

CRUISE



WEEKLY



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Uniworld Godmother

PRINCESS Anita von Hohenburg has been named by Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection as the Godmother of its newest river vessel - *S.S. Maria Theresa*.

Von Hohenburg is a descendant of the Habsburg-Lothringen dynasty - of which Maria Theresa was part - and the great granddaughter of Archduke Franz Ferdinand - whose assassination served as a major catalyst to the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

Christening festivities will take place on 26 Mar in Amsterdam.

US pax aim further afield

AMERICAN cruise passengers are taking voyages in Europe and Asia in rising numbers, according to the latest Cruise Trends 2015 report from Cruise Holidays Int'l.

The annual report ignores forecasts and predictions, looking instead at real cruise bookings made by US and Canadian agents for departure in the year ahead.

Both ocean and river cruises are seeing greater demand from US pax, with Passau in Germany and Lyon in France highlighted as the

two fastest growing destinations.

Accessibility of the Caribbean to the US market kept the region firmly in the lead for ocean cruise operations, aided by more departure ports in states along the Gulf of Mexico and the east coast.

The Mediterranean, Baltic, Scandinavia and Greek Isles came in second, with Alaska in third.

Americans are shunning the South Pacific as a long-haul cruise destination, the report found, with the region continuing a two-year fall from eighth to tenth and factoring for only 1.7% of 2015 bookings for US passengers.

Sailings of seven and fourteen days to and from Amsterdam along the Danube, Rhine & Main Rivers remains the most popular, with 41.2% of coming bookings.

Cruises taking in Budapest, Basel, Paris, Prague and Avignon also feature in the top ten.

Asian destinations dominated the river cruise segment outside of Europe, with China, Vietnam and Myanmar identified as key drivers of growth for US cruisers.

"We see strong growth there both for deep water and river cruising. They have emerged as complementary - not competing - forces in travel," Vacation.com SVP sales Kevin Weisner said.

Happy New CW year!

CRUISE Weekly would like to wish its readers a Happy New Year and hopes the end-of-year break was refreshing for all.

This year is shaping to be a huge one, with record Aussie passenger numbers, Cruise3sixty Australasia & much more - let's go for 2015!

Micro-Cruising sails the fairway



GREENSIDE lakes were the closest Aussie small-ship niche cruise wholesaler Micro-Cruising got to water during a recent visit to the Emirates Australian Open.

Emirates ACT sales executive Byron Caygill invited the Micro-Cruising team - incidentally all also members of his immediate

family - to the golf tournament for the day and to enjoy the Emirates hospitality marquee around the 18th green.

Byron is **pictured** above left with parents and Micro-Cruising directors Wendy and Nigel Caygill and sister/managing director Nicola Caygill (second from right).

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Ponant jewel hits Aussie shores



CHRISTMAS proved to be not so jolly for some Cunard cruise passengers, after poor weather conditions impacted the line's recent annual Christmas cruise.

More than 2,000 passengers boarded the *Queen Elizabeth* for a short journey to Amsterdam for the Christmas markets, but weather prevented it docking.

Instead, the vessel spent four days circling the English Channel before citing a need for urgent maintenance for an early return to its Southampton base.

Cunard said the *QE* Captain looked at two alternate ports however both were unsuitable.

A reparation offer of \$75 in onboard credit by the line was the final straw for some pax, who ended up staging a mutiny at the purser's desk, demanding to speak to the Captain himself.

Naturally, social media bore the brunt of the frustration, which some labelled "farcical".

LUXURY expedition line Ponant welcomed members of the travel industry, past passengers and VIPs onboard *L'Austral*, one of its four sister ships, on the weekend as part of its Australasian tour.

Guests toured the ship in small groups before meeting in the main restaurant for bubbles and an array of canapes.

L'Austral is currently delivering its style of onboard French flair to Australian cruise passengers as part of a regional deployment in the Asia-Pacific for 2014/15.

Guests began their visit in the theatre, learning more about the Ponant experience and the world on offer through its fleet of luxury vessels and masted sailing ship.

A range of exclusive discounts were on offer for bookings made on the day, with Ponant never offering tactical specials, rather a system of discounts available on a sliding scale for each voyage.

Pictured above at the *L'Austral* Signature jewel display from left is Ponant vice-president Australasia Monique Ponfoort and chairperson Sarina Bratton.

For a full photo tour of *L'Austral*, [CLICK HERE](#) for more images.

Crystal to Pac islands

VANUATU, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea all feature among 32 maiden calls to be made by Crystal Cruises in its 2017 global itinerary schedule.

Now on sale, the upmarket line will offer 57 voyages to 268 ports in 84 countries including more than 150 overnight port visits.

RCI delays Dynamic

ROYAL Caribbean International says it has postponed the introduction of its Dynamic Dining concept onboard *Oasis of the Seas* and *Allure of the Seas*.

Originally to be fitted with the innovative concept, starting in Mar with *Oasis*, RCI says it has now delayed the launch "until later in the year".

Dynamic Dining made its debut last Nov with *Quantum of the Seas* and offers passengers full flexibility in where, when and with whom they wish to dine.

While construction works ready for Dynamic Dining will still be carried out during a scheduled drydock in Europe, the ship will retain its traditional two-sitting main dining room format for now.

MEANWHILE, *Oasis of the Seas* was forced to return to Port Everglades on its current sailing after a four-year old boy nearly drowned in the ship's pool.

Emergency services said the boy was underwater for "an estimated five to ten minutes" before the ship's medical team were able to restore the child's pulse.

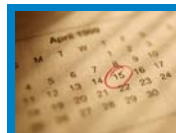
The child and his travelling party were evacuated for further treatment onshore.

Brydon face of P&O

BRITISH actor and comedian Rob Brydon has been signed as the public face of P&O Cruises World Cruising as part of a new advertising campaign for the line.

P&O Cruises UK will launch its new vessel *Brittania* in early Mar.

Brydon will deliver his classic British wit and charm to show both experienced cruisers and those new that "this is the life" - [CLICK HERE](#) to view the advert.



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	07 Jan
<i>Rhapsody of the Seas</i>	08 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	10 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	10 Jan
<i>Celebrity Century</i>	11 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	11 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	12 Jan

MELBOURNE	
<i>L'Austral</i>	10 Jan
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	11 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	12 Jan

BRISBANE	
<i>Seven Seas Voyager</i>	05 Jan
<i>Sea Princess</i>	08 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	11 Jan

FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	05 Jan

CAIRNS	
<i>MS Europa</i>	10 Jan

HOBART	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	06 Jan
<i>L'Austral</i>	07 Jan
<i>L'Austral</i>	12 Jan

PORT ARTHUR	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	08 Jan

EDEN	
<i>L'Austral</i>	05 Jan

AUCKLAND	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	06 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	06 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	06 Jan
<i>Sun Princess</i>	07 Jan
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	09 Jan
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	11 Jan

TAURANGA	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	06 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	06 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	07 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	07 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	07 Jan
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	10 Jan

WELLINGTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	06 Jan
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	08 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	08 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	09 Jan
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	09 Jan

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