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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Carnival Cruise Line** and a full page from **AA Appointments**.

Carnival unveils tech boost

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has officially opened its new Fleet Operations Centre (**CW 14** Mar 2017), the largest of its kind in the cruise sector.

The mammoth facility based in Miami will be the command centre for all of the technical support needed by the company's fleet of 26 ships.

Installations include a video wall of 57 LED screens.

MEANWHILE bookings for *Carnival Splendor* have gone on sale - see **cover page**.

Heralding a new Dawn at Silversea

SILVERSEA Cruises has placed an order for a new luxury vessel which will become a sister ship to the cruise line's flagship vessel *Silver Muse*.

Silver Dawn is scheduled for delivery in Q4 2021 and will be constructed by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri in a contract worth more than \$507.3 million.

"Following the extraordinary success of *Silver Muse*, we are delighted to announce *Silver Dawn*...to join the Silversea fleet," said the company's chairman Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio.

"*Silver Dawn* will bear the same hallmarks of quality that guests enjoy on our 6-star ships...we look forward to welcoming guests aboard in Nov 2021."

The news comes at a time of strong growth for Silversea, which only recently announced a construction order with Fincantieri for *Silver Moon* (**CW**



12 Sep), another sister ship to *Muse* due to make a splash in the market in 2020.

When *Silver Dawn* makes her maiden voyage in 2021, she will be the company's eleventh ship in the fleet and the third in the luxury *Muse* class.

Silversea's decision to forge ahead with more investment in the *Muse* class is attributable to the positive market response,

a point echoed by Silversea's manufacturing partner Fincantieri.

"It is with great satisfaction for our group to see an ambitious project like *Silver Muse* establish itself on the market and get the highest appreciation from an exclusive customer like Silversea," said Fincantieri chief executive Giuseppe Bono.

Pictured: *Silver Muse*.

Regent

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 15th May 2018



Discover the latest river ships setting sail in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

[CLICK](#) to read **travelBulletin**

Spirit of Europe launched



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has launched its Europe 2019 itineraries for sailings aboard the *Norwegian Spirit*.

Destinations listed in the new packages include minimum 10-day journeys to the British Isles, Iceland, Norwegian Fjords, and the Arctic Circle.

Cruises depart between Mar and Oct 2019 and boast more departure locations than previous

Norwegian brochures, with ports in Rome, Barcelona, Southampton and Stockholm available.

Highlights of the itinerary include a 15-day Baltic sailing departing from Southampton with overnight stops in a range of European ports including St. Petersburg in Russia.

For further info regarding bookings - call 1300 255 200. *Norwegian Spirit* pictured.

Galapagos flights

EXPEDITION Cruise Specialists has celebrated its itinerary expansion to the Galapagos Islands by offering free return flights from the South American mainland across to the islands on selected 2018/19 expeditions.

The flights, valued up to US\$498pp, can be added to five- and seven-day sailings aboard the *Santa Cruz II*, *La Pinta* and *Isabela II*.

Scenic appeals

AN APPEAL hearing has this week commenced in the NSW Supreme Court for the ongoing Scenic Tours class action.

The case is regarding 13 European river cruise departures which were impacted by heavy rain and flooding in 2013 (*CW* 07 Apr).

Scenic is appealing a ruling last year which found lead plaintiff David Moore was entitled to a full refund.

Qantas and APT tie up loyalty deal

TRAVELLERS with access to the Qantas Frequent Flyer program can now earn two points for every \$1 spent when booking any APT luxury river cruise, as well as one point per \$1 on all other APT holidays, thanks to a new partnership between the two companies.

APT's chief executive officer, Steve Reynolds said the joint venture will not only offer great benefits to customers, but agents also stand to reap the rewards as well.

"We are proud to partner with Australia's best loyalty program to offer APT guests another great benefit when booking their next big adventure," Reynolds said.

"We have extended the offer to cover all APT tours, to ensure everyone can take advantage of the new partnership...for agents booking APT trips the additional sell point will help secure bookings as guests will be able to earn points with all their APT bookings."

More information on earning and redeeming Qantas Frequent Flyer points can be found [HERE](#).

For details on the partnership, call APT on 1300 196 420.

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CRUISE

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Viking floats out sixth



VIKING Cruises recently celebrated the float out of its 930-guest *Viking Jupiter* vessel in Ancona, Italy.

The ceremony saw coins welded under the ship's mast by singer Sissel Kyrkjebo who has been made the honorary godmother of the vessel.

"It is always a proud moment when a new ship touches water for the first time and is one step

closer to welcoming guests on board," said Viking chairman Torstein Hagen.

Jupiter will become Viking's sixth ocean ship and is scheduled for delivery in 2019, she will spend her maiden season servicing itineraries in the Mediterranean and Europe.

Godmother of *Jupiter* Sissel Kyrkjebo is **pictured** during the recent float out.

Princess releases 2019/20 Asia and Americas itineraries

MORE than 300 departures from across Asia, the Caribbean, Panama Canal, South America and Antarctica have been added to the latest program from Princess Cruises, with early bookings opening 17 May for Elite clients, and 18 May for all guests.

Early booking offers apply for Princess Cruises Captain's Circle Members, including up to \$100 of on board credit and 50% reduced deposits.

Highlights include Asia and Japan, where the *Sapphire Princess* will be deployed from Singapore, & *Diamond Princess* from Tokyo.

Sky, Regal, Caribbean, Crown and *Pacific Princess* cruises will sail from Fort Lauderdale and stop off at 25 Caribbean islands, while the *Emerald Princess* will take guests to the Panama Canal.

Seabourn pops the cork on *Ovation*

ULTRA-LUXURY cruise line Seabourn has officially welcomed its newest vessel to the fleet, with the christening of *Seabourn Ovation* in Malta this week.

The naming ceremony included a live performance of the ship's godmother, renowned actress and singer Elaine Page, who released a bottle of champagne that was broken against the ship following the show.

Richard Meadows, president of Seabourn, said the launch aimed to bring the cruising company into a new era.

"The ship is another major step forward in the growth of Seabourn and an opportunity for us to provide guests with the finest luxury travel experience available at sea today," he commented.

"Like her sisters in our fleet, *Seabourn Ovation* is such a beautiful ship, and I know that guests and cruise industry observers are going to be very impressed from the moment they step on board."

Seabourn Ovation is the fifth ultra-luxury vessel to join the Seabourn fleet over the past decade, and features all oceanfront suites with private verandas, and a modern design.



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Cruise to fitness

A **FITNESS** challenge organised by former star of *The Bachelor* Tim Robards could see competitors win a U by Uniworld European river cruise.

The 10-week TRM Twosome Challenge is open to "couples, besties and siblings" with final entries due by 20 May.

The winning duo will score a Rolling on the Rhine cruise exploring the rivers from Amsterdam to Frankfurt and includes return flights and accommodation.

See further info [HERE](#).

Dreaming in Melbourne



DREAM Cruises' top brass was in Melbourne this week to meet with Express Travel Group after catching up with key trade partners for a meet and greet in Sydney last week (**CW** 10 May).

The flying trip, headed up by Dream's senior vice president of international sales Michael Goh,

aimed to reaffirm Dream Cruises' commitment to the Aussie cruise market and relationship building.

Pictured: Dream's Michael Goh, Brigita Devries and Andrew Loving present a Genting Dream model ship to the general manager of Express Travel Group Ari Magoutis (second from left).

Pandaw launches new India river cruise

ASIAN travel specialist Pandaw has announced the launch of a new river expedition that takes pax along The Lower Ganges in India.

The seven-night river cruise will take place aboard the *Orient Pandaw* and offers weekly departures commencing 23 Dec, running through to the end of Apr 2019.

"We're delighted to have our own ship positioned in India and are excited to be able to offer our customers the full Pandaw experience in a totally new destination," said Pandaw founder Paul Strachan.

Prices for the trip start from US\$1,890 per person twin share and include local transfers, all excursions, entrance fees, guide services and main meals - For further booking info visit www.pandaw.com.



RSSC launches Syd to HK voyage

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has introduced a new 67-night ocean, river and land itinerary sailing from Sydney to Hong Kong on board the *Seven Seas Mariner*.

The Down Under & Far East Grandeur cruise departs Sydney on 20 Jan 2019 with prices starting from \$43,230 per person twin share.

Highlights of the exploration include the Thai island of Koh Samui, Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, and the Malaysian city of Kota Kinabalu.

Booking info [CLICK HERE](#).

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	15 May
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	19 May
MELBOURNE	
<i>Insignia</i>	11 May
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	15 May
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	17 May
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	18 May
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	19 May
CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	21 May
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	17 May
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	17 May
<i>Insignia</i>	19 May



RIVER cruise enthusiasts searching for a trip they can really sink their teeth into should contemplate dropping in on the Serbian town of Veliko Gradiste.

Local folklorist Mirko Bogicic believes the riverside port is home to a real-life vampire, a peasant named Petar Blagojevic who legend has it came back to life to torment his family and lurk near houses to demand food or shoes from his victims.

Villagers became so terrified that at one point they dug up his grave so they could stab the corpse in the heart with a stake. Way to get to the point end of the mystery guys!

Select Danube cruises currently call at Veliko Gradiste.

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