

Crystal sings a different tune for *Mozart*

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced it will be redeploying its first and largest river ship *Crystal Mozart* to a yet-to-be disclosed venture next year with fellow Genting Hong Kong subsidiary Genting Cruise Lines.

The final voyage for *Crystal Mozart* will take place on 02 Dec this year sailing from Vienna to Budapest, with guests currently booked aboard previously scheduled 2020 sailings for the vessel to be accommodated on similar Danube itineraries offered by *Crystal Mahler* or *Crystal Ravel*.

The reason for the *Mozart's* hastened redeployment before she can undertake her full list of scheduled itineraries remains unclear, however, Crystal is spruiking "a uniform ship experience across the full fleet" via its remaining identical new-build river ships *Crystal Bach*, *Crystal Debussy*, *Crystal Mahler* and *Crystal Ravel*.

The foursome of smaller-scale



vessels also afford Crystal greater itinerary flexibility than the larger *Mozart* with regard to accessing European rivers during variations in water levels.

Crystal Cruises President and CEO Tom Wolber praised *Mozart* for paving the brand's way into the river cruising space.

"*Crystal Mozart* set the stage for Crystal River Cruises' debut as its inaugural ship in the summer of 2016, and we are pleased to see her carrying onward with Genting Cruise Lines," Wolber said.

The cruise line has also highlighted that after *Mozart's*

exit, the brand will have "the youngest fleet in the industry".

"Crystal River Cruises' ships are not only the newest in the industry, they also feature all-suite accommodations with every room category situated above the water line and offering Crystal's signature personal butler service," Wolber said.

Pictured: *Crystal Mozart*.

Cruise Weekly today

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

ACA confirms speakers

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has confirmed its speaker line up for its Annual General Meeting to be held from 04-06 Sep in Geelong, Victoria.



Several of the speakers have been selected in a bid to place a greater emphasis on the growing popularity of Australia's regional cruise destinations, with Silversea Cruises Managing Director in Australia and New Zealand Adam Armstrong (**pictured right**) heading up a strong list of high profile presenters.

This year will be the first time Armstrong has delivered a keynote at an ACA AGM, along with Melissa Witsoe, Product Manager for Windstar Cruises (**pictured left**) who will deliver a talk on the importance of finding the "hidden gems" of a destination and weaving them into a cruise line's itinerary.

Other keynote speakers confirmed include Assistant Professor from the University of Tasmania Anne Hardy, who will discuss the result of the university's research on tourism visitor patterns.

Earlybird rego available until 31 Jul, for more info **CLICK HERE**.

South Sea appoints

FIJIAN cruise operator South Sea Cruises has announced two new appointments to its sales and marketing team.

Alyssa Field has stepped into the role of General Manager - Global Sales, where she will be responsible for all international markets with the exception of Asia.

Field was previously a Global Contracts Manager at Helloworld in Auckland for close to four years.

Loretta St Julian-Ooms has accepted a promotion to the role of General Manager - Fiji & Asia Sales, where she will continue to lead the Fiji-based sales team as well as the brand's Asian markets.

The appointments come following a restructure of the line's sales & marketing team.

CLIA's milestone

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has reached a new education landmark, with its travel agent members completing a combined 100,000 online modules in under five years.

Since its launch in late 2014, 5,300 travel agents across Australia and New Zealand have participated in CLIA's education program.

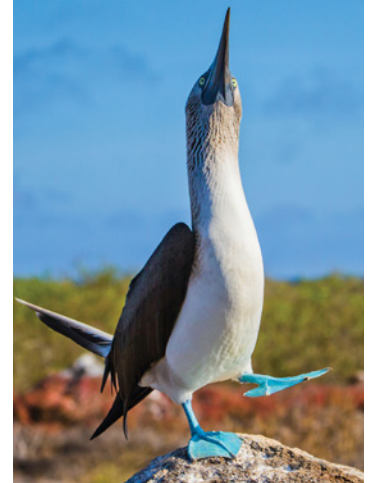
"Training and career development are the biggest benefits of CLIA membership for travel agents and allow them to get ahead of their competitors and fully capitalise on the growing cruise market," said CLIA Head of Int'l Training & Development Peter Kollar.



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Lindblad gets wild

LINDBLAD Expeditions-National Geographic has announced its new Wild Escapes collection, a suite of 11 brief voyages of seven days or shorter.

The move is an attempt to introduce new types of travellers to expedition cruising, including families which is a demographic that typically struggles for time to cruise for more than 10 days at a time.

"The demand was evident when we introduced the shorter voyage concept in Galapagos and Alaska, with most departures selling out," said Lindblad Chief Commercial Officer Phil Auerbach.

In 2020, Lindblad will have over 100 Wild Escapes available in regions such as Iceland and Costa Rica.

Labor's beautiful Tassie plan



THE Labor Party has committed \$3 million to make the Beauty Point Foreshore precinct in Tasmania more attractive to small luxury cruise ship visitors if they are successful in tomorrow's Federal Election.

Part of a wider tourism policy document released yesterday that focuses on major infrastructure spending, the Labor Party would allocate funding towards upgrading community amenities in the town to enhance its overall

appeal to the tourism sector.

Other Labor pledges in the cruise space include a commitment to stump up a portion of the cash needed to implement shore to ship power technology at White Bay in Sydney.

"Labor will work with industry to ensure adequate port and visitor infrastructure is available to accommodate growth in the cruise ship sector," the Labor Party stated in the document.

MSC Supersaver

MSC Cruises has launched its Supersaver sale on eligible 2020/2021 itineraries, including savings of up to \$700 per cabin.

The offer allows guests to combine sailings to the Greek Islands with Spain, France and Italy, or alternatively merge cruises to the west Mediterranean destinations like Sarande in Albania or Croatia in Dubrovnik.

Call 1300 028 502 for info.

Bathgate to Viking

ANNA Bathgate has taken a new role as PR and Communications Manager at Viking Cruises.

She joins Viking after about five years with Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited, and prior to that worked with public relations firm PPR.

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*Offers correct as at 15 May 2019 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 31 May 2019 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.

Up there with the *Westerdam*



Pictured: *Westerdam*.

HOLLAND America Line has boosted its Asian cruising credentials by revealing that its 1,964-guest *Westerdam* will visit eight countries on the continent during its 2019/2020 season.

From Sep through Apr 2020, the vessel will make stops in Cambodia, China, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam on cruises ranging from 13 to 16 nights.

"A cruise to Asia is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, so we build our itineraries to include multiple countries or in-depth explorations of an area and create meaningful and deep encounters on every voyage," said Orlando Ashford, Holland America Line's President.

Westerdam kicks off the season with a 13-day North Pacific Crossing from Vancouver to Yokohama (Tokyo).



Pictured: Port of Darwin.

THE Northern Territory Govt is set to take advantage of the growth in cruise tourism with infrastructure being built both in its capital and in regional coastal areas to meet growing demand.

Appearing at the recent welcoming ceremony of Coral Expeditions' *Coral Adventurer* in Darwin last weekend, the NT's Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture Lauren Moss spoke of the importance of cruise tourism.

"The cruise ship sector contributed an estimated \$171.9m in 2018, with Darwin's... location and close proximity to Asia making it a popular cruise ship port," she said.

Echoing Moss' sentiments, Tourism NT's Scott Lovett, GM for Industry Development said "unlike other Australian destinations, cruises come in our

traditional low season so it's a very welcome injection of people during that time".

"From a supplier perspective it pumps a lot of money into the economy and from a touring perspective it drops 50,000 passengers into Darwin's CBD during our low season so it's very important," Lovett added.

Lovett told **Cruise Weekly** there were opportunities for the small ship and expedition cruise sector to add Nhulunbuy into their cruise programs with investment going into the redevelopment of a port located at the north eastern tip of the NT.

"That'll be a hub for expedition based cruising...for those cruise companies that are looking for really immersive indigenous experiences, Nhulunbuy is well placed for this," he said.

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Find out all that's new on board Uniworld's S.S. *Bon Voyage* in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Norwegian savings

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has launched its new "Take 5" promotion, offering guests up to US\$3,000 in additional value on all new bookings made before 31 May.

As part of the deal, pax will receive all five of the brand's "Five Free at Sea" offers, in addition to a further US\$200 onboard credit.

For more information and to view the T&Cs, [CLICK HERE](#).

FACE-2-FACE: Joshua Hore

Sales Development Manager - Victoria - Scenic.



1. What is the favourite part of your job?

It has got to be the travel. Travelling regionally throughout Victoria and meeting people is always like a mini-holiday.

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

The key is understanding what people expect from their trip. From a pleasure cruise to expedition, there are a lot of options out there.

3. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Making your point of difference clear to your consumers, and separating yourselves from the wash.

4. What was your best family trip?

It was a cruise around Hokkaido in Japan, in and out of Kobe and with a port in Russia. Phenomenal food and a different side of Japan.

5. How do you wind down

after a busy week?

Look, a couple of drinks always helps, especially in good company! There is a lot to see and do in Melbourne, so I try to get amongst it.

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

I'd love to travel with Stephen Fry. Lots of laughs and even more fun facts - like my own personal tour guide.

7. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

If I had to make a prediction, I think we're going to see ships polarise, with more small ships, as well as bigger ships than we've seen before.

8. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

I'm a big nerd, so I spend my spare time practicing origami and playing *Dungeons and Dragons*.



PARTY people in the house - or should we say boat?

Have we got a deal for you.

A 100-foot, \$3m Sydney party boat in dire need of repairs to stay afloat is scheduled to go up for auction at the end of the month, with starting bids set to begin at just \$1.

Despite significant hull corrosion from the effects of osmosis, which can happen when welding is not properly conducted, Lloyds Auctioneers COO Lee Hames said the ship is the perfect opportunity for a cost-effective startup.

"It could sell for any price as it has no reserve," Hames said.

Let the bidding begin...but please, no "pier" pressure.



Gebr. Heinemann joins HANSEATIC nature

GERMAN department store, Gebr. Heinemann, has opened its doors on board Hapag-Lloyd's latest ship, *HANSEATIC nature*.

The store, which will also feature on the upcoming *HANSEATIC Inspiration*, offers guests an extensive selection of perfume, cosmetics, fashion, accessories, watches, jewellery & confectionery ranges as well as branded goods.



SeaLink self-drive

SEALINK has launched six new self-drive cruise packages for passengers looking to explore Kangaroo Island.

The packages include the three-day American River Adventure, three-day Food and Wine Lovers trip, the three-day Island Hideaway, three-day KI Family Escape at Vivonne Bay, the four-day Emu Bay Wine and Wildlife experience and five-day Experience KI tour.

All packages include return SeaLink ferry travel for two adults with a standard-sized vehicle, two nights' accommodation including daily buffet breakfast, wine tastings of four Kangaroo Island wines, a \$50 dinner voucher at Reflection Restaurant plus a range of additional experiences on the island.

Prices start from \$426 per person, twin share.

For further information on the package, [CLICK HERE](#).

P&O drinks deal

P&O Cruises Australia's Premium Drinks Package promotion has returned, offering soda, juice, mocktails, beer, cider, wine, spirits and cocktails as inclusions for bookings on cruises of seven nights or more.

The cruise line is also offering guests travelling on voyages of six-nights or less free onboard spend of up to \$100 per room.

This promotion expires on 11 Jun, 2019.

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

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