

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 18 Aug 2015

## Escape floats out

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's new *Norwegian Escape* is getting closer to completion, having floated out of the Meyer Werft dock in Papenberg last weekend.

The 4,200 passenger vessel, set for delivery on 22 Oct 2015, will be Norwegian's biggest ship.

## ASEAN courts cruise lines

**SINGAPORE** and its ASEAN counterparts are progressing with talks to woo major cruise lines to base ships in the region, it has been confirmed.

The 'Lion City' has been long considered the "Caribbean of the East" and the Australian cruiser a potential source market, Singapore Tourism Board chief executive Lionel Yeo says.

Speaking with *Cruise Weekly* in Sydney last week, Yeo said all the "big players" are being targeted to deploy ships to Southeast Asia.

A number of lines already offer year-round or seasonal cruises from Singapore, such as Genting Hong Kong's Star Cruises.

He revealed ongoing discussions were being held with Carnival Corporation and Royal Caribbean Cruises (see p2), adding they "are bullish about the region".

"It is not a game Singapore can play alone," Yeo commented.

"I need my neighbours to play along with me."

By 'neighbours', Yeo refers to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), comprising Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam & Singapore.

The visiting tourism chief said Carnival has stated previously it is keen on Singapore as a hub for the Southeast Asia region.

"When they look at the map they see lots of water, lots of islands, lots of places ships can berth, so from a geography point of view it is perfect for them.

"And the weather allows for year round sailings," he told *CW*.

Yeo said feedback from cruise executives was the zone needs more regional ports to open up, providing new itinerary options.

"You just need a basic facility where a ship can stop at for half a day. These ships with 3,000 or 4,000 people will have a good time there.

"I think it is something that in the medium term we are quite bullish about."

Yeo said the burgeoning fly/cruise market from Australia also has potential for Singapore.

"Australia has huge penetration and the growth rate is the world's highest, so there is opportunities as Australians go further afield to tap into the fly/cruise segment."

## Pandaw exploration

**PANDAW** has announced four "exciting new reconnaissance voyages" which will explore Burma's Deep South in Feb and Mar next year.

The trips, which will take in the remote Mergui Archipelago, will utilise the *MY Drevec*, described as a "high-class expedition ship" with just five cabins - each with a private bathroom, including a spacious owner's cabin.

Pandaw's new coastal voyages will cover a region which was closed to tourism until mid-2013 - for more details email [information@pandaw.com](mailto:information@pandaw.com).

## Today's issue of CW

*Cruise Weekly* today features three pages of all the latest cruise news and photos.

## River cruise collision

**A EUROPEAN** river cruise vessel operated by A-Rosa Cruises has collided with a cargo barge on the Rhine River near Dusseldorf in Germany.

The *Arosa Aqua* was hit by the cargo ship which had experienced a mechanical failure, causing it to cross the path of the passenger vessel which had 180 guests and 50 crew on board.

About ten passengers received minor injuries in the incident, with three taken to hospital and the remainder of those on board evacuated at Schnellenberg.

An A-Rosa spokesperson said the vessel was in "good seaworthy condition" without water ingress or any oil spillage.

The ship is being assessed by technical experts, with an update on the remainder of the itinerary to be provided in due course.

## Celebrity incentive

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has launched a new pricing structure, and to celebrate the offering is giving travel agents the chance to win a 12-night South Pacific cruise aboard *Celebrity Solstice*.

Six runners-up will also receive a massive three litre Jeroboam bottle of GH Mumm Champagne - [celebritycruises.com.au/tradecomp](http://celebritycruises.com.au/tradecomp).



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## Brochure Spotlight

### Ormina Tours - Europe 2015/16



**ORMINA TOURS** has announced a strategic partnership with Silversea Cruises, offering joint land and sea itineraries and packaged products in its 2015/16 program.

The partnership includes more than ten "ideally matched land and cruise journeys" with flexible options allowing independent travel between the cruise and the land journey, which Ormina can design and price as a private trip.

The 2016 Ormina program "continues to redefine luxury travel to Europe for small groups".

## Harmony splash park

**ROYAL** Caribbean has confirmed that its new *Harmony of the Seas* will incorporate a new interactive water park for children, including the tallest slide at sea, titled the "Ultimate Abyss".

The new Splashaway Bay will also include the "Perfect Storm" trio of waterslides as well as water cannons, a giant drench bucket and a multi-platform climbing frame.

The Ultimate Abyss is a ten-storey slide beginning in the Pool and Sports zone at the rear of the vessel, taking adventurers all the way down to the Boardwalk neighbourhood below.

*Harmony*, which is set to debut as the world's largest cruise ship in May 2016, will be the first of RCI's new generation Oasis class ships incorporating the breakthrough technologies of its Quantum class ships - such as the Bionic Bar, Virtual Balconies, RFID wristbands and RCI's VOOM "fastest internet at sea".

## RCI Singapore fly-cruise focus

**ROYAL** Caribbean today announced a multi-million dollar marketing partnership with Changi Airport and Singapore Tourism, with the collaboration aiming to "promote cruising out of Singapore to an overseas fly-cruise audience".

The alliance is targeting the delivery of more than 170,000 overseas visitors to Singapore to sail on Royal Caribbean cruises over the period 2015-2018, representing a projected growth of 50%.

Royal Caribbean will revamp its Singapore sailing schedule, boosting departures to more than 40 a year and increasing the number of 7-15 night cruises which are seen as more attractive to overseas fly-cruise guests.

Sean Treacy, recently appointed as Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited md Singapore and South East Asia, said: "Having deployed ships here regularly for the last seven years, Royal Caribbean now looks forward to its next phase of significant growth in Singapore.

"Our three year deployment plan is our strongest commitment ever to this market, and we see great potential in Singapore as a source market and regional cruise hub," Treacy said.

Singapore Tourism Board's

assistant ceo Neeta Lachmandas said the "tripartite collaboration" is a significant development for Southeast Asia, with hopes the RCI commitment will inspire new cruise itineraries around the region "and also motivate our neighbouring ports and destinations to invest and realise fully the tremendous potential of the Asian cruise industry".

Changi Airport is also seen as a key part of the strategy, because its strong connectivity to 320 cities worldwide gives Singapore a strategic advantage as a new "cruise hub for Asia".

## Silversea goes Grand

**SILVERSEA** has launched five "epic, once in a lifetime" *Grand Expeditions* which range from 18 to 34 days in length.

Sailing from Oct this year, each Grand Expedition kicks off with a cruise in the Galapagos Islands before connecting to a land adventure and then joining another expedition voyage exploring the coast of Central America, South America or Antarctica.

All-inclusive packages incorporate cruise fares at 20% off as well as all accom and intra-tour flights and transfers.

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Celebrity **X** Cruises

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## Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	18 Aug
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	19 Aug
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	23 Aug
BRISBANE	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	20 Aug
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	21 Aug
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	22 Aug
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	23 Aug
FREMANTLE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	20 Aug
DARWIN	
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	20 Aug
GERALDTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	21 Aug

## Scenic Diamond debut

**SCENIC** has kicked off its inaugural Bordeaux river cruising season, with *Scenic Diamond* relocating from the Rhine/Main/Danube to sail on the French region's three waterways.

The ten night itinerary takes in Cadillac, Libourne, Blaye, Pauillac and Bordeaux, with no overnight sailings.

## Princess unveils Stone's SHARE

**PRINCESS** Cruises this morning confirmed that *Sun Princess* will be the first of its Australian-based vessels to feature the new SHARE by Curtis Stone on-board eatery (**CW** 23 Jul).



The new *Sun Princess* restaurant (**pictured**) will open in Apr next year, after the concept debuts in the northern hemisphere in Dec aboard *Ruby Princess* and *Emerald Princess*.

SHARE will also launch on *Coral Princess* in Jan 2016 during its Panama Canal cruise.

Stone's first restaurant at sea offers an "exclusive specialty dining experience," with a menu of signature dishes created to be shared among guests.

The partnership will also see 'Crafted by Curtis' menu items offered in the main dining rooms of Princess ships, starting with *Golden Princess* which will be based in Australia from Oct 2015.

## Carnival Tas cuisine

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has announced that award-winning chef Massimo Mele will be "cooking up a feast" on three of its voyages to Tasmania this year.

Mele, who was born in Tasmania, until recently headed up La Scala in Sydney, and is now planning a series of "unique food events" around Australia.

Carnival Cruise Line vp Australia, Jennifer Vandekreeke, said partnering with Mele on the Tasmanian itineraries will help "bring the destination onboard" to help celebrate Tasmania's fresh local seafood and produce.

He'll be onboard *Carnival Spirit's* 24 and 29 Jan trips, as well as *Carnival Legend's* 05 Apr cruise.

## PORTHOLE

**CRUISING** - the final frontier?

William Shatner - also known as Captain James T. Kirk from the iconic *Star Trek* TV show - is set to take fans somewhere they have never gone before.

Taking place aboard the *Norwegian Pearl* in Jan 2017, the first ever officially licensed *Star Trek* cruise is part of the show's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The "totally immersive" six day voyage will depart from Miami and visit Cozumel, Nassau and Great Stirrup Bay - but it's unlikely that anyone will want to get off while in port.

As well as Shatner, other celebrities on board will include stars from the various *Star Trek* spinoffs, including John De Lancie, Marina Sirtis, Denise Crosby and Jonathan Frakes from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*; Robert Picardo from *Star Trek: Voyager*; and James Darren from *Deep Space Nine*.

As well as meeting the stars, organisers promise that "quintessential locations from the TV shows and films will be created onboard".

## For Sale: 1300-CRUISE – 1300 278 473

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For further information and a more detailed Executive Summary, or to lodge a potential indicative purchase offer, in the first instance please contact:

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