

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Discoverer to Croisi

CROISIEUROPE is expanding its ocean-going fleet with the acquisition of Silversea Cruises' *Silver Discoverer*.

The ship will be renamed *La Belle des Oceans*, and sail a selection of itineraries in Asia, the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic before moving to Eastern Canada for the northern summer of 2020.

Nine sailings of nine days each between Singapore and Phuket in Thailand will kick off the ship's inaugural season from 17 Oct 2019.

MSC agent rate

MSC Cruises is offering agents a 20% discount on a selection of four 2020 cruises.

The offer applies to the Mediterranean trip on board *Grandiosa*, the Northern Europe adventure on board *Meraviglia*, the Caribbean voyage on board *Seaside*, and the Arabian Peninsula escape on board *Seaview*.

If your agency has booked a client on an MSC cruise in the past two years, you can also qualify for an upgrade.

CMV highlights domestic itineraries

CRUISE and Maritime Voyages has detailed its new 2020/21 season this week, with the planned second season of CMV's new *Vasco da Gama* adding a range of new domestic ports.

"We are really shining the light on domestic cruising in our new season," said CMV National Sales Manager Australia/NZ, Darren Chigwidden.

New ports of call will include Darwin in the NT, Port Arthur in Tas and Vic's Geelong, while *Vasco da Gama* will also return to unique cruising destinations such as Esperance in WA's south-west and Wallaroo on the Yorke Peninsula in SA.

Highlights of the program include a 14-night voyage from Fremantle to Singapore, visiting Geraldton, Broome, Darwin, Bali and Java, combining the Kimberley with Indonesia in a single trip priced from just \$1,799ppts under a special buy one get one free offer which



launched yesterday.

There's also a 10-night Christmas roundtrip voyage from Adelaide, as well as a Sydney to Adelaide cruise via Melbourne.

The ship, which is well known to Australian cruisers through her former identity as P&O's *Pacific Eden*, was officially named this week (**pictured**) in a ceremony in Bremerhaven, Germany.

CMV's local MD Dean Brazier was in attendance along with key trade partners, suppliers

and loyal past guests as the ship was christened by her new godmother, German popstar Annett Louisann.

For pics from the event see facebook.com/cruiseweekly. For info call 1300 307 934.

Viking reveals 2020/21 Ocean collection

VIKING has launched its new 2020/21 Ocean Cruises brochure, featuring 10 brand new itineraries, 10 modified itineraries and the cruise line's return to Turkey.

"We know discerning travellers are looking for more than just highlights and sights. They are looking to really immerse themselves in a destination by learning about its history and culture," said Michelle Black, Viking's Managing Director, AUNZ.

Viking has also placed a "golden ticket" inside three random brochure boxes - a ticket to a 15-day Far East discovery.

P&O launches EZPay

P&O Cruises will now support EZPay, allowing customers to spread the cost of their journey over a period of time.

The cruise line's "Future You" sale will also allow guests to make a one dollar deposit pp and receive up to \$900 of onboard spending money per room.

This offer also allows \$450 spending money per room on cruises departing now until the end of the year.

VIKING

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Oceania's new *Sirena*



OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled its complete makeover of *Sirena*, giving it a top-to-bottom rebuild as part of the line's US\$100m+ OceaniaNEXT enhancement program.

The "better than new" ship contains 342 completely redeveloped staterooms and suites which include new entryways and full-length mirrors, reimagined public

spaces, and a new multimillion dollar art collection.

"The re-inspired *Sirena* is perhaps the best expression of our team's Kaizen culture which focuses on implementing constant incremental change that continually elevates the guest experience.

"That's the heart and soul of our OceaniaNEXT initiative," said CEO Bob Binder.



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has confirmed the successful completion of sea trials for its highly anticipated *Scenic Eclipse*, with the company confident that its official launch date of 15 Aug 2019 will be achieved.

"It was a real pleasure to take *Scenic Eclipse* out to sea for the first time," said the vessel's Captain, James Griffiths.

"Sea trials are a critical milestone in the construction process as it is the first time all the ship systems are operated together and is a key opportunity to confirm the theoretical information from the tank tests and computer modelling.

"The results from these trials surpassed every expectation," Griffiths said.

He highlighted key navigational features such as Azipods and oversized bow thrusters which make the ship highly manoeuvrable.

"I was also delighted with how quiet the ship is...she was vibration free and virtually silent during all our trials, exceeding our expectations in terms of stability, manoeuvrability and performance," he said.

With the sea trials now complete, *Scenic Eclipse* (pictured) will now undergo final touches to its interior and exterior, as the onboard teams are further trained in the lead-up to the commencement of its schedule of sailings.

A video of *Eclipse* at sea is at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

EARLY BOOKING BONUS

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Friday 14th June 2019

See why NCL's new *Joy* is perfect for Aussies heading to Alaska in June issue of *travelBulletin*.

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travelBulletin



Scenic Spirit chef

SCENIC has announced the promotion of Oka Wibawa to become the Executive Chef on board its Mekong River-based *Scenic Spirit*.

Wibawa has been with Scenic since 2014, initially sailing in Europe aboard *Scenic Jasper*, before becoming part of the 2016 launch team for the 68-passenger *Scenic Spirit*.

"He is well respected by his Cambodian team in the kitchen," said Scenic General Manager Asia, Phil Jordan.



WE'VE all heard of pirates before, but we suspect the chances are you haven't heard of an ice pirate, right?

Well you have now - and this ice pirate, Nicholas Sloane, is planning to steal an iceberg from Antarctica and tow it to Cape Town, South Africa, according to *Bloomberg*.

What will Stone do with his 125-million tonne iceberg once he reaches the Cape of Good Hope? Melt it down to drink, of course.

Sloane, a marine salvager, recently oversaw the refloating of the *Costa Concordia*, and wants to help solve his hometown's water problem, with citizens in Cape Town currently reduced to just 70 litres per day.

Sloane has even secured funding for his project from a group of financiers.

FACE-2-FACE: Sally Murphy

Business Development Manager
for Holland America Line &
Seabourn SA/WA



1. What is the favourite part of your job?

Diversity. No two days are ever the same.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

The sea attracted me. I had worked in the coach touring sector for 17 years and wanted a new challenge.

3. What is the key to success in the cruise industry?

Know who your competitors are. They are not necessarily other cruise lines but other styles of holiday, e.g. resorts, touring, FIT, etc. We have to understand how cruising can tick these boxes, as well as offering a no hassle alternative.

4. What is the biggest challenge facing the industry?

Coming up with new enhancements that keep regular cruisers coming back, as well as attracting the new to cruise market. For example,

the fantastic live music options on Holland America Line and the Ventures by Seabourn programme which enable our guests to engage with destinations.

5. What was your best famil?

I have been lucky to host two families to Norway on the beautiful Holland America Line ship, *Koningsdam*. Such a beautiful destination to share with two very enthusiastic and engaged groups.

6. How do you wind down after a busy week?

I love to go for walks to clear my mind.

7. The celebrity you would most like to cruise with?

I wouldn't. I enjoy cruising with family and friends that I can just relax with. I mean, who wants to walk into a restaurant with George Clooney or Bradley Cooper, right?

Danube lock drama

RIVER cruise shipping on the key Rhine-Main-Danube Canal has been significantly impacted this week, after a lock at Riedenburg was damaged during a transit by a passenger vessel.

German media reports that *Viking Tir* impacted the facility, which is currently awaiting repair following the incident.

Cruise ship operators are understood to be working around the restriction by adjusting their itineraries to avoid the area, or alternatively doing ship swaps on either side of the lock.

Encore's Italian

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is set to debut a new Italian restaurant on *Norwegian Encore* when it launches in Nov: Onda by Scarpetta.

Secured through a collaboration with LDV Hospitality, the restaurant currently only features locations in, Miami, Las Vegas, Philadelphia, Rhode Island, New York City, the Hamptons, and London.

The menu's selection will feature some of the restaurants signature dishes such as Yellowtail Crudo, Branzino, fresh pastas including spaghetti tomato and basil, seafood, and a number of regional desserts.

Diners will be able to choose whether they eat indoors or outdoors, with the restaurant located on "The Waterfront" outdoor promenade.

Ponant opens the book on Arctic sailings

PONANT yesterday opened sales for its highly anticipated 2021 expeditions to the Arctic aboard *Le Commandant-Charcot*.

The ship is claimed to be "the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel with hybrid propulsion," powered by Liquefied Natural Gas as it takes guests to the Geographic North Pole at 90° latitude north.

Le Commandant-Charcot's inaugural voyage will follow in the footsteps of its namesake, famous French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot, undertaking a 14-night cruise from Le Havre to Reykjavik on 31 May 2021 priced from \$23,770pp - more info on 1300 737 178.

CRUISE
WEEKLY

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