

CRUISE

WEEKLY

Tuesday 10 April 2012

A new look in the wind for 2013

Windstar Cruises will debut a new look for its entire fleet next year, and will also wow guests with a sprinkling of new itineraries.

THE cruise line is pumping US\$18 million into a complete makeover of its three sailing yachts, *Wind Star*, *Wind Spirit* and *Wind Surf*, to be completed in time for their 2013 sailings.

The facelift will involve a complete redesign of staterooms, owner's suites, corridors and public spaces on each of the vessels, with work

onboard the four-masted *Wind Star* and *Wind Spirit* also set to include new designs for their respective Pool Bars, Libraries, Windspas, The Restaurants and Verandas.

Work onboard the company's five-masted *Wind Surf* will also include a redesign of its The Restaurant, Degrees, Veranda, Compass Rose, WindSpa, Yacht Club, and Pool Bar spaces.

According to the cruise line, the makeover will result in "a new level of elegance to Windstar's cruise experience".

And it's not just the ships sporting new goodies next year, with their schedules set to feature three new voyages in the Mediterranean and four new Northern Europe itineraries.

New for the Med will be a Casablanca & the Canary Islands cruise onboard *Wind Surf* (16 November) and *Wind Spirit* (25 November); as well as a seven-day Provence & Cote d'Azur voyage on board *Wind Star* (13 July) and *Wind Spirit* (10 November); and an 11-day Footsteps of Faith adventure taking in Athens, Patmos, Kusadasi, Rhodes, Antalya, Larnaca, Haifa, Ashdod, Israel (with visit to Jerusalem), and Alexandria onboard *Wind Spirit* (05 and 16 October).

The cruise line's four new voyages in Northern Europe will include an eight day Europe's West Coast Odyssey onboard *Wind Surf* taking in Lexio/Porto, Vigo, A Coruna, Brest, St. Malo and Cherbourg departing on 03 July and 07 September; as well as a seven-day Idyllic British Isles itinerary departing 11 July and 31 August onboard *Wind Surf* including calls to Portsmouth, Dartmouth, Falmouth, Scilly Isles, Milford Haven/Pembroke, Waterford/Dunmore East, Holyhead and Dublin.

Wind Surf will also host a new Gaelic Explorers itinerary calling at Dublin, Isle of Man, Portrush, Stromness, Invergordon, Peterhead and Edinburgh, departing on 18 July and 24 August; as well as an 11-day Scandinavian Tapestry cruise which takes guests to the Norwegian Fjords, Scandinavian capital cities and regional villages.

For full program details, visit your travel agent, or see www.traveltheworld.com.au.

Hapag-Lloyd's 88 maiden calls

NEW Zealand's Great Barrier Island is among the 88 new ports of call for Hapag-Lloyd throughout the 2013-14 season.

Bremen will make 48 maiden calls, including three nights at Russian Federation's Wrangel Island (30 July-02 August 2013), a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is home to more plant species than any other Arctic island.

The full cruise, round-trip cruise from Nome, Alaska, also visits the Chukchi Peninsula's Prowidenija, Janrakynnot, Lorino, Kolyuchinskaya Bay, Kolyuchin Island and Cape Vankarem.

In October 2013 *Bremen* will call for the first time at Cape Verde, an archipelago of 10 islands in the central Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of West Africa, as well as Santiago, Chile.

Hanseatic is also scheduled to visit Cape Verde in autumn 2013, plus another 39 maiden ports of call.

Highlights include a Asian politics-themed cruise from Kanazawa to Manila in the Philippines and an arts and architecture voyage to the UK.

Hapag-Lloyd also has plans for two semi-circumnavigations of Antarctica and two cruises through the Northwest Passage.

The company will be hoping to attract families to its two 'Cruises for Young Discoverers', aimed at children aged from 10 to 17.

Meanwhile, its new 698-passenger ship is due to debut in one week.

The German line is chartering Oceania Cruises' 1998-built *Insignia* for two years and will rename it *Columbus 2*.

Columbus 2's first cruise is scheduled to depart from Palma de Mallorca on 16 April and will sail to Malta via Formentera, Ibiza and Menorca.



Last Minute Deals

This weekly column highlights hot deals on cruises departing soon – ideal for our spontaneous readers.

Check out this week's cruise bargain:

21-night cruise Sydney to Dubai onboard *Sun Princess*

- **From:** \$3,879pp
- **Departs:** 16 May 2012
- **Visits:** Darwin, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Mumbai and Dubai
- **Includes:** \$150 onboard credit, three-nights accom at Raffles Dubai, transfers, 21-night cruise, one-way flight from Dubai to Sydney and 4WD-dune safari with BBQ dinner
- **Contact:** www.ecruising.travel



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TODAY'S ISSUE OF CW

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* features four pages of all the latest cruise news.

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Tuesday 10 April 2012

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Ocean Pearl, Gemini moving

INTERNATIONAL Shipping Partners has announced the sale of the 1,300-guest *Ocean Pearl* (pictured below) to buyers in Taiwan.

Previously chartered to the now-defunct Happy Cruises, the ship will undergo an interior upgrade before offering luxury cruises in Asia.

ISP also reports that Happy Cruises' *Gemini* has been chartered for use as floating accommodation during this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games in London.

Gemini, which used to be known as *Clipper Jewel* and also sailed as *SuperStar Gemini*, will be available for sale or charter after redelivery in mid-August.



Titanic cruise delayed by high winds

MS Balmoral is retracing the planned route of the *RMS Titanic*, which sank 100 years ago on 15 April 1912.

ONE of the most hyped voyages in modern cruising, the 'Titanic Memorial Cruise' set sail from Southampton on Sunday to commemorate a century since the historic liner hit an iceberg and caused the deaths of 1,514 people.

The chartered ship, the 1,350-guest *Balmoral*, encountered its first hitch yesterday when it was delayed by bad weather and arrived two hours late at Cobh, in southern Ireland.

But thousands of spectators gathered at the town's port to welcome the passengers and crew.

Cobh was the *Titanic's* last port of call before it set out across the Atlantic Ocean in April 1912.

The *Balmoral* will now continue across the North Atlantic, arriving this weekend at the site of the tragedy (41 43'57"N, 49 56'49"W) where two memorial services will be held.

The first will start at 11.40pm on 14 April, the time and date when the *Titanic* hit the iceberg, and the second in the early hours of 15 April, when it sank.

The 12-day voyage also visits Halifax, Nova Scotia, the final resting place of many who were aboard the *Titanic*, and New York, its final scheduled destination.

Balmoral is carrying passengers from 28 countries, including Australia.

Other participants include relatives of some of the people who died aboard the *Titanic*, as well as relatives of survivors.

Many passengers and crew are dressed in period costumes and they are dining on meals

from the *Titanic's* menu.

A live band is also playing music of the era, in tribute to the musicians who reportedly played their instruments until the ship sank.

Lectures are being conducted by authors, historians and Philip Littlejohn, grandson of a *Titanic* survivor.

Balmoral is operated by Fred Olsen Cruise Lines, whose parent company, Harland and Wolff, built the *Titanic* in Belfast.

Another company is publishing "real-time tweets" of the *Titanic's* fateful voyage via a Twitter account: @titanicrealttime.

Cruise Calendar

Cruise Weekly's cruise calendar details upcoming port calls of passenger cruise ships at various destinations in Australia.

SYDNEY

<i>Volendam</i>	Tue 10 Apr
<i>Sun Princess</i>	Thu 12 Apr
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Fri 13 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	Sun 15 Apr
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	Mon 16 Apr

BRISBANE

<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	Wed 11 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	Fri 13 Apr
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	Sat 14 Apr
<i>Pacific Sun</i>	Sun 15 Apr

HOBART

<i>Dawn Princess</i>	Tue 10 Apr
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DARWIN

<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	Thu 12 Apr
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	Fri 13 Apr

FREMANTLE

<i>Athena</i>	Sat 14 Apr
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AUCKLAND

<i>Regatta</i>	Thu 12 Apr
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TAURANGA

<i>Regatta</i>	Wed 11 Apr
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Viking withdraws plans

DISCUSSIONS between the shipbuilder STX France and Viking River Cruises over the latter's plans to construct two 41,000-ton ocean vessels have ended, following Viking's withdrawal from negotiations.

The plans were tentatively announced late last year, with the pair saying that the agreement was "subject to negotiation".

At the time of print Viking had not yet responded to *CW's* questions, and as such it is not known if the ocean ship program will be scrapped or continued with another shipbuilder.

Windjammer Sailing Adventures

ENTREPRENEUR Charles Kropke has purchased the three-masted tall ship *Mandalay* from the now defunct Windjammer Barefoot Cruises, and has started a new cruise company, Windjammer Sailing Adventures.

The vessel is now set for an overhaul which will see the number of its berths reduced from 72 to 64, with the company saying it will host weekly Caribbean cruises from May this year.

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Recipe of the Month

Dungeness Crab Cakes

This week's recipe comes from Holland
America Line's Pinnacle Grill



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup of celery, finely diced
 - 1/2 an onion, finely diced
 - 1/2 red bell pepper, diced
 - 3 cups of Dungeness crab meat, well drained
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup mayonnaise
 - juice of 1/2 a lemon
 - 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/4 tsp tabasco
 - 1 tbs chopped chives
 - 1/4 tsp thyme
 - 1/2 tsp fresh garlic, minced
 - 1 and a half cups Panko or bread crumbs
 - salt and pepper to taste
- Thai Chili Lime Butter Sauce**
- 14g fresh minced ginger
 - 7g minced garlic
 - 44mls white wine vinegar
 - 60mls lime juice, fresh
 - 35mls sake
 - 120mls heavy cream
 - 340g unsalted butter, cold, cut in chunks
 - 60mls Thai chili sauce

Preparation

Crab Cakes: Mix well. Scoop up crab cake mixture and shape into cake. Bread with Panko crumbs. Place cakes on sheet pans sprinkled with dry Panko crumbs. Wrap thoroughly. Store refrigerated. When ready to cook, dredge cakes in bread crumbs and fry on a flat griddle, not in a skillet. Serve with Thai Chili Lime Butter sauce on the side.

Thai Chili Lime Butter Sauce: In a heavy saucepot over medium high heat, combine ginger, garlic, vinegar, lime juice and sake. Reduce to a light syrup (90%). Add cream and reduce to 60% over medium heat – do not scorch. Reduce heat to low, and gradually whip in the cold butter chunks. Whisk in pepper, salt and chili sauce.

People still cruising Costa

COSTA Cruises has surprised many cruise experts by defying the odds and reporting bookings for its Easter Mediterranean cruises over the past fortnight have exceeded booking numbers for the same period last year.

In fact, according to the company, bookings for its 2012 Easter cruises were "record breaking".

Five Costa ships spent Easter in the Med including *Costa neoRomantica*, *Costa Mediterranea*, *Costa Pacifica*, *Costa Deliziosa* and *Costa Serena*.

Thomson looks to upgrade

POPULAR British cruise line, Thomson Cruises has announced plans to refurbish two of its best loved vessels, *Thomson Dream* and *Thomson Celebration*.

The multi-million dollar makeovers, will include the installation of Thai and French restaurants on both ships, as well as upgrades to both vessels' cabins, public spaces and spa facilities.

The vessels will also be fitted out with a series of spa cabins.

The work will start on *Thomson Dream* when she enters drydock in August, whilst *Celebration* will enter drydock next March.

Dream will emerge from her drydock cocoon in time for her winter Caribbean season this year, whilst *Celebration* will be ready to debut her new-look in time for her 2013 summer season cruising out of Marmaris, Turkey.

MSC pulls out of Dubai

MSC Cruises has announced it will not be homeporting ships in Abu Dhabi, saying its decision was based on commercial, as well as infrastructure issues.

"There is no doubt that MSC Cruises' guests enjoyed the destination," MSC Cruises said.

"However, for the long-term success of cruising in the region, new ports of call need to be developed, terminal facilities must be upgraded and there must be increased focus on sourcing from local and regional markets," the cruise line added.

The decision to withdraw Abu Dhabi as an MSC homeport comes less than a year after the cruise line started cruising from the port, with *MSC Lirica* having been Abu Dhabi's first homeported vessel.

MSC had planned to base *MSC Opera* out of Abu Dhabi during 2012/13, but has decided to base the vessel in South Africa instead (**CW** 13 March).



ADVENTURE sees no obstacles.

Severe bad weather which stopped *Orion II* from departing Ho Chi Minh City- not once but twice, was not enough to stop its adventure-loving crew from whipping up a last minute program of activities to stimulate guests' appetite for culture.

Rather than a drag, the delay allowed guests to really immerse themselves in the city, with the ship's Hotel Manager and Expedition Leaders deciding to host a "foodies" walk around the bustling local market where locals go to buy fresh produce as well as everything from bolts of cloth and home wares to jewelry.

Led by *Orion II's* Executive Chef Frederic as well as two other of the vessel's chefs, the guests explored the colourful markets, and enjoyed detailed explanations of the exotic selections on display.

To add even more excitement to the day the *Orion II* team arranged for the vessel's Maitre'd Clinton and his team (all dressed in uniform), to stand at strategic points throughout the market with taster platters for the guests to enjoy the local fare they were learning about.

Guest (photography) lecturers Sue Flood and Nick Rains also led a separate photo group through the market as well, capturing the activities and preparing for the onboard lectures and instruction on better photography.

Orion II was able to leave shortly after guests returned to the ship.

Goa's new cruise terminal

GOA'S Mormugao Port Trust, in India, has announced that its new cruise terminal will be ready to receive vessels in the next two months.

Taiwan as the next big thing?

THE decision by Taiwan and China to allow cruise ships to operate between ports across the Taiwan Strait without having to obtain permission for each separate trip may lead to a cruise boom in the region, with cruise lines saying the move will encourage more vessels to pull into Taiwan's Keelung Port.

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Easter and Religious Cruises

by: Louise Goldsbury

Religion-themed cruising has come a long way since Noah built his ark. Luxury cruise lines are offering a range of new options for travellers seeking a sacred experience at sea or an Easter escape in 2013.

For its upcoming European season (April to December), Crystal Cruises is uniting with Christian Heritage Tours to enable passengers to make a pilgrimage to Bosnia's Apparition Hill, where people have reported visions of the Virgin Mary.

Crystal is also the first cruise line to organise a private mass for guests at Barcelona's famous Sagrada Familia.

In Italy, passengers can assist the 400-year-old charity brotherhood of Pio Monte della Misericordia via a complimentary "voluntourism" excursion.

Also in Europe, SeaDream Yacht Club is introducing an itinerary that follows in the footsteps of Paul the Apostle.

Departing from Istanbul on 30 June 2012, the voyage visits significant churches in Turkey and Greece, a healing centre and the archaeological site of Ephesus.

Next year, on 4 August 2013, Azamara Club Cruises has a seven-night 'Vatican To The Acropolis' sailing from Civitavecchia (Rome) to Piraeus (Athens), Greece.

This year, *Azamara Journey* will offer an 11-night Holy Land voyage in October, with an overnight stay in Ashdod to give passengers time in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Galilee and the River Jordan, as well as Rhodes and Ephesus.

Celebrity Cruises also operates several Holy Land voyages this year, including 12-night trips aboard *Celebrity Constellation* that feature three immersive days in Israel: a two-day overnight, in-port stay in Ashdod and Alexandria and a full-day call in Haifa.

Royal Caribbean's *Mariner of the Seas* has new 12-night roundtrips from Rome, available in May, September and October, which dock overnight in Jerusalem and Alexandria, Egypt.

Other cruise lines offer shore excursions with a religious theme.

For example, Regent Seven Seas organises tours in Jerusalem during *Voyager's* 'Gateways of Antiquity' cruise from Luxor to Rome, departing 4 May 2013; and *Mariner's* 'Empires of Antiquity' from Athens to Istanbul, departing 29 September 2013.

The tour includes stops in Nazareth; Basilica of the Annunciation, where Archangel Gabriel informed Mary she would give birth to the Messiah; Church of Joseph, the site that once housed Joseph's carpentry shop; Mary's Well; Cana, where Jesus turned water into wine; Mount of Beatitudes; and Capernaum, considered the centre of Jesus' ministry.

Another excursion is called 'A Day in Jerusalem and Bethlehem', which visits the Christian quarter, Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, where Jesus is believed to have been born.

Both of these tours are complimentary as part of Regent Seven Seas' all-inclusive fares.

Closer to home, Australians can spend next Easter at sea (but without any religious activities) on *Carnival Spirit*, from Sydney to Fiji, for a 12-night South Pacific cruise, departing 21 March 2013.

From Brisbane, P&O's *Pacific Dawn* sets sail on Easter Saturday to the Whitsundays, Cairns and Port Douglas.

Princess Cruises' *Dawn Princess* will embark on an Australian circumnavigation on Easter Sunday, preceded by a two-day cruise from Melbourne to Sydney on Good Friday.

For bookings, contact a travel agent.



Israel, Jerusalem



SeaDream at Hydra, Greece



Azamara Journey near Rome

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