

## Roald Amundsen breaks the ice

**HURTIGRUTEN** has officially welcomed its hybrid powered expedition cruise ship *MS Roald Amundsen* to the line's fleet by holding the first ever naming ceremony in Antarctica.

Taking place yesterday in Chiriguano Bay, Brabant Island, the event was attended by crew and guests from more than 20 countries, many of whom watched on from the vantage point of inflatable explorer boats.

The ceremony saw godmother Karin Strand crush a chunk of ice against the ship's hull for good luck, replacing the traditional champagne bottle.

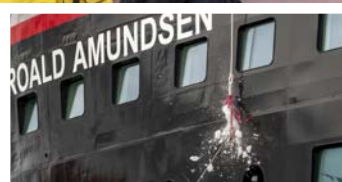
Upon completing her duties, Strand then read out the same words that Roald Amundsen used when christening his own ship *Maud* back in 1917: "It is not my intention to dishonour the glorious grape, but already now you shall get the taste of your real



environment, for the ice you have been built, in the ice you shall stay most of your life, and in the ice, you shall solve your tasks".

Commenting on the official welcoming of *Roald Amundsen*, Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam said the Norwegian explorer would have been proud of the company's newest addition.

"With the ship carrying his name and legacy, Hurtigruten is pushing borders, challenging the industry, and pushing towards



a greener and more sustainable operation," he said.

See all the videos from the big day [HERE](#), and pics can be viewed on [CW's Facebook page HERE](#).

**Pictured:** Daniel Skjeldam, Karin Strand, and the ship's skipper Kai Albrigtsen celebrate the historic moment.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Amped up deals

**TO CELEBRATE** the newly amplified *Voyager of the Seas* returning to Australia later this month, Royal Caribbean is offering up to 40% off select sailings from Sydney.

Adventures that have been discounted include an 11-night South Pacific cruise which visits destinations in New Caledonia such as Noumea, Mare and the Isle of Pines.

The price for the sailing has been reduced to \$1,299ppts.

Other sailings available under the promo are nine- and 10-night South Pacific cruises departing 22 Jan and 18 Mar respectively.

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## Ponant dives deeper



**PONANT** has revealed it will boast more than 80 cruises with the option of scuba diving for guests across 2019/20/21.

Destinations with scuba options include Seychelles, Polynesia, Madagascar, the Caribbean and the Maldives.

"Whether a diver or not, our fleet of modern small ships provide a friendly, intimate experience and facilities that all guests will enjoy," said Ponant Vice President Asia Pacific

Monique Ponfoort.

The cruise line's underwater adventures are geared towards accredited recreational divers and not "hard-core scuba divers", Ponant says, with the typical maximum depth for a dive being 20-25 metres.

For those who want to stay dry, Ponant's new fleet of Explorer ships also offer an underwater lounge called Blue Eye which provide views of the marine life below.



**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has announced more details of its continued push on Alaska, signing a 30-year preferential berthing agreement with Ward Cove Dock Group to construct a new double ship pier in Ward Cove, Alaska.

The facility will be built to accommodate two of Norwegian Cruise Line's 4,000-passenger Breakaway Plus class ships, and is scheduled for completion by the 2020 Alaskan summer season.

In further infrastructure news, the line has won a bid for the last waterfront parcel in greater Juneau, Alaska.

NCLH said it was now engaging with local stakeholders and business leaders to develop a

plan which will benefit its own interests, as well as the city's.

The latest announcements follow previous expansion pushes in Alaska, including a partnership late last year with Huna Totem Corporation to develop a second cruise pier in Icy Strait Point in Huna (**CW** 10 Dec 2018).

"These strategic initiatives mark the latest steps in our ongoing efforts to promote economic development in the region and make a positive economic and environmentally sensible impact on the Alaska tourism industry," said Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer Frank Del Rio.

**Pictured** sailing through Alaskan waters is *Seven Seas Navigator*.

  
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Friday 8th November 2019

## NCL targets in-bound

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's office in Australia has its focus firmly on the fly-cruise market, where the company sources about 85% of its revenue, NCL VP & MD Asia Pacific Ben Angell told **CW**.

He said the company has found its best guest experience and business performance comes from this market, but noted that he would like to see more ships sailing in Asia-Pacific.

"More NCL ships sailing in Asia Pacific waters provide an opportunity for agents to touch and feel our product, so if we get an opportunity to showcase ships locally, that's a really big win for us," Angell explained.

"But the company's growth in Asia Pacific, isn't inextricably linked to more ships sailing in Asia Pacific."

He also highlighted the brand's consistency in guest experience - allowing agents to get a feel for the fleet from a ship inspection.

## Seabourn 2020/21

**SEABOURN** has released its 2020/21 "Extraordinary Worlds" Cruise Collection brochure, showcasing itineraries on board six ships, across seven continents and stops at more than 500 ports.

Seabourn details what cruises are on offer during the 2020/21 season in destinations such as Antarctica, Patagonia, Alaska, British Columbia, South America, Canada and Asia.

Closer to home, the brochure also provides information on the various itineraries available with *Seabourn Encore* in Australia and New Zealand, such as a 16-day Sydney to Auckland trip which first departs on 05 Feb 2020, with subsequent cruises on 22 Jan 2021 & 23 Feb 2021.

The Aussie season will also feature a range of UNESCO partnered land excursions.

## The Tauck of the town



**TAUCK** has released further details of its upcoming river ship *ms Andorinha*, which is due to commence sailing the Douro River through Spain and Portugal from Mar 2020.

Currently undergoing sea trials in the Netherlands, *Andorinha's* newly revealed features include a marquee sundeck area which will feature canopied Balinese day beds, as well as an infinity-style pool that is five times larger than the plunge pools featured on Tauck's other riverboats.

The sundeck space will also boast an outdoor grill to host casual barbecues, along with a full-service bar.

A pop-up restaurant called Arthur's will also be on board the latest ship, which will rise

from the stern on hydraulic lifts to become an eatery offering panoramic views.

*Andorinha* will incorporate a range of features designed with the temperature comfort of passengers in mind, such as an air conditioning system with twice the cooling capacity found on Tauck's regular ships, as well as windows with a special UV coating to let in natural light while also blocking out 82% of the sun's heat.

Tauck is offering three Douro River itineraries aboard *Andorinha* in 2020; a 12-day journey that bookends a seven-night Douro cruise, an eight-day "cruise-only" itinerary, and an eight-day Tauck Bridges cruise designed specifically for families.

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Want to know what a cruise on *Scenic Eclipse* is like? Read more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK to read**  
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**MOST** people enjoy a good drink with friends on a cruise ship, but would you continue your booze session even when the ship was taking water?

Well, that's what some British passengers are being accused of during a stormy cruise on board P&O Cruises UK's *Ventura* vessel sailing off the coast of France last weekend.

Photos and videos have emerged on social media of Brits calmly downing their drinks as the vessel violently rocked from side to side, sending a deluge of pool water towards the bar.

"Sitting tight and holding on to their beer," one user posted on Twitter, while another queried, "Why is no one freaking out!?"



## FACE-2-FACE: Gina Squirrell

Sales and Marketing Executive,  
Riviera Travel River Cruises



### 1. What is the favourite part of your job?

I really enjoy travelling and meeting with agents across Australia and supporting their marketing activity. Our business boasts a wonderful, family-like culture with everyone working together to support the company.

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

I studied journalism at university but always wanted to combine writing and travel. That led to my first job as a travel consultant and then a position came up in sales and marketing with Riviera Travel. It sounded perfect so I grabbed it and have loved it ever since.

### 3. What is the biggest challenge facing the industry?

Finding and showcasing what

makes your product different in a crowded market.

### 4. What was your best fam?

Budapest to Vienna on the Danube aboard one of our river ships in 2018.

### 5. Advice for up-and-comers?

Listen and learn. Take advantage of every opportunity and know that everything happens for a reason.

### 6. What should the cruise ship of the future look like?

More environmentally friendly ships with everything re-usable. I'm passionate about sustainability.

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

I enjoy the gym as well as exploring beauty products with friends such as make-up.

## NCL trade support

**AGENTS** can expect continued support from the Norwegian Cruise Line brand, despite an upcoming shift in leadership, incoming President and CEO Harry Sommer assured trade on board *Norwegian Encore* last week.

"I think there's a lot of things that I won't change, I think we have a wonderful product, wonderful support...but I think one thing that we're going to do is redouble our effort in the concept of investing and working very closely with our partners," he said.

"We cannot succeed as a brand without trade support."

Sommer will take the reins from current President and Chief Executive Officer Andy Stuart from 01 Jan.

## Viking correction

**VIKING** Cruises' newly released 2021/22 ocean itineraries are not for sale at 2020 prices, as was previously stated in yesterday's *Cruise Weekly*.

Call 138 747 for more info on the 2021/22 ocean collection.



**HURTIGRUTEN**

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