CRUISE



Tuesday 16 October 2012

Melbourne debuts in 2014 season

Melbourne will welcome *Pacific Pearl* for a series of roundtrip voyages, as part of P&O Cruises 2014 holiday program.

RELEASED this week, the winter program features a total of 75 different cruises from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Auckland, including more than 20 short breaks of two-to four-nights for time-poor travellers.

The new Melbourne itineraries onboard *Pearl* will include the cruise line's first-ever visits to Aussie ports including Kangaroo Island, Port Lincoln and Robe.

Highlights of the Melbourne sailing schedule include a five-night voyage to Tasmania, departing 24 April, with stops in Burnie, Port Arthur and Hobart (priced from \$649pp), as

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well as a six-night voyage to Adelaide, with stops at Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln.

Meanwhile, in another company first, 2014 will also see *Pacific Jewel* join *Pacific Dawn* in Brisbane to offer a combined total of 34 departures from the Queensland port over winter.

Highlights of the Queensland season will include a series of seven-night Pacific Islands cruises onboard *Jewel* which will take guests to the cruise line's newest Pacific Island destination of Mare.

The 2014 season will also see the cruise line return to Papua New Guinea with a 10-night cruise from Brisbane, as well as a new 11-night itinerary from Sydney.

Priced from \$1,199 per person quad share, the cruises will depart in September 2014 and will call in the stunning Milne Bay region, as well as Alotau, Doini Island and Trobriand Islands.

P&O's extended 2014 short cruise line up will include departures from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Auckland, and will feature a range of Food & Wine, Lifestyle and Comedy themed voyages, priced from \$499pp for a three-night cruise from Sydney.

The 2014 season will go on sale from 22 October, see your travel agent for details.

Discover Fiji next year

NEXT year Captain Cook Cruises *MV Reef Endeavour* will undertake five seven-night Discovery Cultural Cruise departures: 05 February, 07 May, 02 July, 03 September and 05 November.

The itinerary circumnavigates Fiji's Vanua Levu, giving guests the ultimate chance to discover and experience four distinctive Fijian cultures: Ellice Islanders (Polynesians), Banabans (Micronesians), Fijian and Indians, as well as to visit untouched villages and schools.

Meanwhile the company has also released the departure dates for *Reef Endeavour's* seven-night Discovery Heritage Cruise: 01 January, 05 March, 02 April, 04 June, 6 August and 3 December.

The seven nights Discovery Heritage Cruise takes guests on an adventure which explores the history, art and culture of the Northern Fiji Islands, and allows passengers the ultimate experience of standing on the International Dateline.

The voyages are priced from \$1,538pp. See www.captaincook.com.fj.

48 hours to grab an MSC deal

TODAY MSC Cruises launched a 48-hour sale on a variety of cruises onboard nine members of its fleet, spanning destinations including the Mediterranean, South America, Africa, the Caribbean and the Red Sea.

During the sale, seven-night Mediterranean sailings on *MSC Splendida* start from \$354 per person twin share, whilst 11-night Grand Voyages aboard the new *MSC Divina* are priced from \$554 per person twin share.

For more details see your local travel agent, or visit MSC at- www.msccruises.com.au.

TODAY'S ISSUE OF CW

Today's issue of *CW* features five pages of all the latest cruise news and photos.

PLUS see **p6** for a full page from Oceania Cruises detailing three of its Alaskan cruise offerings.









Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

Pacific Pearl Wed 17 Oct Sea Princess Thu 18 Oct Carnival Spirit Fri 19 Oct Carnival Spirit Sat 20 Oct Volendam Sun 21 Oct Sun Princess Mon 22 Oct Pacific Jewel Tue 23 Oct Rhapsody of the Seas Tue 23 Oct

BRISBANE

Sea PrincessSat 20 OctSun PrincessSat 20 OctVolendamTue 23 Oct

DARWIN

Radiance of the Seas Sat 20 Oct

The Moorings App

THE Moorings has announced its intention to eventually replace its printed brochure with a newly launched iPadApp.

The Moorings App allows users to browse the company's 2013 worldwide charter, power and crewed ship brochures page, view videos, enter competitions and interact online with the company.

The App also features details about the company, as well as its stunning destinations.

The App can be downloaded for free at Apple's App store.



Delayed Princess heading to Sydney

New Zealand's cruise season has experienced a rocky start after a storm kept 712 passengers stranded overnight on land.

THE Sea Princess spent an unscheduled Saturday night in the South Island village of Akaroa, with almost half of its passengers and 50 crew unable to return to the ship because of rough conditions in the small harbour.

With concerns for safety, the Captain ordered the cancellation of tenders taking people back to the ship after a day on shore.

Some passengers were transferred to hotels in Akaroa and the nearby city of Christchurch, while others found accommodation with local families, said mayor Bob Parker.

Crystal balling 2014-15

CRYSTAL Cruises has unveiled details of its 2014 season which is set to include 61 sailings onboard *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity*, stopping at 194 total ports (including 16 maiden calls) across 68 countries.

Highlights of the 2014 Crystal calendar include stops at UNESCO World Heritage Sites on 54 of the 61 cruises; as well as an 89-day LA to London World Cruise, which includes Crystal's first return to West Africa since 2011.

In addition, 34% of cruises in the 2014 lineup will measure 10-days or less in length, whilst nearly every itinerary will feature at least one overnight stay.

There will also be twice as many Asia sailings in 2014 than in the preceding year, and the calendar promises more port-intensive voyages in Europe, including four sailings with no sea days.

MEANWHILE Crystal has also revealed a snapshot of 2015, releasing itineraries up until April 2015, with the line-up including 15 cruises and a 20th World Cruise, and highlights such as nine maiden calls including one to Albany in Australia, as well as debuts in Ambodifototra and Tolanaro, Madagascar; Richards Bay, South Africa; and Sanya, China.

2015 will also see *Crystal Symphony* spend her entire first quarter in Southeast Asia, with eight new sailings between Bangkok, Bali, Singapore and Hong Kong; whilst *Crystal Serenity* will make her first-ever complete circumnavigation of the world, from Miami.

The wild storm also uprooted trees and closed off road access to Milford Sound after a landslide.

As a result of the continuing bad weather, Sea Princess will skip its port of call at Dunedin and bypass one of the itinerary's highlights – a day of scenic cruising through the fjordlands.

Instead, it is sailing safely toward Sydney through Cook Strait, between the south and north islands, and is due to dock at Barangaroo on Thursday (18 October).

Sea Princess, which had been heading home via Hawaii, Tahiti and New Zealand, was the first international ship to arrive at Akaroa for the 2012-13 summer cruise season.

The New Zealand season officially started last week with the arrival of Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Seas*.

A record 91 cruise ships will visit the country between now and the end of March 2013. The weather forecast for Akaroa is sunny but windy, with winds of up to 70 km/hr expected to last until the weekend.

The next ship scheduled to visit the harbourside village is the *Dawn Princess* on 29 October.

Worldwide cruising rise

THE total number of people taking a cruise has hit record highs, with over 20 million people cruising last year.

The figures, presented by the Cruise Line International Association, showed a 10% increase in cruisers between 2010 and 2011.



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

Check out this week's cruise bargain:

11-night Solar Eclipse Sydney roundtrip onboard *Dαwn Princess*

- From: \$979pp (Inside Cabin)
- Departs: 18 October 2012
- Visits: Brisbane, Willis Island, Whitsundays, Townsville and Port Douglas
- Includes: 11-nights cruising, all entertainment and onboard meals.
- Contact: ecruising.travel



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One more day to save!

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises' final WOW Sale is set to end tomorrow, after kicking off on 14 October.

The sale offers up to \$200 onboard credit (per cabin) and half price deposits on all worldwide sailings of three nights or longer departing after 01 January 2013.

See www.royalcaribbean.com.au.

Liverpool turnaround

LIVERPOOL Port is one step closer to becoming a turnaround port, following a £8.8m repayment to the British Govt by Liverpool City Council.

Restrictions stopping it from becoming a turnaround port and thus potentially poaching cruise trade from other ports were put on the facility in 2007 after it received grants from the UK Government and EU to develop its facilities.

However earlier in the year the Department for Transport reneged and said that Liverpool could become a turnaround port if it repaid the lump sum of £8.8m or £12.6m over 15 years.

Liverpool is not yet in the clear however, with EU authorities hinting that they may also require repayment if Liverpool goes ahead with turnaround plans.

Bremen's better than ever

HAPAG-LLOYD'S *Ms Bremen* has completed her epic 19-day drydock overhaul this month, in preparation for her first-ever Antarctic season this year.

During her stay at the Blohm + Voss shipyard, 20 tonnes of paint were stripped from Bremen's exterior in order to provide the expedition ship with a fresh 2 tonne TBT-free underwater coating, meaning that she is now more eco-friendly and will also consume less fuel.

In addition, guests will also enjoy new carpets in *Bremen's* public areas, as well as new curtains, whilst the galley was renovated comprehensively and equipped with new technical devices to "meet the culinary expectations of the guests in the future".

Cruise like a Celebrity

CRUISERS who book any Celebrity Cruises Caribbean voyage of four nights or more, departing between December 2012 and April 2013, before 20 October, will receive free gratuities and bonus onboard credit.

For details visit your local travel agent, or see www.celebritycruises.com.au.



FEAR not, it's fake!

Those cruisers who are planning on taking a cruise around NZ this current wave season, should be aware that if they see a body bobbing in the water, all may not be as it seems.

Police in Wellington were alerted last week to the fact that a fake dead body may pop up in the ocean or around NZ's beaches, after a film company managed to misplace one of their corpses during a film shoot.

The film crew were shooting late one night in Houghton Bay (a southern suburb of Wellington) when they think the fake corpse slipped into the sea, and after a search failed to turn up the human-like lunk of plastic, they were forced to warn authorities that a 'fake dead body' may cross their radar in the near future.

Police have confirmed that they will not be searching for the corpse.

WIN

A 7 NIGHT COSTA CRUISE FOR 2!





Over part of September and October, *Cruise Weekly* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a 7 night cruise, courtesy of **Costa Cruises.** This amazing prize is valued at over \$4,000 and includes a 7 night cruise on board Costa Victoria from Singapore to Malaysia and Thailand in an Ocean-view Premium twin cabin.

Costa Cruises has been operating for over 60 years and offers the best in Italian style, hospitality and cuisine. Relax in the sun, shop up a storm in designer fashion boutiques, or be treated to exclusive entertainment, including the world's most renowned Michael Jackson impersonator!

To win this dream holiday, send in the most creative response in 50 words or less to the question below.

Why do you want to win this dream holiday on Costa Cruises?

Email your answer to costa@cruiseweekly.com.au

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Crew **Profile**

This week Cruise Weekly speaks with Jochen

Karql, Hotel Manager onboard Viking River Cruises' Ms Viking Freya.

How long have you been working on cruise ships? This is my 12th year. I used to work as a receptionist for an ocean cruise line. After two years I started as



a Program Director for 8 years, now this is my second year as Hotel manager.

When did you join Viking?

Back in 2002 I was looking for a new challenge when my attention was put towards Viking River Cruises. Already then I have seen that this is a great company with a lot of opportunity. Why do I still work here? - Because it is the best river cruise company there is!

What is your favorite cruising destination?

If I am asked which countries or cities do I like the most I need to answer that all of them have certain charms and make one feel attracted to. Traveling means widen ones horizon which I am trying to do since 12 years. However the city of Regensburg is the place I rate no.1.

Briefly explain what your job entails?

The slogan "home away from home" is crucial when it comes to serving passengers onboard. I believe that our guests expect great service, a friendly and competent crew as well as wonderful food and excursions. All just mentioned is important and certainly is what our quests can expect and is offered on board but what we also practice is going the extra step by really trying to fulfill quest wishes from their eyes.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Obviously one must love to travel in order to carry out a profession like this for so many years. I guess what I really like the most though, is being able to deliver the best product there is in river cruising to our passengers. When I think about it I must have met just about 60000 passengers over the past 10 years and almost every new cruise I meet some of them again. It is a wonderful thing getting recognised again and again and again.

Do you have any embarrassing cruise stories? I remember one occasion a long time ago: I did make an announcement advising passengers about the current weather before they all went out for an excursion. That day it was really hot and so I said on the PA that we shall have some 40 degrees outside and it is advisable to dress accordingly which a few guests did by putting on jackets and one lady even some gloves. Now what I forgot was that there is quite a huge difference in 40 degrees Fahrenheit and 40 degrees Celsius. I never made this mistake again.

P&O takes Life As We Know it to sea

P&O Cruises is pushing the boundaries of ship entertainment onboard Pacific Dawn, with its new stage show Life As We Know It.

Incorporating the vessel's own circus acrobats, Pacific Cirque, along with its talented dance troupe and singers, the show takes guests on an emotional journey through the cycle of life and human relationships, both the beautiful and the sad.

The show is set to the backdrop of the superliner's newly installed LED theatre screens which are used to create stunning visual effects, display evocative images and project inspirational quotes from people such as Ghandi, Oscar Wilde and John Lennon.

Cruise Weekly was lucky enough to get the chance to view the show yesterday, and was awed by the high impact performance in which the dance and singing troupe burnt-up the stage with a whirlwind of emotive movement and pitch perfect storytelling, whilst Pacific Cirque spun, swung, climbed, glided and defied gravity with magnificent feats of strength and agility.

Also adding an extra bang to the whirlwind of light, sound, and colour, were the performers 'steampunk' style costumes, designed by Australia's own Nigel Shaw, a man who counts the cutting edge style icons such as Lady Gaga amongst his clientele.

Harking back to the industrial steam era but



STAR Cruises has been inducted in the TTG Travel Awards Travel Hall of Fame for a fifth consecutive year.

One of the industry's major recognitions, the accolade was awarded to Star Cruises after it won Best Cruise Operator in Asia-Pacific at the annual TTG Travel Awards for the past 10 years.

The company is looking forward to the relaunch of SuperStar Gemini, after a US\$50m refurbishment, and the return of SuperStar Aquarius to Sanya (China) for a second year of deployment.

SuperStar Gemini will commence its 2013 season from Penang in January and from Sanya in February and March.

In April, the ship will be home-ported in Shanghai and offer sailings in North Asia. SuperStar Aquarius will be based again in Sanya from November.



with a funky modern-futuristic twist, the steampunk costumes feature heavily detailed luscious fabrics and metal trimmings, including springs and bolts.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* about Life As We Know It, the show's creative producer, Graeme Gillies said he was proud that P&O were willing to take a risk on staging something completely different to the usual cruise entertainment fare.

"This show will make people think about life," he said, adding that it will not be for everyone, but that was in fact part of P&O's plan to add diversity and choice to its entertainment line up.

"The music is also very different to what audiences usually expect, with all the songs being contemporary, and released in the last few years," he added.

Addressing media the show yesterday, Carnival Australia Vice President of Hotel Operations Sture Mymell spoke of P&O's desire to create shows unique to its ships.

"Life as We Know It delivers on that brief- it's very fresh, visual and high impact," he said.

Schettino faces court

THE former captain of Costa Concordia, Francesco Schettino, attended an Italian court yesterday to hear the evidence against him in relation to the shipwreck in Giglio in January in which 32 people died.

The courtroom was a converted theatre, as extra space was needed to accommodate the number of people who turned up to see the 51-year-old, who made no comment during his appearance.

Hearings this week will help decide whether a trial will be ordered for Schettino, who is charged with manslaughter, causing the shipwreck and abandoning ship.



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CRUISE



From buff to buffet

by: Louise Goldsbury

Why do we eat more at sea? Is there something in the salty air that stimulates our appetite? Is it because we want to get our fare's worth of food? Or do we just eat it because it's there?

Like cows, our "cruise stomach" seems to find extra compartments, and we pile on the dreaded "cruise kilos".

Most cruisers go through three stages, from good intentions, to giving in, to giving up.

Some people last longer than others, but most crumble at the first sight of a restaurant menu or buffet.

Pre-cruise: "I am not going to eat too much. I will order from the 'healthy options' menu. I will go to the gym. I won't drink much. I might even lose weight."

Day 1

Morning: "Woohoo! Cruise time! Let's go!"

1pm: "We're checked in! Finally! I'm hungry. Let's get lunch before we look around."

1.05pm: "Holy buffet! What a spread! They've got everything! Oh, look, it's my favourite food! Oh, look, it's your favourite food! Oh, look at how they carved that apple into a swan! Look at all those desserts! This is amazing. I love cruising!"

1.06pm: "OK, just this once, I am going to have whatever I want. I'm on holidays. We paid for this."

2pm: "Ugh. I shouldn't have eaten all of that. But it's OK, I'll have a light dinner."

5.30pm: "Yes, why not, let's have a pre-dinner drink to celebrate. I'll just have a white wine spritzer. No, wait. Only \$8 for a cocktail? That's very good value. Well, it is a special occasion. Pina colada,

please."

5.45pm: "Do we have time for another?"

6pm: "Five courses? No, no, no. I couldn't possibly. But it all looks so good. Free steak! Free seafood! Chocolate soufflé! OK, just tonight. It's the first night! Tomorrow I will be good."

Day 2

9am: "I'm only having fruit for breakfast."

9.05am: "Argh, the breakfast buffet is as big as the lunch buffet!"

9.06am: "Oh, look, they have a chef cooking omelettes. Let's get one while the queue is short. Quickly!"

9.16am: "That was delicious. Right, so now I'm going to get a little fruit."

9.20am: "You should see all the different types of breads and pastries. I got a selection for you to try. I'll just have a bite."

9.40am: "Why oh why did I eat all those pastries? I don't even like pastries. I need to lie down."

11am: "Is it lunchtime yet? What? It's only 11? What's wrong with me?"

11.02am: "Do they have morning tea?"

11.45am: "Let's beat the queue for lunch. I won't have dessert this time. And then I'm going to the gym."

2pm: "I'm too full to go to the gym. I'm going to lie by the pool and let it all digest. Come and get me when it's time for dinner."

6pm: "Oh, it's even better than yesterday. Forget it. I deserve to treat myself. There's only five days left. I'll go on a diet when I get home."



Onboard finger foods are tasty and addictive



Radiance of the Seas desserts



A swan carved out of an apple

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