

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 24 Dec 2015

Azamara debut

AZAMARA Club Cruises will become Australia's newest cruise line next week when *Azamara Quest* docks in Darwin.

The ship, carrying 686 passengers will dock in its first ever Australian port on 28 Dec.

Regional commercial director Asia Pacific at Royal Caribbean Cruises Adam Armstrong said the line had been popular with Australian cruises in Asia and Europe since its inception in 2009.

"We are delighted to finally welcome Azamara Club Cruises to Australian waters for the very first time. Australia is now our third largest market for Azamara and we know that much more growth will follow *Azamara Quest's* inaugural season down under," Armstrong said.

Azamara Quest will arrive in Darwin at 6am and stay in the Top End until 10pm as part of her 16 night Bali, Komodo and Great Barrier Reef sailing between Bali and Cairns over Christmas and the New Year.

It will sail three local itineraries in her maiden season from Cairns, Sydney and Auckland.

Merry Christmas!

CRUISE Weekly is finishing up for the year today and will be returning after the Christmas/New Year period on 05 Jan.

We hope your festive season is smooth sailing.

Cruise record on track

AUSTRALIA is set to achieve a record cruise season over coming months with more newcomers and luxury vessels boosting the number of cruise ships visiting local waters.

Cruise Lines International Association Australasia chairman Gavin Smith said Feb and Mar will see new boats Down Under.

Smith said Sydney would be hosting some of the world's most exciting and luxurious ships over the coming weeks.

Ships soon to visit Australia include Hapag-Lloyd's *Europa*, Silversea Cruises *Silver Whisper*, Crystal Cruises *Crystal Serenity* and *Seabourn Odyssey* – as well as *Oceania Marina* and the Cunard trio of Queens – *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Elizabeth* and *Queen Victoria*.

Pontant's *Le Soleal* will make 15 maiden visits to Australian ports from Jan to Mar while *Azamara Quest* will make 16 inaugural visits from next week until Feb.

"The fact that Australia now attracts such a diverse array of ships, including some of the most impressive vessels afloat, confirms our growing popularity as a cruise destination as well

as Australians' love of cruising," Smith said yesterday.

More than one million Australians now take a cruise every year, making the nation the fourth largest passenger source market in the world.

Smith predicts that passenger numbers will only continue to surge from here on in.

In total, 38 ships from CLIA member cruise lines will sail in Australian waters over the summer season.

Collette cruise sale

COLLETTE has released savings on a range of river cruises in Europe next year.

The company is offering up to \$1500 worth of savings per couple on selected cruises.

Savings apply to Collette's 14 night *Legendary Waterways of Europe* cruise leaving Budapest, Hungary on 12 May and a cruise departing Amsterdam on 31 Mar, travelling through Holland and Belgium.

More info at gocollette.com.

Crystal Esprit christening



Crystal Cruises officially welcomed *Crystal Esprit* to its fleet on Sun with a christening ceremony held at Eden Island Marina in Mahé, Victoria, Seychelles.

Crystal ceo Edie Rodriguez said since joining the line just over two years ago, a personal goal has been "to see Crystal realise the next step in continuing to pioneer luxury travel and hospitality."

"Today I am seeing that dream fulfilled," she said.

On hand to christen *Crystal Esprit* was the yacht's godmother, Lady Gaenor Anne Meakes, fiancée of renowned Australian yachtsmen Mark Richards.

The 62 guest vessel will feature impressive sea toys including a two passenger submarine (CW,

15 Dec) four zodiacs and a 12 guest tender for expeditions.

The launch of *Crystal Esprit* marks the first major step in Crystal Cruises' massive expansion that includes a new river division with five river cruise ships, three polar class cruise ships and a new Crystal Luxury Air division (all First class seating aboard Boeing 777 and 787 Dreamliners).



Pictured above *Crystal Esprit* is christened.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos.

jito for the price of a cup of coffee a day!

view jito

employers you can reach a targeted audience
jobs in travel, hospitality & tourism jito.co



An exciting 2015

THIS has been an exciting year for the cruise industry and our Association.

The release of our 11th Economic Impact Report confirmed that 46 cruise ships visited Australia in 2014/15 with a total of 31 ports - including regional and remote centres - visited around the country. And the good news is that passenger and crew spending increased during those visits.

All indicators point to this growth curve continuing with eight new ships slated to arrive in 2016. The home porting of fleets next year, along with increased days in port by some of the luxury ships, is the real news as it will benefit Australian travellers and also provide increased revenue for the tourism infrastructure.

The economic impact of a ship turnaround is worth much more to a destination than a transit visit, so the dispersion of the resulting financial benefits to hotels with pre- and post- stays, tourism organisations, port authorities, providers, tour companies, and attractions is so much greater.

On the back of the cruise industry growth, our Association also had a bumper year. We have had a record six months of new member growth and recently welcomed Wilson Security and Sturrock Grindrod Maritime.

We attracted an unprecedented number of international speakers to our annual conference in September and celebrated a name change to the Australian Cruise Association. We look forward to bringing you more great news in 2016 and wish readers a very happy holiday.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at www.cruiseweekly.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)

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter 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.

APT Sabre renewal

CRUISE and tour operator APT has renewed a long term strategic agreement with travel technology provider Sabre.

The deal includes customised Sabre solutions to assist APT in scaling its regional business.

Ecuadorian tall ship

ECUADORIAN Navy Training Ship tall ship *The Guayas* arrived on Australian shores this week after seven months at sea.

The Guayas embarked from the Ecuadorian port of Guayaquil on 12 May and arrived in Perth on Monday.

The vessel will be visiting Perth, Sydney and Wellington in Dec and Jan as part of its Vuelta al Mundo/ Round the World 2015-2016 tour.

During its travels *Guayas* aims to strengthen relations between Ecuador and visited nations whilst promoting Ecuadorian tourism.

At 9am on Wed 06 Jan at Sydney Heads, she will be escorted in by the Sydney Ports Fire Tug & local tall ships *South Passage*, *James Craig* & *Southern Swan*.

The public are invited to bring their vessels out to watch or buy tickets on a local tall ship.

To book call 02 8015 5571.

POSH Club rewarded



TO TOP off Ecrusing's 15th year celebrations, 23 platinum members of their POSH Club loyalty program were taken on a two-night Sydney to Brisbane cruise on board *Superstar Virgo* in recognition of their devotion to the company.

Collectively, the well-travelled group accounted for over 200 cruises booked through Ecrusing, with many customers having been with the cruise holiday specialists since their launch in 2000.

Star Cruises vice president of Australia/New Zealand Brigita Devries come along too to ensure everything went smoothly.

"Star Cruises was delighted to host Ecrusing and their top customers on *Superstar Virgo* on her first visit back to Australia in 10 years. Ecrusing has been a great supporter of *Virgo's* 'Tour Down Under' and we value the fabulous working relationship we have together," Devries said.

The guests were welcomed at a private cocktail party on the deck while the ship was berthed at White Bay with a wonderful view of the Sydney skyline.

The following day they enjoyed

an early morning sail away, watching the sunrise over Sydney Harbour as the *Virgo* sailed under the Harbour Bridge and out to sea.

Members of the club were also entertained at a special dinner at *Virgo's* Noble House Chinese speciality restaurant where the Executive Chef created an exclusive menu for them.

Pictured above is the POSH club lapping up their experience.

Fire on Cruise Europa

A FIRE erupted in the galley of *Cruise Europa* this week during a voyage from Ancona, Italy to Igoumenitsa-Patras, Greece.

The ship's galley was mildly damaged during the accident, but no crew were injured and the vessel remained seaworthy.

The boat was carrying 781 passengers at the time.

It's suspected the fire was caused by human activity and not technical failure.

Cruise Europa informed the Greek authorities about the fire and the vessel was surveyed before berthing at Greece.

The fire caused minor delays.



PASSENGERS new to the cruising scene may come out with some different observations about life at sea to the seasoned cruiser, but some of the anecdotes of ridiculous comments made on board ships have truly got us concerned about some passengers' sanity.

Some of our favourites published recently on cruise.co.uk include a first time cruise passenger who blamed the captain for not warning him that he could get sea sick and asked for a schedule of cruises he could take that wouldn't make him green about the gills.

How about this for a clueless comment? "No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled". About as ridiculous as a man on a cruise to Alaska who demanded a full refund as the weather was not as warm as he had expected. He was hoping to pick up a tan!

Editor: Bruce Piper info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Nathalie Craig, Bonnie Tai, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik ads@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY **travelBulletin** business events news **Pharmacy DAILY** Travel Daily TV