

### VA sets sail with CLIA

**VIRGIN** Australia has signed on as the 34th Executive Partner of CLIA Australasia, joining Emirates and Air New Zealand in the ranks.

The carrier said membership was important as it operates to many cruise embarkation ports across the region.

"A strong partnership between Virgin Australia and CLIA Australasia is good news for our customers as it enables us to work more closely to provide a seamless experience for our guests," VA general manager global sales Shirley Field said.

CLIA Australasia general manager Brett Jardine praised the carrier for the move, saying Virgin Australia, CLIA members and ultimately the cruising public would reap the benefits.

### Emerald aims at MICE

**SCENIC** Tours has decided to market its Evergreen Tours product to the business events market under the Emerald Waterways brand, which debuted its first newbuild vessels last year.

Taking part in the Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) in Melbourne for the first time ever this week, Evergreen general manager Angus Crichton told *Cruise Weekly* the firm believes the product has strong appeal for the groups market.

A dedicated Emerald Waterways-branded Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events brochure invites organisers to "experience the Emerald 'Star Ship' difference".

It highlights the "blank canvas" which allowed the designers of its four current ships to offer private meeting space without the need to charter the entire ship or close off restaurants and bars.

"No other river ships have the unique pool/cinema/meeting area in the stern of their ship that can offer exclusive private meetings," the brochure details.

Group sizes of up to 40 can be catered, with the onboard cinema perfect for presentations.

Other onboard venues include the Horizon Bar and the Sun Deck, and Emerald is also offering to tailor itineraries and shore excursions for groups.

### Cruise Critic Au debut

**TRIPADVISOR'S** popular Cruise Critic website has today officially launched an Australian version at [www.cruisecritic.com.au](http://www.cruisecritic.com.au).

Former *Cruise Weekly* editor Louise Goldsbury is the site's senior editor, with the launch aiming to provide more relevant content and local pricing.



Sample itineraries suitable for the MICE market include an eight-day voyage from Budapest to Nuremburg, with other voyages highlighted including Passau to Budapest, Amsterdam to Basel and Budapest to Bucharest.

Emerald launched the *Emerald Sky* and *Emerald Star* last year, and will shortly debut the new *Emerald Sun* and *Emerald Dawn*, with a fifth ship - *Emerald Belle* - on track to launch next year.

Crichton is **pictured** above at AIME with Donna Martin.

### Cruise360 tomorrow

**THE** Australasian cruise industry is set for a huge weekend, with the second Cruise360 Australasia conference tomorrow, followed by the Cruise Lines Industry Awards on Sat night.

C360 will be opened by CLIA chairman Adam Goldstein, with top global cruise line executives flying in to participate in the show.

*Cruise Weekly* is proud to be part of the Australasian cruise industry, and publisher Bruce Piper will be moderating one of the panels early in the day on the domestic cruise industry.

**To commemorate this momentous event we will be producing a special EXTRA edition of *Cruise Weekly* tomorrow.**

As well as being distributed by email as usual, the special **CW** will be printed and handed out to Cruise360 attendees.

Special rates for advertising are on offer by contacting Magda Herdzik on 1300 799 220 and quoting the code CRUISE360.

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### Britannia joins the P&O UK fleet



**P&O** Cruises World Cruising has taken delivery of *Britannia* (**pictured**) - the "largest cruise ship ever specifically designed for the British holiday market".

The handover took place at the Fincantieri shipyards in Trieste, Italy last Sun, in a ceremony attended by Carnival UK executive chairman David Dingle.

Others present included several of P&O Cruises World Cruising's so-called "Food Heroes" including

TV celebrity chef Olly Smith, who is fronting *Britannia's* Glass House wine bar and restaurant; cheese expert Charlie Turnbull who is part of the offering in the vessel's Epicurean fine dining restaurant; and master patissier Eric Lanlard, whose Market Cafe is in *Britannia's* atrium.

The ship will be officially named on 10 Mar before her maiden voyage to the Mediterranean departing Sat 14 Mar.





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### Windstar resignation

**DAN** Chappelle, vice-president of international sales for Windstar Cruises has tendered his resignation from the role.

Chappelle was due to take part in a panel discussion entitled "Growing Australasia as a sustainable source market", but has now been replaced by Julie Rose, vice-president int'l sales at Prestige Cruise Holdings.

### Viking to launch in US

**RIVER** cruising giant Viking River Cruises has confirmed it will launch a new operation in the United States, starting with ships based in New Orleans.

Operations on the Mississippi River will begin in late 2017.

The company will build ships at a rate of two per year, costing up to US\$100m each, to reach a fleet of six in the first three years.

Depending on the season, ships will travel upriver as far as St Paul, Minnesota, accommodating up to 300 passengers on each vessel.

## Oasis 3 named *Harmony*

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has released details of its third Oasis-class vessel, which will be named *Harmony of the Seas* (**CW** breaking news Tue).

The mega ship will take the title of the world's largest cruise liner when it is delivered, with capacity for more than 6,360 guests at maximum occupancy due to more family cabins - slightly more than its sisters *Oasis* and *Allure*.

Early renderings of the layout (**pictured**) show three water slides overlooking the Central Park precinct, with the rides taking passengers twisting and turning down three decks.

*Harmony of the Seas* is about halfway through construction in France, and is scheduled for delivery in mid-2016.



### McLachlan launches river cruise division

**MCLACHLAN** Tours has been appointed as exclusive distributor of Amras Cruises in Australia.

Amras Cruises, operating the Amadeus fleet, has been running for over 30 years, with McLachlan Tours gm Peter Smith saying he was "looking forward to working with our partners to introduce this exciting new product to the Australian market".

More details in tomorrow's special C360 edition of **CW**.



**FORMER** Puget Sound ferry Kalakala has been reduced to little more than a memory.

The iconic silver ferry held a special place in the hearts of long-time Washington locals as it served as a symbol of the state prior to the arrival of the futuristic Space Needle.

Dry dock demolition of the vessel would up this month, with some pieces literally kept by dock workers as souvenirs.

Other remnants include the rounded pilot house, windows, a rudder and some small parts now being offered to maritime history enthusiasts.

Kalakala returned to Seattle after years as a fish processor, however restoration funding never eventuated and the ship fell into a state of disrepair.

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### Smooth sailing at RCI

**EARNINGS** for Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd for 2014 skyrocketed 40% year-on-year according to full year financials now released.

Total before-tax revenue for the year improved from US\$7.95 billion in 2013 to \$8.07 billion inclusive of ticket sales and post-sale revenue generated onboard.

The line carried 5,149,952 passengers over the year in total, up from 4,884,783 in 2013, accounting for a total of 36,710,966 passenger cruise days and 105.6% fleet-wide occupancy.

### Silversea specialities

**THEMED** voyages crafted to suit a wide range of interests have been released by Silversea Expeditions, each led by a team of experts in the specific field.

Sailings will take place in all parts of the world and across Silversea's entire three-ship fleet, with themes including bird watching, diving, photography, health and wellness and more.

### Filo cruise blueprint

**VICE-CHAIRMAN** of the Philippines Senate Tourism Committee has urged officials to speed up development of port offerings to grow the cruise trade.

Eight ports have been identified as potentially of major interest to cruise operators to visit - these include Davao, Bohol, Boracay, Cebu, Manila, Puerto Princesa, Subic and Zamboanga.

Philippines Senator Sonny Angara said the country should not abandon cruise as a tourism revenue stream while it continues upgrading airports nationwide.

"We must upgrade our ports, terminals and facilities to meet international cruise shipping standards," he added.

### Legend charts new shores in Tas



**HOBART** and Port Arthur in Tasmania last week joined the extensive network of global cities and towns to have been visited by *Carnival Legend*.

The Carnival Cruise Lines ship was on a seven-night voyage from Sydney to Australia's southern states, which also included the ship's maiden visit to Melbourne.

While in Hobart, guests basked in the sight of Mt Wellington, visited the city's famous MONA museum, explored the Battery Point precinct and enjoying fine seafood and local wines.

Port Arthur was next, where guests explored many historic relics from Australia's convict settlement and penal history.

*Carnival Legend* is winding down the days until the end of its first Australian season but will make one more visit to Tasmania on a four-night shore break on 16 Apr before departing Australia for the winter months.

The countdown will then start

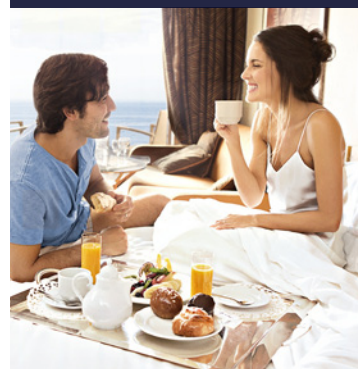
### Brilliance fogged up

**HEAVY** fog in the Tampa Bay area of Florida has forced Royal Caribbean to cancel a scheduled sailing 23 Feb departure on its vessel *Brilliance of the Seas*.

Guests have received a refund & a 25% future cruise certificate.

until its return for next season.

The vessel is pictured above docked in Hobart.



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### CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine  
GM, CLIA Australasia

### Masters Teaser

**IN RECENT** weeks we have been inundated with questions around the next CLIA Australasia Masters Conference. Whilst I can't reveal details in this column, we will be making a special announcement at Cruise36 tomorrow.

For those keen to attend this year's Masters, details will also be live on our website from Monday next week!

A slight change for Masters Conference eligibility from this year will mean that consultants must hold a CLIA Ambassador level of Accreditation before being able to register.

### Industry Awards

**IN ROUGHLY** 48 hours we will be putting the final touches on The Star Event Centre in preparation for the 14th Annual Cruise Industry Awards.

With just under 50 finalists in the running for recognition across 19 awards that will be presented on the night, there are sure to be plenty of excited (and nervous) candidates ready for a big night!

My advice for all the finalists is to enjoy the experience without putting too much pressure on yourself over the results. Just being nominated as a finalist is a huge achievement and worthy of promoting after the event regardless. For those attending the dinner, on behalf of team CLIA - have a great night!



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