

Cruise Weekly today

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

Costa to the rescue

PASSENGERS aboard Costa Cruises' *Costa Luminosa* had somewhat of an adventure in the Aegean Sea last week, after the ship was diverted to help the crew of a fish freighter which caught on fire.

The *Kilic 1* was in distress, with heavy seas and dense smoke when *Luminosa* came to the rescue in the dead of night, with a ship's tender taking 11 crew from the stricken vessel.

All were transferred to another cargo vessel, with *Costa Luminosa* then resuming its week-long itinerary visiting ports in Greece, Croatia and Montenegro.

MSC cuts steel on "EVO" newbuild

MSC Cruises today held a formal steel-cutting ceremony at Fincantieri's shipyard in

Monfalcone, Italy, marking the start of construction of the first of two "Seaside EVO" vessels.

The newly named *MSC Seashore* (pictured) is scheduled to enter service in less than three years' time, as an evolution of MSC's Seaside class of ships with a range of additional features.

A larger MSC Yacht Club will cover three forward decks, while the 5,632-passenger vessel will also feature an additional lounge at the rear, specialty restaurants on deck eight for dining al fresco closer to the ocean's surface, and 200 more cabins across the ship.

MSC Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago said the Seaside class had proven to be

"one of the more innovative cruise ship prototypes...setting a new industry standard for others to follow."

"Today, only one year after *MSC Seaside* entered into service, we are taking this award winning concept to the next level," he said.

Vago said as well as having more on-board facilities, *Seashore* would feature the latest advanced environmental technology including a selective catalytic reduction system, exhaust gas cleaning technology, advanced water treatment systems, state-of-the-art waste management and an advanced energy and heat-recovery platform.

A second Seaside EVO ship is

also on order from Fincantieri, for delivery in the first half of 2022.

MEANWHILE MSC Cruises is also expanding its shoreside facilities, with Vago confirming the company had acquired a significant stake in the cruise terminal in Trieste, Italy.

"This investment will support MSC Cruises' longstanding objective of providing enhanced and seamless experiences for cruise guests right from the point of embarkation onwards," the company said.

As a result of the investment, MSC Cruises has confirmed it will develop homeporting operations in Trieste starting from the northern summer of 2020.



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CRUISE



Monday 26th November 2018

Hobart's double dip

AN ESTIMATED 6,800 cruise passengers were unloaded in Hobart yesterday thanks to two ships being docked in the state's capital at one time.

Holland America Line's Vista class ship *The Noordam* and Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas* were both visiting Hobart, with Destination Southern Tasmania Chief Executive Alex Heroy telling *The Mercury* the double vessel visit led to a passenger spend of approximately \$1.1 million.

"The average passenger spend per person while in port in Hobart is \$172," Heroy said.

"We know that they spend their money on retail, food and beverages, and excursions — with 43% of passengers participating in some kind of organised tour for the day," he added.

The Tasmanian Government has revealed plans to make Hobart a turnaround port to help boost visitation (*CW* 25 Oct).

Captain Christmas

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has launched a Christmas Day lunch cruise on board *MV Sydney 2000* featuring three separate lunch options.

The top package is The Sky Deck lunch which includes a five-course premium menu along with an open bar of superior spirits, premium wines and beers.

Also on offer is The Club Deck lunch providing a Christmas buffet featuring traditional favourites such as Virginia baked leg ham, roast turkey, and marinated beef sirloin.

The Show Deck Christmas buffet offers the same buffet as The Club Deck but with standard drinks options.

The cruise departs 25 Dec at 12.00pm from No.1 King Street Wharf and prices start from \$199 per adult and \$155 per child for the Show Deck lunch.

Ponant in pole position



PONANT has commenced the construction of its polar exploration vessel *Le Commandant Charcot*, with the official steel cutting ceremony taking place this month at the Vard shipyard in Romania.

The flagship vessel is expected to be delivered in 2021 and has been described by Ponant as the most "ambitious ever designed both in terms of travel experience & respect for the environment."

Le Commandant Charcot will be powered by liquefied natural gas and when operational

will undertake "intense polar explorations" and sail to the Geographic North Pole.

"Exploring little-known lands and sharing and transmitting our passion for the sea and for nature have always been our driving forces," said Ponant CEO Jean Emmanuel Sauvee.

"Our fervent desire is that our passengers, being in daily contact with scientists and experts...become ambassadors for the protection of these regions."

For more info call 1300 737 178.



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Medallion rolling out



PRINCESS Cruises' wearable technology Ocean Medallion is likely to be rolled out in Australia within the next 12-18 months, according to the line's Group President Jan Swartz.

The device is now in use in conjunction with an app on board *Caribbean Princess* (pictured), giving guests keyless entry to their rooms, high-speed wi-fi, access to digital entertainment and a range of other services.

At the recent World's Leading Cruise Lines Next Wave Summit, Swartz said new layers of functionality were being added to the system each week.

"On *Caribbean Princess* as we sit here today we now scale to 100% of our guests wearing the device which enables them to experience the cruise and eliminate so many tiny points of friction," she said.

"You can get on the ship much more quickly. You have keyless entry to your room. You have personalised service where the crew is served up information about you and your preferences... so they can then make suggestions about what activities are going to be best for you."

Swartz said the system's location services had proved particularly popular, enabling guests to see where their children or other travel companions were on board.

The device also provided "land-like" internet speeds, allowing guests to stream Netflix or to Facetime with family.

Swartz said *Regal Princess* was now being enabled with Ocean Medallion and would offer the service on all cruises by Feb, after which a timeline would be established for the wider fleet.

Discover Kimberley

SILVERSEA has launched a collection of new itineraries exploring WA's Kimberley on board *Silver Discoverer*.

Sailing the region for the last time, *Discoverer* will offer eight voyages between Broome and Darwin, departing between Apr and Jun 2019.

"These voyages are truly magnificent and even in a country as big as Australia you can be sure that the Kimberley will always leave a huge impression," said Silversea Cruises Managing Director of Australia and New Zealand Adam Armstrong.

Fares start from \$9,990ppts and bookings made by 30 Nov 2018 will receive free Economy roundtrip air or Business class one way for \$699.

For further information on the cruises, **CLICK HERE**.

Chimu Black Fri

CHIMU Adventures is currently offering up to 40% off select cruises to the Polar regions, the Galapagos and the Amazon rainforest as part of its Black Friday promotion.

Offers include a 25% discount on an eight-day cruise to the Arctic ending in the Norwegian city of Longyearbyen and sailing by icebergs, glaciers and polar bears.

The offers end 30 Nov.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.



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Monday 26th November 2018

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Lounging around with NCL



NORWEGIAN Cruise

Line's recent refurbishment program on board *Norwegian Breakaway*, *Norwegian Sun* and *Norwegian Star* has produced a host of updated lounges.

Formerly called Dazzles, the new Bliss Ultra Lounge (**top**) on board *Norwegian Sun* is a bar and nightclub where guests can take advantage of new plush seating, cocktail tables and a wooden dance floor.

Breakaway is now home to the American rock 'n' roll bar Syd Norman's Pour House (**inset below left**), a



retro-lounge space that was inspired by the greatest clubs in American rock 'n' roll history.

The Spinnaker Lounge (**bottom**) aboard *Norwegian Sun* replaces the former Observation Lounge and showcases a fresh design complete with new leather chairs, carpet, chandeliers, wall coverings and a stone top bar.

Norwegian Star's newly designed Sky High Bar (**inset above**) boasts an updated bar and seating for close to 120 guests, an outdoor bar, and the best views on board the vessel.



River cruising the new black



RIVER cruise operator U by Uniworld has announced the launch of its 2019 brochure designed to resonate with "the young and young at heart".

The latest edition is presented in a black cover, described by the company as "sleek and chic", and also arrives with pages that can be read by the augmented reality Zappar app to bring the listed itineraries to life.

"We've been shaking up the river cruise industry over the past year," said U by Uniworld and Uniworld Australia Managing Director Fiona Dalton.

"With the release of such an

innovative brochure, we are thrilled to keep the positive momentum running for such a unique brand and experience," she added.

Cruises on *The B* start from \$2,399 per person and include accommodation, meals, select offshore excursions, two dedicated U hosts, and a host of ship activities such as mixology classes, karaoke, & silent discos.

MEANWHILE U By Uniworld is currently running a Cyber Monday promotion offering 20% discounts and \$100 of onboard credit on *The B* valid until midnight today.

For more info call 1300 730 010.

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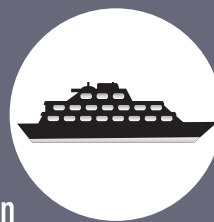


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Need help wading through the huge variety of cruise options out there?

Check out the 2019 Cruise Guide for a comprehensive tool.

CRUISE WEEKLY Travel Daily travelBulletin



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

<i>Pacific Eden</i>	26 Nov
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	27 Nov
<i>Amsterdam</i>	27 Nov
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	28 Nov
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	29 Nov
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	30 Nov
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	01 Dec
<i>Astor</i>	01 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	02 Dec

MELBOURNE

<i>Carnival Legend</i>	26 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	27 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	01 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	02 Dec

BRISBANE

<i>Pacific Aria</i>	27 Nov
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	28 Nov
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	01 Dec

CAIRNS

<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	02 Dec
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ADELAIDE

<i>Noordam</i>	27 Nov
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HOBART

<i>Carnival Legend</i>	28 Nov
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AUCKLAND

<i>Maasdam</i>	26 Nov
<i>Astor</i>	27 Nov
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	27 Nov
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	28 Nov
<i>Golden Princess</i>	30 Nov
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	30 Nov
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	01 Dec
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	02 Dec
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	02 Dec

P&O to rebuild capacity



P&O Cruises Australia is set to resume capacity growth in late 2020 when its first Grand Class ship *Pacific Adventure* begins sailing in local waters.

At the recent World's Leading Cruise Lines (WLCL) Next Wave Summit, the President of Carnival Australia & New Zealand and P&O Cruises Australia, Sture Myrmell, said a contraction in capacity over coming seasons would be short-lived as the line renewed its fleet.

"*Pacific Adventure* arrives at the end of 2020 and then the second Grand Class ship comes in towards the end of 2021, so when we get to that point the capacity will be back up to roughly where we are today," Myrmell said.

P&O's reduced capacity is in contrast to its WLCL sister brands which will all increase their presence in Australia over the next two years.

Myrmell said the reduction had been due to the timing of the sale of existing vessels.

"The timing of it is not necessarily in our court," he said.

"Ideally we would have been exiting ships just before a new ship comes in, but in this case we haven't been able to do that perfectly, so that the result of that is we see a dip in the capacity in the short term."

The 3,100-pax *Pacific Adventure*, pictured, is currently sailing as *Golden Princess* (CW 27 Sep).



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NCL frees its pride

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has extended its "Free at Sea" offer to Hawaii sailings on board *Pride of America* departing from 05 Jan 2019.

Pax who book a studio or inside stateroom can choose one of five free options such as 250 minutes of wi-fi - view the full list of offers [HERE](#).



ALTHOUGH Richard Branson's new venture into the cruise sector is firmly geared towards satisfying the appetite of the adult market, that doesn't mean his ships will be without any slice of childlike fun.

The drag queen brunch to be served in *Scarlet Lady's* Razzle Dazzle restaurant will feature an adult take on fairy bread, with the kids' party staple to be transformed into something a touch more sophisticated for the adult palate.

The change up will see the sprinkled sando made with brioche toast and then drizzled with condensed coconut milk and topped with hundreds and thousands.

The colourful culinary twist was reportedly met with a warm reception at a recent menu preview for Razzle Dazzle.



CRUISE

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