

MSC Cruises expand Miami presence

MSC Cruises has announced details of a new cruise terminal at PortMiami that will help support its plan to expand its presence in North America and the Caribbean.

The cruise line will design, construct, operate and maintain a large building that hosts two cruise terminals (AA and AAA), allowing MSC to conduct two turnaround operations simultaneously and process up to 28,000 pax movements daily.

“With another 13 cruise vessels due to join our fleet in the next eight years, our ambition is to have our most innovative ship classes represented at PortMiami,” said MSC Cruises Exec Chair Pierfrancesco Vago.

“In particular, the new terminal



- which will be one of the most innovative the industry has seen - will ensure that we can provide our guests an enhanced end-to-end high-quality experience while both embarking and disembarking,” he added.

Work is scheduled to commence on the new terminals in early 2020, with the company estimating the project will be completed by late 2022.

The new cruise facilities will allow MSC Cruises to bring a total of one million guests through PortMiami each year.

Time is running out

TODAY is the last day to nominate for the first *Travel Daily* Travel and Tourism Sustainability awards. See [HERE](#) for more details.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in
Libourne, France

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

UNIWORLD'S S.S. Bon Voyage is continuing her special preview cruise today, having overnight journeyed south from the Medoc region to Libourne, near St Emilion.

Every destination on the cruise evokes fine wine, and guests have been treated to a series of visits to some of the finest Chateaux to sample the local vintages.

Our journey wraps up tomorrow as the ship returns to Bordeaux - more from Uniworld on **page five** of today's *CW*.

Cruise Weekly today

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AzAmazing events

AZAMARA Club Cruises has launched 15 new AzAmazing Evenings - signature events which are designed to uniquely connect Azamara guests to the local culture of a destination.

Exclusive to Azamara, the AzAmazing Evenings are unique to each location and feature local talent and performances, in many cases hosted in historic venues such as The Odeon of Ancient Ephesus in Turkey and The Solis Theatre in Uruguay.

Highlights from the expanded collection include "A Musical Tribute to the Knights of Rhodes", taking place in the Grand Master's Palace on the Greek island of Rhodes, along with a traditional Korean performance at the Busan Cultural Centre.

See azamarclubcruises.com.

Windstar previews reno



WINDSTAR Cruises has revealed the renderings of its renovated vessels, *Star Breeze*, *Star Legend*, and *Star Pride*.

The refurbishment is part of Windstar's new \$250 million Star Plus Initiative, and is described as the "most complex and comprehensive small ship lengthening, engine replacement, & renovation project in cruising".

Work on the ships begins in Oct 2019 and ends in Nov 2020.

"This is the biggest investment

and expansion in Windstar Cruises' history," said the cruise line's President John Delaney.

Bookings are open for *Star Breeze* and *Star Legend* after the ships completed renovations, including *Star Breeze's* Colours of Key West & Central America 10-day voyage from Miami, FL to Colon, Panama on 20 Mar 2020.

CLICK HERE to watch last week's Steel Cutting Ceremony at Fincantieri's Shipyards in Trieste and later in Palermo, Italy.

SeaLink seals deal

SEALINK Travel Group has inked a global partnership with independent booking platform Rezdy, a deal that will link the cruise company's products with a global network of distribution partners.

"We are delighted to be working with Rezdy and their team to provide a streamlined booking process to our customers and partners and to increase the choices and brilliant experiences that our destinations are famous for," said Sealink Travel Group Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Jeff Ellison.

Rezdy General Manager of Partnerships Kevin Lu was also talking up the agreement.

"This partnership allows our network of resellers from around the world to access top Aussie products in real-time," Lu said.

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Discover the delights of the Mekong River in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Puttin' on the Ritz

GLOBAL travel advisor network Virtuoso, has entered a preferred partnership with the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection ahead of the cruise line's 2020 debut season.

The partnership will see the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection join Virtuoso's cruise enhancement program, offering six sailings, with complimentary benefits for guests who book through the network.

The Ritz-Carlton's maiden cruise will be in the Caribbean next Feb, offering guests "highly personalised services, inspired dining and luxury amenities".

NZ Scouts sing same tune



A LIVELY group of 15 New Zealand Sea Scouts from Auckland recently boarded P&O Cruises' *Pacific Aria* to become "Seafarers for a Day" following the 1,500-guest ship's maiden arrival for a new cruise season.

The group of boys and girls aged from 10 to 18 participated in sessions on the intricacies of sea navigation from traditional methods using sextants and signal flags to modern satellite technology.

"It seems natural to welcome Sea Scouts from Scouts New Zealand - as seafarers, we have an affinity with young people who share our love of the sea," said P&O Cruises Marine Operations Manager Doug Bird.

"Few people know that navigators still learn how to

communicate using signal flags and navigate by the stars using sextants just as the mariners of old," he added.

Pacific Aria will be based in Auckland until Aug servicing cruises to the South Pacific, with a marathon seven-month season planned in 2020 which involves a mammoth 18 cruises.

Pictured: Doug Bird poses on *Aria's* deck with the group of excited Scouts.

MSC Cirque at Sea

MSC Cruises and Cirque du Soleil have launched two new shows, *Syma* and *Varelia*, which premiered on the line's flagship *MSC Bellissima* in Mar.

The new performances are part of an exclusive eight-show Cirque du Soleil at Sea partnership between MSC Cruises and the Canadian entertainment group, which can only be seen on board the *Meraviglia* class ships.

Guests can access discounted rates for the unique shows by booking in advance, or purchase tickets for any remaining seats while at sea.

The Cirque du Soleil at Sea concept was launched in Jun 2017 aboard the *MSC Meraviglia*, with two shows, - *Viaggio* and *Sonor* - and the collaboration has recently celebrated its 1,000th show.

Work is already underway for the next pair of shows to be performed on the *MSC Grandiosa*, which will launch in Nov 2019.

Click [HERE](#) for more.

We're over the Moon

SILVERSEA Cruises is set to introduce its new culinary program S.A.L.T. (Sea and Land Taste) to guests on board *Silver Moon* when it launches in Aug 2020.

"The feedback from our recent preview sailings between Bali and Singapore has been really fantastic and underscores what a unique and compelling experience S.A.L.T. brings to culinary-focused travel," said S.A.L.T. designer Adam Sachs.

Last month a group of foodies were given a taster of the program on *Silver Muse*.

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Carnival faces ban

A **FEDERAL** judge in the United States has threatened to stop Carnival Corporation from docking its ships at US ports as punishment for possibly violating its probation that was implemented after it previously engaged in illegal oil dumping.

Carnival has been on probation for the last two years as part of a \$40 million settlement for its subsidiary Princess Cruises illegally dumping oil into the ocean over an eight-year period between 2005 and 2013.

Prosecutors allege that Carnival tried to eliminate negative audit findings, citing internal emails that reference a practice of prepping ships before auditors came aboard.

"If I could, I would give all the members of the executive committee a visit to the detention centre for a couple of days," Judge Patricia Seitz said.

She will make a decision in Jun.

Scenic & Nat Geo

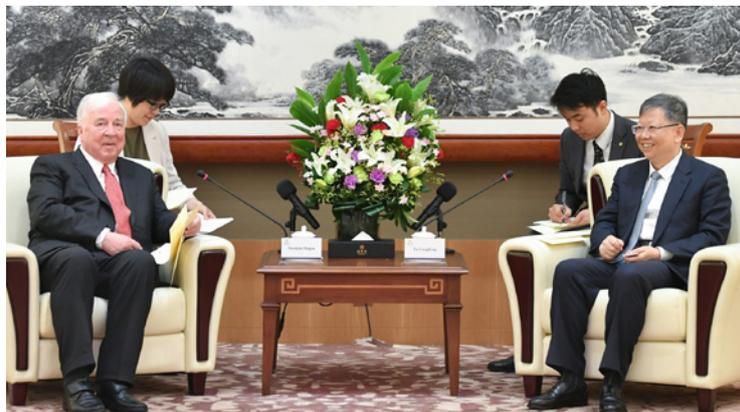
NATIONAL Geographic Expeditions and Scenic Luxury River Cruises have partnered to introduce new Egypt and Russia itineraries as part of its 2020 program of river cruises.

The two companies invited media to a lunch on Wed at Harbour View Room and Terrace, Australian Museum in Sydney, to share the news.

The two new itineraries include the 11-day Treasures of Egypt adventure which features Cairo, the Nile, Pyramids of Giza, and the chance for guests to learn from National Geographic photographer Ken Garrett.

Also, the 15-day Russia River Cruise will take passengers from Moscow to St Petersburg, and allow them to learn from David Monteleone, a photographer and journalist with knowledge of Russia.

Viking signs on for China



VIKING Cruises and China Merchants Shekou have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form a joint venture focused on building a new cruise line with worldwide cruise offerings for the Chinese cruise market.

The wide-ranging agreement covers product development to sales, marketing, design and the build and design of new ocean cruise ships dedicated to the needs of the Chinese market.

"China is a dynamic outbound tourism market, and we are pleased to be partnering with China Merchants Group in this joint venture to drive the development of the cruise industry," Viking's Chairman Torstein Hagen said.

"Our partnership with China

Merchants Group will allow us to bring this Viking travel lifestyle to more Chinese travellers more quickly, satisfying the Chinese market's unmet demand for a greater choice of sophisticated travel," he added.

China Merchants Group President Gangfeng Fu said he was confident the partnership would lead to a new "market-leading cruise brand".

"This is a full scale, multi-dimensional cooperation that covers all three main business sectors of China Merchants Group," he said.

Pictured: Viking's Chairman Torstein Hagen with Gangfeng Fu, President of China Merchants Group, after signing the momentous agreement.

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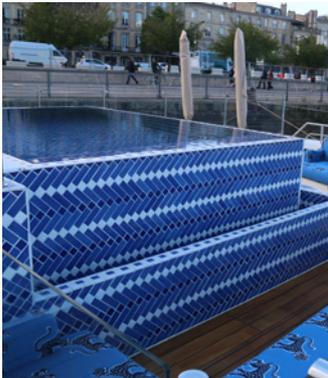
AGENT EXCLUSIVE

BOOK. DEPOSIT. BONUS.



UNIWORLD'S new S.S. *Bon Voyage* has upped the ante in the river cruise market, with CEO Ellen Bettridge this week very enthusiastic about the ship's new features.

The new infinity pool on the top deck (below) - introduced in place of a hot tub that "no-one ever used because it's so warm in the south of France" has a system that allows users to listen to music underwater, along with a resistance jet to enable swimmers to effectively do laps.



Bettridge also highlighted the sustainability focus of the Uniworld offering, with no straws, no plastic water bottles and potato-based plastic bags used in the kitchens so they are actually bio-degradable.

She also warned travellers that the heavy emphasis on locally sourced food and beverage meant that Aussies will have to "settle" for French wine and beer, adding "you're not going to get a VB on board".

Uniworld's S.S. *Bon Voyage* delights

THE first look at Uniworld's newest ship in the south of France, S.S. *Bon Voyage*, has revealed a new level of sophistication for the brand, with polished wood, gleaming brass and lavish velvet wall coverings creating a comfortable, inviting space.

No expense has been spared in the transformation of the former *River Royale*, as can be seen in these pics exclusively taken by *Cruise Weekly* on board in Bordeaux this week.



The ship features Savoir beds in all staterooms, new marble bathrooms, four double-sized suites and an array of dining options including the rooftop *Le Cafe du Soleil*, *Le Grand Fromage* restaurant and room service.



A fully equipped gym and spa complements a free guest laundry, while passengers can enjoy a full gourmet experience in the *La Cave des Vins* private dining room complete with a degustation menu and paired wines.



For more see traveldaily.com.au/blog.