



### Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Barcelona, Spain

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from the Hotel Neri, in the heart of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter.

THE Hotel Neri, part of the Hotel Connection portfolio, is a delightful luxury boutique property located in a 12th century palace right next to Barcelona Cathedral.

The ideal place for a pre- or post-cruise stay, The Neri is about 10 minutes from the port - details on 03 9597 0119.

## Armstrong to depart Silversea Cruises

SILVERSEA Cruises SVP and Managing Director Australia & New Zealand, Adam Armstrong, has announced he will be stepping down from the position later this year.

After spending just over 18 months in the role, Armstrong will leave the luxury cruise brand to pursue an opportunity outside of the cruise sector.

Reflecting on the news, Silversea's global CEO Roberto Martinoli wished Armstrong well, and provided a status update as to how the transition in the local office will occur.

"We would like to thank Adam for his important contribution to the success of Silversea in Australia & New Zealand and we wish him all the very best in his future endeavours," he said.

"We are currently working with Adam on the exact timing of his departure, for the time

being the Australian office will continue business-as-usual with Adam managing the office and its operation; and we will keep you posted on the appointment of his successor".

Speaking about his impending departure, Armstrong was glowing in his appraisal of the line's local operations.

"It has been a great privilege to lead Silversea Cruises in our region and I am incredibly proud of everything that our team has achieved during this time," he said.

"Silversea is a very special brand and it has been a pleasure to work with such a professional and dedicated team in our Sydney office, whom I look forward to working with until my departure later this year," Armstrong added.

Before joining the line in Jul 2018, the outgoing Silversea chief spent close to 10 years at



Royal Caribbean, operating in a range of senior roles such as AVP & Managing Director - Australia & NZ, as well as Regional Commercial Director - APAC.

Before that, the British-born Armstrong was with Carnival Australia for four years.

**Pictured:** Adam Armstrong.



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## Shore power on table



**THE** Port Authority of New South Wales has made the decision to commission a new report into the viability of shore power at the White Bay Cruise Terminal in Sydney.

The move to investigate the cleaner power alternative follows a raft of ports around the world adopting shore power, as well as an increasing number of ships now able to connect to the power source.

“The Port Authority of NSW is committed to considering the full suite of options that could be implemented to address the community’s concerns with air and noise impacts from cruise ships at White Bay,” a spokesperson for the organisation said.

“Details regarding the cruise ships that can utilise shore power will be included in the supplementary report”.

This is not the first time White Bay has been assessed for the viability of shore power, with the Port Authority commissioning a feasibility

study back in 2017, with the conclusions of that report recommending at the time that shore power was not a “cost-effective strategy” for the Sydney-based cruise port (*CW* 18 Jul 2017).

When contacted for comment regarding the move to commission a second study, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia said it supported the availability of a clean supply of power close to a port to achieve important emissions reductions.

“Connecting to shore power, or a port’s electrical grid, while at berth can be a possible alternative to using fuel while in port, provided that the source of the shore power is clean and close to the port,” a spokesperson told *CW*.

“While the use of shore power remains an alternative worthy of serious consideration, the limited availability of shore power infrastructure at most ports worldwide remains an important issue.”

## Expedition “overbuilt” - Regent

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has no intention whatsoever of following its competitors into the expedition cruising arena, according to the brand’s CEO, Jason Montague (**pictured**).

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* aboard the brand new *Seven Seas Splendor* vessel in the Mediterranean this week, Montague noted that there were “a lot of ships being built in the expedition space”.

He said Regent was the only one of the major luxury players that doesn’t either currently have an expedition ship, or have an expedition ship being built.

“To me, it’s an overbuilt product...what was expedition five years ago is not going to be



expedition five years from now. “We never say never, because you never know when opportunities may present themselves, but right now our focus is 100% focused on being the best in ocean luxury cruising - period,” Montague concluded.

### Blue Lagoon brox

**BLUE** Lagoon Cruises has unveiled its 2020/21 brochure.

Highlights include four-night wine cruises and seven-night photography sailings.

Order brochure online **HERE**.

### Riviera appoints GSA

**EUROPEAN** cruise line Riviera Travel River Cruises has signed on Cruise Traveller as its exclusive General Sales Agent for the Australian market.

The decision marks the brand’s third year in the region, and now means all payments, promotions, enquiries and marketing will be centralised from Cruise Traveller’s Gold Coast office.

A special Riviera Travel hotline has also been set up - 1300 561 001 - as well as a specialist Facebook page accessible **HERE**.

Riviera Travel has 13 ships over and will offer more than 300 European river sailings in 2020, with prices leading in at \$1,069 per person.

### Dalton to lead TTC

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruise Collection Managing Director, Fiona Dalton, has been named as the new CEO of The Travel Corporation (TTC) and will take over from John Veitch later this year.

Dalton, who has been on a sabbatical since late 2019 to spend time with her family and complete a Master of Business Administration, will commence her new role effective 02 Oct.

Current TTC CEO John Veitch will stay on until Apr, after which former Insight Vacations MD Lorraine Sharp will return as interim CEO until Dalton takes the reins.

The changes were unveiled today by TTC Global CEO, Brett Tollman, who is currently in Sydney to celebrate the company’s 100th anniversary.

At this stage TTC hasn’t announced who will lead Uniworld in Australasia once Dalton takes up her new role.



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## Cruise Calendar

The next few port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	07 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	07 Feb
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	08 Feb
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	09 Feb
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	09 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	08 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	07 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	08 Feb
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	08 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	09 Feb
<i>Viking Sun</i>	09 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Viking Sun</i>	07 Feb
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	08 Feb
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	09 Feb
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	09 Feb
DARWIN	
<i>Seven Seas Voyager</i>	08 Feb
BROOME	
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	07 Feb
BURNIE	
<i>Regatta</i>	07 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	09 Feb
EDEN	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	07 Feb
AUCKLAND	
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	07 Feb
<i>Golden Princess</i>	08 Feb
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	09 Feb
WELLINGTON	
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	07 Feb
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	08 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	09 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	09 Feb
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	09 Feb

## FACE-2-FACE: Keira Smith

National Sales Manager,  
Viking Cruises

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

I feel incredibly lucky to be working in an industry and for a cruise line which is resonating so strongly in the Aussie market, and worldwide. Plus I love that this is a fast-paced industry where each day is varied.

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

I'll be honest, I actually fell into the cruise industry by accident, it wasn't something I was striving for - but now that I'm in, I have no plans to leave anytime soon.

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

Surround yourself with smart, interesting and fun people. I'm privileged in my role that I have a great team - we work abnormal hours, but when you have a group of people you genuinely like and who are all working towards the same dream, it doesn't feel like work.

### 4. Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still part of the Viking family - there are a lot of exciting things on the horizon for this company and I would love to be part of the ride and success.

### 5. What is your advice for up-and-comers?

Network, network, network! And never stop asking questions. The industry is ever



changing and there is a wealth of knowledge out there - so really just have a chat.

### 6. What was your best fam trip?

Although I have just returned from a brilliant Viking Russian river famil, I have to say I will always remember my first ever famil which was to Canada. We were lucky enough to be staying at the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise when it began to snow.

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

Now that NRL season is over, I have a lot of spare time on my hands! During the NRL season, I live and breathe my team, the Canberra Raiders - yes the grand final loss still hurts!

And because I travel a bit for work, locking in time to see my mates is also a must.

### 8. The celebrity you would most like to cruise with?

I'm torn - Jimmy Carr (hilarious) or Paul Rudd - I think it must stem from my school girl crush from his *Clueless* days!

### 9. What winds you down after a busy week?

Surprisingly, I love hanging out with my niece and nephew (three and two) - hanging out with kids gives me perspective.

## RSSC lux incentive

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is giving agents the chance to score a stay at the Jackalope Hotel in Mornington Peninsula and private vineyard experience hosted by the line's VP and GM for ANZ Lisa Pile, valued at \$2,500 per person.

To be in the running, agents need to make bookings between now and the end of the first quarter.

Call 1300 455 200 for further information.



**IT WAS** only a three-day cruise, but we still got the jigsaws done.

*Seven Seas Splendor* features a communal puzzling area, with the ship offering two different jigsaws adjacent to the popular Coffee Connection area.

For some of those on board the ship's special preview cruise this week from Rome to Barcelona, the allure of the jigsaws was impossible to resist, with many stopping to just pop a piece or two in place as they strolled by.

The intrepid puzzlers managed to complete both a conventional 1,000 piece puzzle and an intricate Liberty woodcut jigsaw.

Such is the importance of the puzzles to Regent that the cruise line's Senior VP of Hotel Operations, Franco Semeraro, told *Cruise Weekly* "if we didn't have the jigsaws on board there would be more complaints than if there was no beef available".