

Uniworld's new beauty takes a bow

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is kicking off the 2019 European sailing season with a bang, this week officially debuting its new *S.S. Bon Voyage* on a VIP preview cruise out of Bordeaux in southern France.

The company's sixth and newest "Super Ship" was announced last year (*CW* 30 Jul 2018) as a complete transformation of Uniworld's *River Royale*.

The bow-to-stern makeover has included the addition of four new luxury suites, a reconfigured gym and spa facilities, new dining venues and much more.

Marble bathrooms grace the ship throughout, while the dining room has been enhanced with a new "chef demonstration area" to allow guests to have a more intimate experience of the



delightful cuisine inspired by *S.S. Bon Voyage's* surroundings.

The ship's redesign reflects the renowned wine and gastronomic expertise of the region where she sails, with a key itinerary simply titled "Brilliant Bordeaux" giving guests eight days of delightful culinary and scenic experiences

on the Garonne, Dordogne and the Gironde rivers.

An expanded complement of crew completes the luxury Uniworld offering for a higher crew-to-guest ratio ensuring impeccable service.

More in Fri's issue of *CW*.

Pictured: The *S.S. Bon Voyage*.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in
Bordeaux, France

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you from France courtesy of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection.

UNIWORLD will today kick off the inaugural voyage of its brand new *S.S. Bon Voyage* after a multimillion dollar transformation of the former *River Royale*.

Cruising out of Bordeaux, the *Bon Voyage* embodies everything that is good about life in the south of France, with guests expected to enjoy wine tasting, stunning scenery and top class cuisine on board.

Uniworld President and CEO, Ellen Bettridge is on the ship - for a full run-down see Fri's edition of *Cruise Weekly*.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus full pages from: • **Cruiseco** and • **Windstar**

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WEEKLY

Wednesday 10th April 2019

Get your entries in!

THERE'S just two days left for companies and PR agencies to enter the 2019 **Travel Daily** Travel & Tourism Sustainability Awards.

The inaugural awards are free to enter, with categories including Best Sustainable travel or tourism initiative; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – Culture & Communities; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – City-based business or operation; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – Coast, Coastal business or operation; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – Ocean or ocean-based cruise operator; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – Land, land-based supplier or hotel/resort; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – River or river-based cruise operator; Best sustainable travel or tourism initiative – Ecotourism; and Best sustainable travel initiative – Airline.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

CLIA NT Training

CRUISE Lines International Association has debuted a new course in the Northern Territory, with the aim of educating cruise specialist agents on the “untamed expanses of Australia’s spectacular Top End”.

The latest addition to the CLIA Learning Academy has been developed in partnership with Tourism NT and includes details on the Territory’s seven regions including what travellers can expect to see, activities and experiences.

Tourism NT is the latest CLIA Executive Partner to help create new and engaging educational content for CLIA travel agent members, with other recent additions including modules created with the help of Abu Dhabi Tourism and Travelvax - more at www.cruising.org.au.

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Le Bouganville arrives



PONANT'S fleet expansion is continuing apace, with the fast-growing luxury expedition cruise operator last week taking delivery of *Le Bouganville* (pictured), the third in the Ponant Explorers series of six new vessels.

The ship left Norway on Mon this week, and she is currently sailing en route to Spain where the ship will undertake her maiden cruise from Malaga on 15 Apr before an official inauguration on 04 Jun.

Le Bouganville is Ponant's eighth ship overall, and has 92 staterooms and suites all with a balcony or private terrace.

Like the other Ponant Explorers, the ship is fitted with the “Blue Eye” underwater multi-sensorial salon which allows guests to discover the aquatic world via two large portholes, non-intrusive underwater lighting and embedded hydrophones.

Sister ship *Le Dumont-d'Urville* is scheduled for delivery in Jun.

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Wednesday 10th April 2019

Sustainability AWARDS

2 DAYS LEFT TO ENTER

If your business is leading the way in sustainable practices, be recognised!

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Carnival mural

CARNIVAL Cruise Line yesterday announced that its new Australia-based ship *Carnival Splendor* would feature a colourful mural inspired by whimsical drawings of sea creatures created by kids at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Splendor makes her Sydney debut in Dec this year, with the new mural to feature in Splashy Cove, an enclosed kid-friendly area with mini waterslides, spray fountains and interactive toys.

Carnival has an ongoing partnership with the hospital, with 7-year-old patient Matilda Jenkins to become the very first goddaughter of a Carnival ship when *Splendor* arrives.

Oceania menu expands



OCEANIA Cruises overnight announced the latest enhancement under its OceaniaNEXT initiative, which will see the addition of more than 200 new healthy menu selections across its fleet.

Oceania has developed the

new plant-based options in partnership with chef, culinary instructor and author Christophe Berg, with the expanded menus available at breakfast, lunch and dinner in The Grand Dining Room and Terrace Cafe.

Guests will also have plant-based options available upon request during dinner service in each of Oceania's on-board specialty restaurants.

"These new plant-based options are flavourful, colourful, bold and creative," said Oceania President and CEO, Bob Binder.

"Our hallmark finest cuisine at sea now provides an innovative and appealing menu of choices that reflect our guests' evolving palates and heightened focus on wellness, while balancing our more decadent and extravagant dishes," he said.

Items include an Impossible Cheeseburger, Power Bowls, pad Thai, salads and soups and even Truffle Mac and Cheese.

Pictured is an Instagram post by Oceania Corporate Executive Chef, Franck Garanger during a plant-based cooking demo with Christophe Berg.

SkyPad shutdown

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has suspended operations of the SkyPad virtual reality bungee trampoline offered on *Mariner of the Seas*, *Spectrum of the Seas* and *Independence of the Seas*, after a guest injured on the experience filed a lawsuit.

RCI advised of the temporary closure on Twitter, saying it was conducting a review "as part of our commitment to safety".

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Highlights from the 18th annual CLIA cruise industry awards in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Mystic US push

PORTUGUESE cruise line Mystic Cruises (**CW** 15 Mar) has gained a "strategic investment partner" which will enable the company to dedicate four extra ships to the US market, *Seatrade* reports.

Mystic plans to debut the *World Navigator* and *World Traveller* premium expedition vessels in the USA in 2021, followed by *World Seeker* and *World Adventurer* in 2022.

Lindblad Farm-to-Table



LINDBLAD Expeditions is expanding its on-board "Farm-to-Table" initiative, partnering with food producers in remote locales across its fleet's destinations.

Ecuador is a key focus for the program, which was launched in the Galapagos Islands in 2017 by Lindblad Director of Hotel Services, Ana Esteves (**pictured**).

Esteves reached out to local farmers through a connection to Ecuador's Minister of Agriculture, and has established long-term relationships which see Lindblad chefs plan menus months in advance, allowing the producers to harvest items as specified.

One Galapagos farm produces specialty produce exclusively for Lindblad including chillies, kale, cherry tomatoes, coriander and edible flowers, while the local

focus extends to the on-board beverage menu as well with ships featuring a selection of Ecuadorian artisanal beers.

Other destinations where Lindblad's Farm-to-Table concept is being developed include Costa Rica, the Falkland Islands even the Arctic Svalbard region.

Lindblad says the program's roots are at the core of the company's mission of "supporting critical conservation efforts while contributing to the economic stability of every destination and region it explores".

On the culinary side, Esteves and her team have redesigned menus to focus on wellness, taking advantage of "Andean superfoods" such as cocoa nibs, quinoa, maca root, chucho and other natural ingredients.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

A sustainable message

THE multi-billion dollar investment that cruise lines are making in environmental measures will define our industry for generations. But it's not just a matter for the designers and engineers behind the new wave of low-emission cruise ships joining the world fleet.

As CLIA's Global Chair, Adam Goldstein told the Cruise360 USA conference in Fort Lauderdale last week, travel agents will play an increasing role in the environmental stewardship of the cruise industry. Adam dedicated part of his keynote address to the changing landscape of consumer sensitivity around sustainability – the fact that environmental issues are becoming even more important to consumers when making decisions, especially for younger travellers. This means the actions we're taking today need to be more than just operational matters – they're a vital part of our identity and a key to our industry's future success.

In coming years, travel agents will hear more and more about environmental measures in cruising. Our future challenges are not just in achieving sustainability, but also in equipping agents with the knowledge to address their clients' concerns and become ambassadors for the cruise industry's environmental leadership.



IT APPEARED to be all about the snacks for a group of passengers boarding an MSC transatlantic cruise departing the Caribbean last month.

Officials wondering why the cruisers were bringing so many bags of Cheetos Puffs on board were later surprised to find that they actually contained about US\$2.6 million worth of cocaine.

A total of 12 people were arrested in Portugal after the *MSC Opera* arrived in Madeira after cruising across from the Caribbean, according to the UK's National Crime Agency.

The Cheetos bags allegedly held 18kg of the drug which was seized in a joint operation with Portuguese officials.

Police said the seizure had "seriously disrupted an organised crime group looking to traffic cocaine into the UK and Europe" - that's one heck of a 'snaccident'.



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