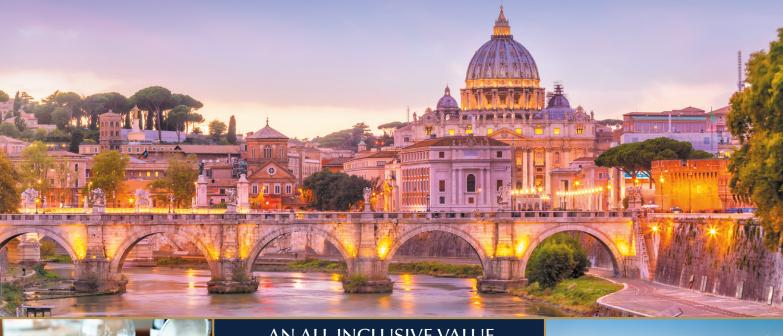
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CRUISE WEEKLY

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Friday 20th September 2019



Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Scenic, with the new Scenic Eclipse set to depart Halifax for New York tomorrow.

AFTER a smooth Air Canada flight from Sydney via Vancouver and Toronto, we have arrived in Halifax in preparation for boarding the newly christened ultra-luxury *Scenic Eclipse*.

Scenic is taking us on a "Maritimes Discovery" itinerary up and down the North American east coast, including visits to Canadian ports such as Charlottetown along with Boston, Martha's Vineyard and of course New York City.

See next week's issues of *Cruise Weekly* and watch our Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages for a full report on every aspect of the World's First Discovery Yacht.

Dream flash sale

DREAM Cruises has commenced a limited time flash sale starting today.

Running until 25 Sep, the Sale Away Flash Sale offers savings on six-, seven- and eight-night itineraries from Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland aboard its newest ship *Explorer Dream*, which is due to arrive in Sydney on 27 Oct. Call 1300 658 666 for more.

Hurtigruten stands firm



HURTIGRUTEN has stepped up to support affected travel agents in the wake of yesterday's shock collapse of Tempo Holidays and Bentours in Australia and NZ.

Cox & Kings India, which has repeatedly assured the industry that the Australasian operation was isolated from the financial issues of its beleaguered parent, said it was placing the business into voluntary administration after failing to find a buyer.

Bentours had a long association with Hurtigruten, and was formerly the cruise line's GSA in Australia and New Zealand.

However earlier this month Hurtigruten established its own office in Melbourne, and said it was committed to working with affected agents and clients to confirm Hurtigruten bookings. Unfortunately cruises booked between Oct and Dec 2019 will be affected by the closure, with Hurtigruten stating it

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Oceania Cruises**. will not cancel any agent or client bookings without first undertaking consultation with that agent or client.

"Hurtigruten will work closely with agents and clients to offer travel solutions and alternatives arising from the...collapse," Hurtigruten Asia Pacific MD Damian Perry said.

Agents and clients with forward bookings through Bentours are advised to contact their agency head office to check on policies or contact Hurtigruten via email apac.assist@hurtigruten.com or by phone on 1300 322 062.

Hurtigruten has also set up a dedicated website page to assist at hurtigruten.com.au/bentours.

Bentours had previously worked with Hurtigruten on retail shop fronts, famil opportunities, roadshows, festival sponsorships, and distribution partnerships.

The ongoing financial trouble associated with Cox & Kings India has also seen Tempo Holidays, which offered cruises as part of its product suite, placed into administration.

"It is understandably a sad day for all staff concerned, along with the trade," Cox & Kings India said.

Europe earlybirds

OCEANIA Cruises is currently offering early booking bonuses for its Europe cruises in 2020.

European sailings boast included value on amenities such as internet, pre-paid gratuities, up to eight shore excursions, beverage packages, and US\$800 in onboard ship credit.

To find out more and view sales toolkits, see **front page**.





Cruise Weekly

FCTG buys "readymade" cruise



Friday 20th September 2019

Scenic's Middle East

SCENIC Luxury Cruises and Tours has released its latest brochure featuring cruises in Egypt and Jordan in 2020/21.

Highlights of the new brochure include the 12-day Tour & Cruise, Treasures of Egypt sailing departing from Cairo, with visits to the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, and a range of temples and monuments in Luxor.

Prices for the trip leads in at \$8,995 per person twin share.

Also on offer is the 26-day Tour & Cruise, Wonders of the Nile Jordan and Oman, offering a cruise down the river Nile, trips to the red landscape of Wadi Rum, explore archeological treasures in Petra, and a float in the Dead Sea.

The cruise leads in at \$25,290 per person twin share.

Bookings made by 28 Feb can access special earlybird deals on select sailings, such as included flights on Ultimate Journeys. Call 138 128 for more info.

Evergreen's update

EVERGREEN Cruises & Tours has released an updated version of its 2020 European river cruise brochure in a bid to providing "a unique and comprehensive new sales tool for agents".

The line's Director of Sales, Marketing and Product Angus Crichton said the enhanced brochure will provide a greater level of detail regarding the availability of its river cruises.

"The brochure provides the latest detail on which of our departures are guaranteed throughout the season, it lists departures with limited availability, which departures are sold out, and where new dates have been added," Crichton said.

The update also highlights the percentage of cabins sold so that clients can see which cruises are running out.



THE Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has announced the 100% purchase of the Gold Coast-based Ignite Travel, a multi-channel company which specialises in "readymade" holiday packages including cruise product.

Flight Centre previously held 49% of the business, and said the full acquisition of Ignite's Australian and New Zealand operations would allow it to integrate the new product suite through its leisure network including its MyCruises brand.

"Ignite has been hugely successful, growing sales more than 40% per annum for the past two years, and we are excited by its future potential

in Australia and overseas," said FCTG Managing Director Graham Turner.

"Full ownership of the business will allow for streamlined integration of Ignite's innovative products and will deliver new offerings and choices to our customers," he added.

The readymade package/ flash-sale model was one of four streams identified by FCTG as major drivers of growth in its last FY19 financial results.

Ignite turned over more than \$180 million during the 2019 financial year across its three business models which currently include hotels, airlines seats and cruise cabins.



Cruise Weekly





Seeing polar bears is only the start on a cruise to the Arctic. Read more in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

> CLICK to read traveBulletin

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Creative NZ launch

FIRST Travel Group (FTG)'s Creative Cruising initiative has launched in NZ, powered by cruising platform Odysseus & exclusive to FTG members. Creative recently announced it would offer white-label websites (*CW* 19 Aug).



POLAR explorations are all the rage right now, but few passengers have ever expressed a desire to be so immersed that they would enjoy their ship being literally frozen in the ice.

But that's exactly what scientists are doing in the North Pole in a bid to better understand climate change.

The team will set sail on a ship from Norway later this month where the skipper will steer it into a massive ice floe before killing the ship's engine.

It is there the vessel will freeze in place as the ice quickly thickens and be effectively entombed for a year in the ice.

The goal of the scientific team will be to observe every aspect of the Arctic system such as the wandering ice, the drifting snow, the swirling ocean, and the breezy atmosphere.



Riviera marks two years in Oz



RIVIERA Travel River Cruises showcased its expanded 2020 program to Australian travel agents on a recent Aussie visit.

Celebrating two years in the Australian market, Riviera's mission saw the line's Australian marketing executives, Thomas Morgan and Gina Squirrell, brief the line's wholesale partner, Cruise Traveller, on its 2020 program, including a new five-star ship and two new itineraries.

Riviera will launch its new 169-guest *Geoffrey Chaucer* in Apr, which features on board amenities such as a pool, gym, two restaurants and bicycles. The new vessel will bring Riviera's fleet size to 13 by 2020. Riviera will also offer two new itineraries for 2020: a sevennight Seine, Paris and Normandy roundtrip from \$3,229ppts; & a seven-night Vienna, Boehmia and Treasures of the Danube Vienna roundtrip from \$3,199ppts.

All Riviera cruises include complimentary shore tours and wi-fi, with onboard drinks packages available from \$199 per person.

Pictured: Morgan and Squirrell (second and third from left in the front row) with the Cruise Traveller team.

Akaroa residents express crowd concerns

THE Akaroa City Council has received 48 submissions from residents citing cruise ship crowding as a major issue for the town's wharf area.

The result of a month-long public consultation period seeking ideas on the wharf, the council also gathered 19 submissions flagging safety concerns relating to stability of the 130-year-old structure. "There's just so many people and so much activity on the wharf that it becomes quite difficult, there are issues with safety as well," Akaroa Ratepayers and Residents Association Chairman Harry Stronach told local media. Ten submissions also flagged concerns about traffic congestion caused by buses collecting cruise passengers.

Windstar extends

WINDSTAR Cruises has cut the steel on *MS Star Legend* as she prepares to undergo a midsection expansion, the second Star-class ship to go through the cruise line's US\$250m Star Plus Initiative.

The work kicked off in Fincantieri's shipyard in Palermo, Italy, which will see the vessel's capacity increased from 212 passengers to 312.

The Star Plus program will see three ships undergo the transformation, adding 50 new suites to each ship, two new restaurants, a new pool and whirlpool, a re-imagined spa/ fitness centre, & retail spaces.

"This was a momentous day for Windstar Cruises as we reach another major milestone," said Windstar's VP of Fleet Operations, Christopher Prelog.

Cunard gardening

CUNARD has announced its first-ever gardening voyage in Australia, hosting an esteemed line up of gardening experts aboard *Queen Elizabeth*.

Sailing from Sydney on 01 Mar 2021, Australia's Gardening Journey will feature famous green thumbs Angus Stewart, Indira Naidoo and Graham Ross, who will be on hand to chat gardening with guests over a special dinner. The cruise will also include

presentations and workshops. Fares start from \$1,399ppts for the seven-night Sydney roundtrip cruise, which calls in at Hobart and Melbourne.

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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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Pharmacy *Daily*

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