blueguana Tequila Bar.

The ship, which currently has capacity for 3,012 passengers will have more cabins added and when it arrives in Sydney will be a 3,900-berth ship.

Carnival Cruise Line vp and gm Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke



said the additional capacity was to make sure the line could meet the needs of families.

Vandekreeke said *Carnival Splendor* would primarily sail to the South Pacific on eight and 10-day voyages, along with Australian cruises to Qld and Tas and likely an annual trip to New Zealand.

Carnival also revealed Matilda Jenkins, a patient of The Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney, would be goddaughter

of *Carnival Splendor*.

Reservations for *Splendor's* 2019 sailings open in Mar and bookings for 2020 will open in May/June.

In 2016 Carnival Australia announced *Splendor* would join P&O Cruises but later elected to keep *Splendor* in the Carnival Cruise Line fleet (**CW** 27 Dec).

P&O will instead receive Princess Cruises' *Golden Princess*.

Duffy is **pictured** centre with members of the Carnival team.

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Townsville Port EIS tick



THE Townsville Port expansion's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been given the green light from the Federal Government.

The approval means preliminary works on Stage one, the \$193 million Channel Widening Project could begin before Apr, pending a resolution on final funding between State & Federal Govts.

Port of Townsville ceo Raneë Crosby said the expansion would allow larger cruise ships to visit the North Queensland city, "which will further boost cruise tourism in the region".

Over the past two years, visitation numbers by cruise ships to Townsville have tripled.

At the moment, Townsville cannot accept ships which are longer than 238m.



THE decision to deploy Princess Cruises' 2,600-passenger *Golden Princess* to the P&O fleet in 2019 instead of *Carnival Splendor* made a "statement to the market in terms of how much we support that brand," Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia group president Jan Swartz told *Cruise Weekly*.

"We found the 2,600-berth ship gives us much greater itinerary flexibility with respect to especially the South Pacific cruises," Swartz said.

"As we assessed the needs of the market and the itinerary and guest experiences that make P&O Australia special, we felt that 2,600 berth was a great size for

that brand."

Similarly, CCL president Christine Duffy said Carnival Corporation believed *Golden Princess* would be a ship better suited to P&O, emphasising the move to give "the national brand an Ocean Medallion ship".

When *Carnival Splendor* joins Carnival Cruise line's local fleet it will sail to the South Pacific, equipped with new tenders.

"There's going to be a significant investment to make sure we are going to be able to get into those [South Pacific] destinations," Carnival Cruise Line vp and gm Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke told *Cruise Weekly*.



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WEEKLY

Thursday 8th February 2018



Ever wanted to know what a Crystal river cruise is like? Find out from an agent in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read
travelBulletin

Silversea support

SILVERSEA Cruises is this month introducing agents' details on direct mail collateral.

Destination brochures sent to Silversea clients will now include the contact information of the travel professional who booked the client's last Silversea voyage.

The details will be included in upcoming Alaska and *Silver Muse* brochures which are expected to be available this week.

MEANWHILE, Silversea has announced a fresh collection of ballet and opera-themed sailings for 2018 and 2019 called "Enriched Voyages".

For more info on the Opera voyages **CLICK HERE**, or **HERE** for info on the ballet cruises.

Celebrity Discovery

CELEBRITY Cruises has released a range of excursions designed to offer small groups "more in-depth experiences".

The "Celebrity Discovery Collection" is available in the Western Mediterranean, with other tours to be added globally throughout 2018.

Tours include a live concert of medieval music at Basilica del Pi's bell tower in Barcelona.

VA OPT check-in

VIRGIN Australia's pop-up check-in and baggage drop service is now live at Sydney's White Bay Cruise Terminal.

The move follows a trial of the service and its implementation at the Overseas Passenger Terminal last year (**CW** 21 Sep).

Medallion rejig on P&O



THE Ocean Medallion offering introduced on P&O Cruises will be "quite different" to that on Princess Cruises, Jan Swartz, Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia group pres said.

Swartz explained to **CW** the foundational elements of the offering, in terms of "using cutting edge technology to enhance the personalisation of the experience and reduce

friction in the guest experience," would be the same, "but how it enables a differentiated guest experience will be enhanced".

"How it will support the guest experience will differ by brand based on the unique guest needs of that brand," she said.

Ocean Medallion will be introduced to the P&O Cruises fleet when *Golden Princess* joins in 2020.

Nieuw Statendam 2019 season launch

HOLLAND America Line's new ship *Nieuw Statendam* will cross the Atlantic Ocean in late Apr 2019 and spend the northern summer and autumn exploring northern Europe and the Mediterranean.



The deployment will see the new Pinnacle Class vessel spend the northern summer homeporting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, following the ship's inaugural season in the Caribbean.

Nieuw Statendam will cruise seven- and 14-day itineraries from Amsterdam and in Sep the ship will sail from Amsterdam to Civitavecchia to offer 10-day roundtrip departures from Civitavecchia.

On 27 Oct The ship will reposition to Fort Lauderdale.

Nieuw Statendam is currently under construction at Fincantieri's Marghera shipyard in Italy and is due for delivery on 01 Dec.

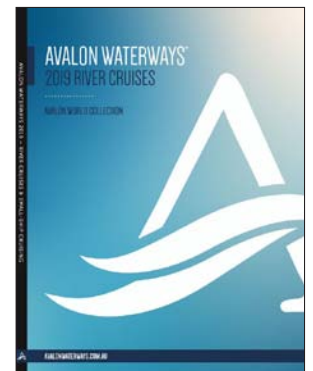
Windstar OCC

WINDSTAR is this month introducing an Onboard Cruise Consultant (OCC) program allowing guests to book a future cruise while on board.

When the initial booking was made by an agent, the travel consultant will receive full credit and full commission for the new booking.

Brochure spotlight

Avalon Waterways



SIX new itineraries feature in the just-released Avalon Waterways 2019 River Cruises brochure.

The new additions include an eight-day Arles-Lyon Active Discovery on the Rhone cruise and 18-day Budapest to Basel Enchanted Europe journey.

Avalon has also introduced a selection of new included excursions and on board activities covering "Discovery", "Active" and "Classic" elements named Avalon Choice.

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Jardine to CATO

FORMER-CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia commercial director and gm Brett Jardine has been announced as the new managing director of the Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO).

Jardine was with CLIA Australasia for close to a decade and will start in the new role at the end of Mar.

He replaces Peter Baily who after 25 years of leading CATO will retire from the role.

Azamara back in town



AZAMARA Journey sailed into Sydney Harbour yesterday afternoon, marking the start of two turnaround departures in Australia's largest city.

The schedule is part of Azamara Club Cruises' third season cruising down under.

Journey's arrival in Sydney marked the completion of the

line's first Australian country-intensive cruise, an 18-night voyage from Bali to Australia, sailing the west and south coast.

Azamara Journey will also offer the line's first ever World Journey, departing Sydney on 07 Mar.

The ship will depart Sydney tonight on a 14-night Tasmania and New Zealand voyage.



DOLPHINS of a different kind are coming to the Caribbean, with MSC Cruises announcing a Miami Dolphins-themed departure on *MSC Seaside*.

The Miami Dolphins Fan Cruise is the result of a three-year partnership between MSC Cruises and the NFL team.

Past players will join fans on the new ship on 17 Mar for an eight-day cruise sailing to the Bahamas, US Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda.

The cruise will have the legendary Miami Dolphins cheerleaders on board, who will host special programming, along with the team mascot, T.D.

Guests will also have a chance to take home an autograph from other Dolphin icons including Kim Bokamper, Sam Madison and Joe Rose.

Prices start from US\$699pp.

Shine claims "absurd": Princess

PRINCESS Cruises has hit back against "absurd" allegations made by Shine Lawyers that more than 16,000 passengers could be eligible for compensation under a class action (**CW Tue**).

"It is absurd to suggest up to 16,000 people could have been affected by illness," Princess Cruises said in a statement.

"Princess Cruises leaves nothing to chance to maintain a healthy onboard environment with robust procedures that are in line with the highest international public health management standards."

The cruise line emphasised "the risk of becoming ill while on a cruise holiday is tiny - a factor of just 0.02%".

Ponant appoints

PONANT is continuing its expansion plans in the Asia Pacific by appointing Debra Kearney to the newly created role of business development manager NSW & ACT.

Kearney will be based in Ponant's North Sydney office.

Eclipse incentive

SCENIC is offering agents the chance to secure one of 17 famil spots to South America on *Scenic Eclipse*.

Places on the famil will be given to agents based on sales between 01 Jul and 30 Jun.

Visit **SCENIC HUB** for more.



CLIA
UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

CLIA Asia River Cruise and Destination Forum Top Speakers Revealed

WE ARE thrilled at the response to the inaugural River Cruise & Destination Forum to be held in Vietnam in Apr. This is sure to be a highlight of CLIA's professional development calendar. The event includes trade fair, conference, one-to-one meetings, two hosted dinners, plus an included river cruise on the Mekong.

The program offers insights into the experiences that await guests on cruise holidays across Asia, with a special appearance by Luke Nguyen, APT Ambassador, chef, author and television personality, to talk about the Asian dining experience, and host an exclusive dinner at his acclaimed Ho Chi Minh restaurant, Vietnam House.

CLIA Australasia's Peter Kollar will speak on upgrading Asian destination knowledge to improve sales, and Kristin Karst, co-founder of AmaWaterways will share her view of current river cruise trends and opportunities.

Travel Weekly UK's Lucy Huxley and CLIA's Senior Vice President Membership, Andy Harmer, will host the conference. To reserve one of the few remaining places email info-aus@cruising.org.

Congratulations to Carnival on the announcement this week that *Carnival Splendor* will be based in Australia year-round from late 2019.

This 66% increase in Carnival's Australasia capacity is another positive indicator of the continued growth of our local cruise industry.



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