

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 13 Jan 2015

New Variety brochure

DISCOVER the World has released its new 2015/16 brochure for Variety Cruises featuring the Mediterranean, Central America, the Indian Ocean and more.

New for 2015/16 are departures taking in the Red Sea in Egypt, the Canary Islands and more.

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APT 2016 preview out early

APT has become the first touring firm to get its European River Cruising preview brochure for 2016 into the market, with the guide now on agency shelves.

Featured in the guide are a range of river cruise itineraries, in particular focused on the Bordeaux region of France, two brand new ships due to launch and coupled land touring.

One highlighted tour is the brand new 11-day Bordeaux River Cruise which includes seven nights aboard the *MS AmaDolce* preceded by three nights in Paris.

For those with more time, the trip can be combined with subsequent seven-night voyages on the Rhone or Seine rivers.

APT general manager sales and marketing Debra Fox said the prompt release will enable travel agents to make the most of booking incentives and to secure

cabins ahead of general release.

"The benefit this delivers for travel agents is repeat custom.

"Releasing our brochure early in the year and offering a range of booking incentives is our way of helping our trusted travel industry partners to maximise the potential of each and every APT guest, helping them to secure loyal and longstanding clientele."

A number of APT SuperDeals including Fly Free, Companion Fly Free, Air Credits & more are also available if booked before 30 Apr.

MSC Grand Tours

TIME-RICH Aussie travellers can now book up to four back-to-back voyages aboard MSC Cruises through MSC Grand Tours - now on sale in the Australian market.

Currently incorporating voyages in the Mediterranean & Northern Europe, the product offers special inclusions and extra benefits such as free transfers for pax and luggage between ships and priority check-in from the second voyage onwards.

Additional perks for pax include discounted laundry and free shore excursions at selected ports.

Itineraries of 14 nights offering both the east & west Med start at \$1,880ppts - phone 1300 028 502.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of cruise news and the weekly Cruise Calendar.

Avalon \$799 to Europe

RETURN Economy class flights to Europe priced from \$799pp are on offer from Avalon Waterways for bookings of any river cruise itineraries departing in 2015.

Flights are valid ex SYD, MEL, BNE, ADL & PER with CX, SQ or EK and are valid for sale until 26 Mar.

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Ends 11:59pm AEDT 28/2/15. Open to Aust. & NZ residents 18+ who are employed as a travel agent and registered with Princess Academy program. Major prize must be taken by 29/8/15. Click above for Conditions.

TUI buys MS Europa 2

THE world's largest leisure tourism business TUI Group has purchased the luxury cruise ship *MS Europa 2* from its Swiss owner for €278 million (A\$403.6 million).

The purchase price detailed will be made up of €67m in cash and €211m in existing debt.

TUI Group says the purchase will enable it to improve the financial results of its Hapag-Lloyd brand, which operates the *MS Europa 2*, through savings on charter fees of €27 million per year.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY
Radiance of the Seas 13 Jan
Carnival Legend 15 Jan
Oosterdam 16 Jan
Rhapsody of the Seas 17 Jan
Celebrity Solstice 18 Jan
Pacific Jewel 18 Jan
Carnival Spirit 19 Jan
Pacific Pearl 19 Jan

MELBOURNE
Celebrity Solstice 16 Jan
Seven Seas Mariner 18 Jan
Radiance of the Seas 18 Jan
Seabourn Odyssey 19 Jan

BRISBANE
Sea Princess 13 Jan
Pacific Dawn 17 Jan

FREMANTLE
Astor 15 Jan
Astor 19 Jan

CAIRNS
Celebrity Century 15 Jan

DARWIN
Celebrity Century 19 Jan

HOBART
Diamond Princess 14 Jan
Celebrity Solstice 14 Jan
Seven Seas Mariner 16 Jan
Radiance of the Seas 16 Jan

NEWCASTLE
Radiance of the Seas 14 Jan

AUCKLAND
Dawn Princess 15 Jan
Sea Princess 17 Jan

WELLINGTON
Sun Princess 17 Jan
Dawn Princess 18 Jan
L'Austral 19 Jan

PORT CHALMERS
Seabourn Odyssey 13 Jan
Diamond Princess 18 Jan

Changing of guard at NCL

INCUMBENT Norwegian Cruise Line chief executive officer Kevin Sheehan is set to depart the line after the Board of Directors voted in favour of Prestige Cruises International boss Frank Del Rio.

The move comes less than two months after Norwegian completed the buyout of Prestige and its brands Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises for US\$3.025 billion (CW 20 Nov).

Sheehan said it had been a privilege to lead the line over the last seven years.

New Indian Ocn cruise

A NEW round-trip cruise from India has been launched by Azamara Club Cruises as part of its 2017 range of voyages.

The line's *Azamara Journey* ship will operate a single departure of the 20-night itinerary which takes pax from India to the Seychelles.

Entitled 'Pearls along the Indian Ocean', the itinerary will depart from Mumbai on 22 Apr 2017.

A two-day stop in Kochi will be made before the ship embarks on three days at sea prior to reaching the Seychelles.

On return, the ship will visit Kuda Bandos in the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Goa before arriving back in Mumbai on 12 May.

Princess parade floats

SIX original cast members of hit sitcom *The Love Boat* fronted the first ever Princess Cruises float in the annual Rose Bowl Parade as part of the line's 50th anniversary.

The float was themed "50 years of inspiring travel" and crafted to reflect the line's newest vessel *Regal Princess* cruising the world.

Among the cast was Gavin MacLeod a.k.a Captain Stubing.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished, and take comfort in the knowledge that I am leaving the company much healthier and stronger than when I joined."

"With the company set for success, I hand the baton off to Frank, a proven leader in the cruise industry," Sheehan added.

Frank Del Rio is a co-founder of Oceania Cruises, has led its holding company Prestige Int'l since Apr 2007 and played a critical role in the NCL takeover.

He added he was excited at the new chapter in his multi-decade career in the cruise industry.

"I am blessed with a great team at Norwegian, and I am confident that together we can help our company continue to realise great things."

Anthem to get Joffed

BRITISH entertainer Joff Eaton has been recruited as the cruise director for *Anthem of the Seas*, which will debut in Apr from its maiden homeport, Southampton.

Eaton, from West Sussex, has worked in entertainment-related roles for holiday firms over the past 20 years and will oversee the daily onboard offering for pax.

Overboard on Oasis

A MALE passenger who fell overboard from Royal Caribbean's *Oasis of the Seas* late last week was picked up five hours later by a passing Disney Cruise Lines ship.

The *Disney Magic* was following the same path from Cozumel, Mexico and spotted the man, lowering a rescue boat, moving him into hospital at the next port.

The passenger's fall was undetected by onboard security.



NOBODY and no place is safe it seems from the eyes and ears of the powers at US Intelligence.

The US Navy is now ready to deploy a robotic fish which it says can carry out underwater surveillance & security missions.

Nicknamed 'GhostSwimmer', the device has been built to replicate the movements and mannerisms of a large fish, can quickly change its direction and can operate at up to 300ft depth.

Plans are for the "fish" to be used to undertake inspections of ship hulls especially in warzones to detect underwater threats such as mines or explosives.

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