

Thursday 13 February 2014

### Industry looks its best

TD Cruise Update today features two wrap-up video presentations on the industry events of last week - Cruise3sixty (CLICK HERE) and the CLIA 2013 Cruise Industry Awards (CLICK HERE).

For those unable to attend on the day, links are now available to view the presentations and panel discussions that took place on the day, featuring some of the biggest names in world cruising.

**CLICK HERE** for the selection of presentations from Cruise3sixty. In addition, see **page five** for a special page of photos from last Sat night's Awards celebrations.

### Newcastle pitch lines

A PROSPECTUS from the Port of Newcastle has been issued to cruise line bosses, encouraging them to consider a port visit to the NSW port in future itineraries.

Entitled "Share the Secret", the guide details the commercial advantages of visiting Newcastle, its proximity to the city centre and capacity for larger vessels.

The region's potential for shore excursions was also detailed, such as nearby Hunter Valley wineries, Stockton sand dune system and the picturesque Port Stephens.

"Cruise Hunter would like it to be equally well known in the cruise industry as a competitively priced playground for passengers," Cruise Hunter coordinator David Brown said.



### Online purchase needs push

consumer digital behaviour was a hot issue at the inaugural Cruise3sixty conference last week, where a key speaker from Google revealed that a significant proportion of people drop offline after researching cruises online.

Ross McDonald, industry head for travel and tourism for Google Australia, said 41% of the "cruise audience" conducted research only, 45% obtained a quote for a cruise but made no purchase, and 14% made a purchase.

He compared these figures to the general travel audience, where 44% stayed online to purchase a holiday.

"Cruise" was the fastest growing travel category on Google Search in Australia last year - up 23% on 2012 – with the greatest peak in the second week of Sep when Costa Concordia was righted.

"When news happens, it creates consumer interest, so you should think of ways to capitalise on a big news story," McDonald said.

According to his analysis, 46% of consumers "started their digital journey" on a smartphone, 43% of these people then continued on a PC or laptop and 3% on a tablet device.

About half searched for a specific brand (Princess, P&O and Carnival were top), followed by destinations (Australian, Europe and Caribbean featured prominently) and ship names.

"There was also a real flick into searches for cheap cruises,"

#### **NCL Getaway debuts**

**CHRISTENED** by cheerleaders from the Miami Dolphins NFL franchise, Norwegian Cruise Lines has officially welcomed its newest cruise liner - *Norwegian Getaway* - into its fleet.

The gleaming new vessel is now operational and departing weekly from Miami, Florida on sailings to the Caribbean.

McDonald added.

On the expert panel, Simon Cheng, director of marketing, P&O and Cunard, claimed: "Our online booking statistics are very minimal, to be honest, making purchases online requires more of a push."

But later he conceded that Carnival Australia's controversial ban on travel agencies' use of its brand terms (*CW* 12 Sep), which served to protect its copyright & "eliminate consumer confusion", had boosted direct online sales.

"I'd be lying if I said it didn't benefit us in that area," Cheng said during the panel discussion.

Craig Chisholm, md, ozcruising, said his company had also increased bookings monthon-month after expanding its marketing diversity since the Carnival keyword ban.

"Initially we removed the Carnival brand, so we have seen a decease in the amount of marketing we're spending on, yet we still find our sales are increasing."

Chisholm said the keyword ban "probably benefited us" because it stopped consumers going to "eleven other sites".

John Molinaro, gm Australia, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, was cheered when he declared "zero" online bookings.

Michelle Taylor, gm sales & marketing, Travel The World, said Cruise Guru's figures were "the complete opposite" of the Google statistics.

"We find more and more people are willing to purchase online, especially more experienced travellers," Taylor said.

### Five pages of news

Today's issue of *TD Cruise Update* features five pages of all the latest cruise information, plus a full page from: (*click*)

AA Appointments jobs

### Extra CCC Fiji sailings

**STRONG** passenger demand for Captain Cook Cruises 11-night Lau Islands Discovery Cruise in Fiji has seen the line open for sale an additional departure for 2014.

The new sailing will leave from Port Denarau on 04 Nov.

In addition, three departures of the itinerary have been confirmed to operate on 28 Apr, 04 Aug and 03 Nov 2015, with Earlybird fares priced from \$3,208pp twin share.

"We are overwhelmed with how popular the 11 night Lau cruise has been and it has exceeded all our expectations.

"We are so excited to be able to announce three departure dates for 2015," Captain Cook Cruises Fiji md Jackie Charlton said.









**ABOVE**: Business development managers from APT and Holland America Line traded their cars for staterooms at sea last weekend, hopping aboard Holland America Line's *Oosterdam* for a luxury sailing from Melbourne to Hobart.

The teams used the opportunity together to brainstorm new ideas and plan marketing strategies for the months ahead, as well as take time out to enjoy the ship.

Maintaining their composure in reportedly very windy conditions, the group are **pictured** above taking in some fresh sea air.

### A Legend-ary drydock

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Lines has commenced drydock renovation work on *Carnival Legend* ahead of its repositioning to Australia.

Works being carried out on the ship include installation of Aussie power points and the addition of local favourite features such as the Green Thunder waterpark, Red Frog Pub, Bonsai Sushi and Cherry on Top candy store.

Legend will join sister ship Spirit in Australia from 22 Sep, sailing a South Pacific season from Sydney.

### Seabourn 5-day sale

**SEABOURN** cruise fares in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Baltic are on sale to midnight on 14 Feb, starting from \$3,199 for a nine-day cruise ex Rome. Phone 1300 987 323 for more.

### **Pearls of Polynesia**

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has released a new 11-day roundtrip itinerary cruising the Tahitian Islands, ex Papeete 07 Dec 2014.

The voyage will be operated by the Seven Seas Mariner.

### **Everglades expansion**

**UPGRADES** to Port Everglades cruise terminal in Fort Lauderdale are set to begin next month, with the project to cost US\$24 million.

Items for completion will include 50 new check-in counters and new loading bridges for faster embarkation and disembarkation, with all work to be finished by the 2014/15 northern winter season.

### **GCT** developer named

**ENVIRONMENTAL** impact studies on the viability of the proposed Gold Coast cruise ship terminal will now be carried out after a preferred developer for the project was today announced.

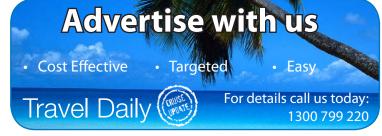
ASF China Property Consortium was identified as the development firm of choice by the Gold Coast City Council, with renderings of the expanded Wavebreak Island revealing a terminal will be built inside The Spit along with highrise towers & residential housing.

Queensland Deputy Premier & Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney has said the project still has a number of "significant challenges" to overcome.

"This will be the biggest project to be undertaken in the history of Queensland and if it is environmentally okay to go ahead then this will be a monumental win for the local economy," Gold Coast Mayor Cr Tom Tate added.









### **CLIA Events**

THE Cruise Industry Awards have been run and won for another year and our inaugural Cruise3sixty Australasia is now a benchmark for future years!

On behalf of all of CLIA's Member Lines I would like to express our thanks to all those that attended Cruise3sixty. The feedback to date has been very good and we look forward to this becoming an annual event on our calendar.

We will be sending a survey to all participants before the end of this week and for all completed surveys, 20 points will be added to CLIA Accreditation profiles.

For anyone wishing to experience the USA version of Cruise3sixty (Fort Lauderdale in Apr) please contact the CLIA office for more information.

CLIA Australasia Members will receive VIP treatment & access to the event at equivalent CLIA USA Member rates.

As for the Cruise Industry Awards – wow, what a night! As with Cruise3sixty, the feedback we have received to date has been fantastic and we are certainly very proud to be an integral part of this great event.

To all the finalists, we extend our congratulations and to all the winners – you really are the 2013 stars

For any finalists and winners looking for assistance to help promote your achievement please contact the CLIA office.

Special thanks to all our Cruise Line and Executive Partner sponsors as neither of our events are possible without your support.



### Volga Dream II opens 2015

**RESERVATIONS** have opened for the *MS Volga Dream II*, the first new river vessel to be built from scratch in Russia since 1990.

Featuring the largest cabins, suites and balconies ever seen in the region, the ship is tipped to "set a new standard" in Russian river cruising, according to Mike Tonkin, director of sales and marketing, Russian Travel Centre.

The other main difference to competitors, Tonkin told *TD Cruise Update*, is that passengers spend six out of 12 nights in five-star hotels in the centre of Moscow and St Petersburg - not on the ship docked at the port on the outskirts of those cities.

"Construction has already started in the Croatian shipyard, and we now have 2015 sailing dates and prices for this magnificent vessel," Tonkin said.

A 12-night cruise between Moscow and St Petersburg, including hotel accommodation, is priced from \$5,095ppts for a deluxe stateroom and \$5,645ppts for a veranda stateroom.

Two-room executive suites are priced from \$8,295ppts and the two writer's suites start at \$10,395ppts.

On the "Gold program", the Moscow stay is at the new

Kempinski Nikolskaya near Red Square, and in St Petersburg at the Kempinski Moika 22, near the Hermitage Museum.

The ship's cabins range from 22 to 43 square metres plus balconies measuring up to 11 square metres for the writer's suite.

"With a limited number of cruises in 2015 we do expect a very heavy demand worldwide for the MS Volga Dream II, especially with such attractive & competitive pricing," Tonkin said.

The first cruise on the new vessel departs 18 Jun 2015. For enquiries, call 1300 668 844.

### **Webinar on Antarctica**

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions will conduct a sales webinar focusing on the exploration of Antarctica with *National Geographic Orion* on 20 Feb at 11am AEDST.

The presentation will be hosted by one of Lindblad's onboard naturalists, who will speak about the Lindblad experience, tools for exploration, answer questions & detail some of the adventures pax are able to enjoy off the ship.

**CLICK HERE** to register for the webinar, or phone 1300 361 012 for more information.

### Quantum take a bump

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has taken its new dodgem car ride on *Quantum of the Seas* for its initial test run, creating a new video to document the event.

The ride is one of a number of revolutionary features set to be unveiled later this year as part of the new Quantum-class vessel.

**CLICK HERE** to view the video.

#### **Exclusive LGBT cruise**

**TOUR** operator Gay Globe has joined with Carnival Australia to offer a Gay Group Cruise to New Caledonia, departing on 24 Mar.

Travelling on *Carnival Spirit*, the nine-night sailing will visit Isle of Pines, Mare, Noumea and more, with cabin priced from \$1,360pp quad share - ph (02) 8005 1680



information. Only open to AU & NZ registered travel agents aged 18+.

Must take prize from 11/6/14 – 20/6/14. Ends 5pm AEDST 28/2/14. NSW Permit No. LTPS/13/09622, VIC Permit No.

13/2902, ACT Permit No. TP13/04454,

SA Permit No. T13/2244, ^Flights/

transfers to Japan not included

2014 REINDEER RUN BONUS SALE



Book a Hurtigruten 2014 Norway Classic Coastal Voyage with Discover the World Cruising and receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card and your clients receive GBP200 per cabin onboard credit.

Bookings must be made by 28 February and only the first 40 agents to book receive the Visa Gift Card!

Click here for details on this, and other great offers!

Discover World Cruising
HURTIGRUTEN

Call 1800 623 267
E retailres@discovertheworld.com.au
W discovertheworldcruising.com.au





### **Cruising in Lapland**

**BALTIC** touring firm Bentours has released a new 21-day Russia and Lapland Highlights itinerary incorporating a 6-day Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage, priced from \$7,724ppts.

The tour departs from Moscow, takes pax to St Petersburg and to the Finnish Laplands, with the cruise visiting the islands of Vesteralen and Lofoten - for more information, phone 1800 221 712.

### **RCI Galveston pledge**

ROYAL Caribbean International has signed a five-year agreement with port authorities in Galveston, Texas which will see the line deploy a larger ship to operate from the port in return for a US\$10m facility upgrade.

It is anticipated the line will replace the current Voyager-class ship sailing from Galveston with a larger Freedom-class vessel.

### **Grand Voyage savings**

MSC Cruises has released a new special offer on trans-continental Grand voyages, with \$200 per cabin discounted from normal fares if booked by 31 Mar.

Europe, USA, Caribbean, South American and Australian voyages are eligible under the deal.

### **Aussie on HAL's Culinary Council**



HOLLAND America Line appointed top Sydney chef Mark Best as its newest member of the line's Culinary Council at a stunning dinner last night on board MS Amsterdam berthed at Sydney's White Bay terminal.

Best, who owns the multiple award-winning Marque restaurant in Sydney, joins five other top international chefs who will create what HAL describes as "cruise cuisine as its best."

"I'm very pleased to be representing Australia on HAL ships and will contribute a number of Pacific-theme dishes that the general public wouldn't come across, such as my popular Mango Mustard and Coconut

desert," said Best.

The chef started his working life as an electrician in the West Australian gold mines before beginning his culinary career at the age of 25.

He developed a passion for French food, studied French Cuisine in France and over the years has won a string of major awards for excellence.

"I feel a bit queasy at the thought of cruising," joked Best, "and instead of serving 50 people in my Sydney restaurant, I'll now be cooking for 900 passengers."

His meals will be served in Amsterdam's Pinnacle Grill speciality restaurant, with **TD Cruise Update** - on board to sample the menu - can attest that pax are in for a real culinary treat.

"We focus on value, variety and consistency throughout," said Joe Slattery, VP Sales & Marketing for Holland America Line.

He said HAL has been focused on culinary elements since 2003 and all 15 ships in the fleet now have a culinary arts centre on board that offer traditional service, regionally inspired cuisine and menus that feature high quality beef and an extensive wine collection.

Slattery also revealed that Australia was now the second largest country market in the world in sales for HAL.

Best and Slattery are **pictured** above right at last night's Culinary Council announcement dinner.

### Music on the high sea

**SEA** Cloud Cruises has released a new 7-night itinerary along the Danube aboard the *River Cloud II* aimed at music lovers, with a visit to the OsterKlang music festival & concerts in Vienna and Bratislava included in fares - 1300 583 572.

#### Cruise pax murdered

A GERMAN cruise passenger has been shot dead while trying to fight off two armed robbers while on a shore excursion on the Venezuelan island of Margarita.

The man was travelling on the Carnival-owned *Aida Luna* vessel.



**THE** world's oceans can sure contain some truly weird, wacky and wonderful items.

A message in a bottle, written by a 16-year old Canadian boy as part of a school project back in 1998 has been found washed up on a beach in France.

The message inside was a greeting note from the boy, briefly describing his location, favourite foods and hobbies.

Lucien Sanquer, who found the bottle, amazingly managed to track down the sender, with the two communicating via Skype last weekend.

**ELSEWHERE**, bottled messages apparently come in digital form.

A couple from Waikato found a GoPro camera washed up on the beach after it spent five years in the Firth of Thames.

The waterproof case on the camera preserved its contents, and after a Facebook campaign, the owners were tracked down at their new home in England.

The owner admitted he lost the camera after trying to capture a shot of himself doing a jump while wakeboarding - only to embarrassingly faceplant and drop the camera.



### **Cruise Consultant required**

Seven Oceans Cruising is looking for an experienced travel consultant to work in our Cruise Reservations department.

You will need to be proficient with airfares, and be able to package up accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, etc. An understanding of Sabre and Tramada is a benefit.

A degree of cruise knowledge would be an advantage, however you will be trained on all the cruise product we sell.

A generous salary package includes incentive payments on your level of sales.

The role is for Monday to Friday and is based in North Sydney.

Send written applications to tim@sevenoceans.com.au



### Industry dresses to the nines to celebrate 2013 CLIA Cruise Awards



**BELOW**: Scott Graham, Uniworld River Cruises; Helen Mezzen, Princess Cruises & Bruce Russ, Travellers Choice.

**HUNDREDS** of the cruise and travel industry's finest from Australasia and around the world donned their suits and gowns last Sat night for the 2013 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards, held at Sydney's Doltone House overlooking Hyde Park.

The night was an outstanding indication of the undoubtable health of cruising as a segment of the travel industry, with top achievers of the year recognised and rewarded for their achievements throughout the year.

Enjoy this collection of exclusive photos from the glittering event, and for more, see www.facebook.com.au/traveldaily.

**LEFT**: Ryan Taibel, P&O Cruises; Jarrod Pask, Cruiseabout; Kathy Clifford, Cruiseabout; Alex Pikardt, P&O Cruises and Conor Reynolds from Cruiseabout.

**BELOW**: Helen, Anthony and Aniela of Holland America Line and Seabourn.



ABOVE: Making his debut appearance at CLIA Australasia's annual Awards night is Jeremy Lindblad, Lindblad Expeditions with Peter Kollar from CLIA.



**RIGHT**: Gavin Smith, Royal Caribbean International & Christine Duffy from CLIA.



LEFT: Adrian Clarke, Travel Associates and Peter McCormack of Royal Caribbean Int'l. **BELOW**: Shiree, Mondo Travel; Brett Wendorf, Princess Cruises; Cherie Bowman, Princess Cruises and Rebecca Mutanen from P&O Cruises Australia.



**ABOVE**: Alex Pikardt, P&O Cruises; Nicole Stojic, Royal Caribbean; Rebecca Mutanen, P&O Cruises and Tammy Marshall, P&O Cruises and Cunard.

*Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication. Produced each weekday since 1994, the newsletter is first with the latest industry news and is available by paid subscription to people within the travel industry. Sign up for a free 14 day trial subscription at www.traveldaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769) Travel Daily

Advertising and Marketing: Christie-Lee Lachance, Lisa Martin and Magda Herdzik Email: advertising@traveldaily.com.au Business Manager: Jenny Piper Email: accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher/Managing Editor: Bruce Piper Editor: Louise Goldsbury Production Editor: Matt Lennon Contributors: Guy Dundas, Olivia

Archbold and Barry Matheson Email: info@traveldaily.com.au









Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.





### **COME ABOARD!**

Set a course for adventure, something exciting and new.
We promise something for everyone!

#### FOR ALL THE BEST VACANCIES VISIT www.aaappointments.com

NSW & ACT - 02 9231 6377 - apply@aaappointments.com.au VIC, WA & SA - 03 9670 2577 - recruit@aaappointments.com.au QLD - 07 3229 9600 - employment@aaappointments.com.au

# GRAB YOUR BOAT SHOES AND CRUISE INTO A NEW ROLE ONLINE CRUISE CONSULTANT SYDNEY CBD - SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$60K

Cruising and online travel are the fastest growing sectors in the travel industry; why not jump on the band wagon and be a part of this. Work for a boutique cruise company based in the CBD selling all the world cruise lines, flights and FIT arrangements to go with the cruises. This is a family owned company with a great culture. If you have 2 years industry experience and cruise knowledge, make the move today

### SAIL AWAY, SAIL AWAY CRUISE CONSULTANT

#### (SYD) VARIOUS LOCATIONS - SALARY UP TO \$70K OTE

Are you passionate about cruising? Do you love everything about the seven seas? Why not move into a cruise specialist role? With various locations all over Sydney you will be able to work minutes from your home selling cruise holidays and packages worldwide. From Queen Mary to P & O and everything in between if you are a cruise enthusiast, this will be your dream role. If you have 2 years experience in the travel industry and a passion for cruising, apply today!

## FOCUS ON CRUISE! RETAIL TRAVEL CONSULTANT MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE \$55K (OTE)

We have a sensational new opportunity for an experienced retail travel consultant to join this well known travel agency. With a focus on all things cruise, you will create tailor made itineraries inclusive of land, cruises and airfares and will work in a fun and social team environment. With uncapped commission on offer you won't want to miss this! This role can see you earning in excess of \$60K! If you have minimum 18 months experience then this could be yours!

## CREAM OF THE CROP LEISURE & CRUISE SPECIALIST BRISBANE CBD – UP TO \$50K PACKAGE + BONUSES

When it comes to luxury, service & quality assurance this is the company consumers always turn to for cruise & leisure travel. Here is your chance to join an innovative company that will nurture you & provide you with all the tools, support & training to take your career to new heights. With an excellent salary package, regular educationals & your ICCA training on offer this is an opportunity not to miss. So if you are serious about your career & have 2+ yrs exp. apply today!

### CHAMPAGNE & CAVIAR IS THE LIFE FOR ME LUXURY CRUISE CONSULTANT SYDNEY CBD SALARY PACKAGE UP TO \$55K

This is your opportunity to work for a luxury cruise line. Work in beautiful offices in the CBD with water views. You will be selling various cruises worldwide and will become a specialist in your field. Work with a friendly team and a company that prides itself on it close knit team. If you have 2 years experience in the industry, a passion for cruising and strong GDS skills, cruise into your dream role today.

### SAIL AWAY WITH THIS CRUISE ROLE CRUISE RESERVATIONS

### MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE \$55K (OTE)

Calling all cruise gurus! We have a sensational behind the scenes position that will see you working with a worldwide cruise company. This role will see you dealing with direct customers via phone and email and booking worldwide cruising! From the South pacific to Hawaii, no two days are ever the same. You will be offered Monday – Friday hours, a high base salary plus exciting bonuses, cruise famils and discounts! If you love cruising you will love this role!

## CRUISE INTO WHOLESALE RESERVATIONS WHOLESALE CRUISE RESERVATIONS MELBOURNE (INNER) - SALARY PACKAGE \$70K (OTE)

This sensational wholesale role will see you working in a fun team environment selling worldwide cruising to your loyal travel agents. You will provide a complete package including flights, land and transfers! Working a rotating roster you will be rewarded with time in lieu and global rewards, famils and incentive programs. If you have a true passion for cruising and are ready to move into wholesale then we want to hear from you. Call us today to find out more.

### AHOY ME MATIES – TIME TO JUMP SHIP? WHOLESALE CONSULTANTS BRISBANE CBD –\$45K - \$50K PKG OTE

Retail consultants, do you feel like you are scraping the bottom of your (rum) barrel, ready to walk the plank? Well hold onto your breeches as you have just found the hidden treasure – our client is THE global leader of the travel industry & they have an opening in their cruise wholesale team. The perks are simply sensational with no more face-to-face, great incentives, free cruises & career development. Min 12 mths exp & a love for cruise is essential.