

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 05 Mar 2015

Encore to head to Australia

UPSCALE small-ship line Seabourn has announced it will deploy its new vessel *Seabourn Encore* to operate a short maiden season in Australian waters.

Sydney will be the destination for the 600-pax ship on a 16-day voyage from Bali departing on 17 Jan 2017, which will stop in Darwin, Cairns, Townsville and Hamilton Island before making the first call ever by a Seabourn ship to Mooloolaba.

Seabourn Encore will then sail a 16-day voyage from Sydney to Auckland on 02 Feb before reversing the itinerary on 18 Feb back to the NSW capital.

Ports visited during the two Trans-Tasman crossings will see more maiden calls for Seabourn

to Phillip Island and Melbourne.

On 06 Mar, *Encore* will head back to Singapore on its way to Europe for the northern summer.

Official naming ceremonies will take place in Singapore following two pre-inaugural sailings in late 2016 from Greece to Dubai and then onward to the Lion City.

"We're excited to offer a diverse range of itineraries for the maiden season of *Seabourn Encore* and provide our guests with the opportunity to visit some of the most charming and sought-after destinations in Asia, Australia and New Zealand on the world's newest and most beautiful ultra-luxury ship," Seabourn president Richard Meadows commented.

Bookings for the inaugural departures are now on sale, with staterooms priced at \$12,499ppts for Bali-Sydney and \$14,500ppts for either Trans-Tasman voyage.

A second new Odyssey-class ship, *Seabourn Ovation*, is in the pipeline, due for delivery in 2018.

RCCL to mesh classes

ROYAL Caribbean has confirmed it will bring a number of features currently exclusive to its Quantum-class ships on its third Oasis vessel *Harmony of the Seas*.

Due to debut in Apr next year, *Harmony* will offer many of the Quantum technology innovations including wristbands to replace key cards and high-speed internet.

In addition, virtual balconies will feature in all interior cabins under a rollout expected to cover many ships in the current RCI fleet.

Dynamic Dining, which will be added to the other two Oasis ships this year, will also feature, while Quantum hallmark robot bartenders will also appear.

RCI says more details on specific itineraries for which *Harmony of the Seas* will be deployed will be announced next month.

Promotion for Stuart

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line executive vice-president of sales Andy Stuart has been named as the line's new president following the resignation of Drew Madsen.

Stuart was in Australia just last week attending and delivering a keynote speech as part of Cruise3sixty Australasia (**CW** Fri).

He has been with Norwegian Cruise Line for 27 years.

"I am extremely confident that he [Stuart] is the perfect leader for the next phase of Norwegian's growth," ceo Frank Del Rio said.

Today's issue of CW

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news plus more photos from the **CLIA Awards** on **pg 3**.

Business as usual for Crystal Cruises

CRYSTAL Cruises ceo Edie Rodriguez says she does not expect the line's acquisition by Genting Hong Kong (**CW** breaking news) from NYK will result in any changes to itineraries for its *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*, which have now been published through to 2017.

The shock announcement will see the Crystal fleet expand, with a newbuild third vessel to be added by 2018 as part of the deal.

The US\$550 million transaction is scheduled to close in the second quarter of 2015, with Genting ceo Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay confirming that the "current management team and crew will continue to lead Crystal Cruises".

Voyager for Vanuatu

FUNDING for the construction of a new gate and four pollards at Port Vila will be provided by Royal Caribbean Int'l to allow it to berth *Voyager of the Seas* in Vanuatu.

Work will be carried out on the Main Wharf, allowing the 3,138-passenger vessel to enter the compact harbour.

The building project has been confirmed by Vanuatu Dept of Tourism director George Borugu.

Currently, Royal Caribbean operates its smaller *Radiance of the Seas* and *Rhapsody of the Seas* on South Pacific sailings, while *Voyager* tours New Zealand.



CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Peter Kollar
CLIA Australasia

Thank you

WE AT CLIA would like to thank you for the wonderful compliments we have received for the flagship event of our association - Cruise3sixty Australasia.

It was great to see so many people attend, from the global cruise executives who flew in from around the world, to our frontline agents that pave the way for our industry growth.

Educating, inspiring and motivating - the feedback so far has been a positive reinforcement that we have accomplished our goal of taking the event to a "new level" over and above the inaugural Cruise3sixty in 2014.

This brings me to a very important point (and request) for further support.

We could not have reached this new level if it wasn't for the survey responses submitted last year after our event. We collectively sat down, analysed the results, and made changes - all geared to one key element - audience satisfaction. After all, this is your conference.

Yesterday a survey was sent out to all attendees. We ask you to please take the time to complete it (five minutes). It's not just an assessment, but also an opportunity to let us know what you would like to get out of an industry event. We've got big shoes to fill for Cruise3sixty 2016, and you are integral in making that happen!



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MSC reveals projects

EUROPEAN cruise giant MSC Cruises has released a video peek inside its four upcoming ships, of which two each are being built by STX France and Fincantieri.

The line is in the midst of a massive capacity enhancement program ranging from its Renaissance program now underway to the four new vessels being added to the fleet between 2017 and 2019.

CLICK HERE to view the video.

Cruise record in Dubai

JANUARY saw the Mina Rashid cruise terminals in Dubai set a new record for the most port calls in a month, with over 30 different ships tying up, new stats show.

On top of 26 visits from ships homeporting in the region, four vessels visiting as part of longer voyages also berthed, bringing a total of 130,000 visitors to Dubai.

The emirate is forecasting a total of 425,000 visitors from 115 ship calls over the course of this year, according to *Arabian Business*.

Avalon's Suite Asia debut

AVALON Waterways has launched its maiden vessel built under 'Suite Ship' specifications on the Mekong River to sail through Vietnam and Cambodia.

The *Avalon Siem Reap* (pictured) caters to a maximum of 36 pax

per sailing, significantly smaller than its European counterparts.

Eighteen cabins at 23sqm

in size & decorated in Asian style feature on the new ship, along with the Avalon Waterways



hallmark of open-air balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows.

Twelve-night voyages sailing between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap will be offered by *Avalon Siem Reap*, sold as the 'Fascinating Vietnam, Cambodia

and The Mekong River' itinerary, priced from \$3,326ppts.

The program includes seven

nights on the vessel, three nights in Siem Reap and two in Saigon.

A second Suite Ship, dubbed *Avalon Myanmar*, will be added to the line's offering in Sep this year to sail on the Irrawaddy.

New ports in Thailand

PORT facilities for cruise ships are to be built in the southern Thailand regions of Surat Thani and Krabi with a view to being added to itineraries in the region.

The ports would complement existing facilities in Phuket, Laem Chabang and Bangkok.

Castaway drowning

INVESTIGATIONS are underway into an apparent drowning of a cruise passenger at Castaway Cay, the private island visited by Disney Cruise Lines.

The 38-year-old man was on a five-night Bahamas sailing from Miami onboard *Disney Wonder* but was unable to be revived.

World awaiting Costa

COSTA Cruises has set sail on the first global circumnavigation exclusively for passengers in the Asian market and Greater China.

Departing from Shanghai, *Costa Atlantica* will visit 28 destinations in 18 countries, crossing three oceans during an 86-day sailing, with nearly 1,000 pax onboard.



HERE'S a useful tip for career longevity - make sure you know how to spell the name of your boss correctly.

During a tour of *Crystal Serenity* on Sydney Harbour this week, a group of travel industry guests were only able to view one cabin because the ship is so heavily booked.

The penthouse suite was all set up for its next guest, boarding in Melbourne - none other than Crystal Cruises chief executive Edie Rodriguez.


However a welcome note (**below**) unfortunately had her surname spelt as "Rbriguez".



Triumph to NOLA

CARNIVAL Cruise Line will boost capacity on sailings from New Orleans by 34% next spring by repositioning *Carnival Elation* to Jacksonville, Florida & making the Louisiana port the new home of *Carnival Triumph*.

Triumph will offer year-round four- and five-day voyages to Mexico from 04 Apr 2016, joining sister-ship *Carnival Dream* which is also based in New Orleans.



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Winners are grinners at CLIA Awards



LEFT: John Molinaro from Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection presents Carol Smethurst of Bicton Travel with the Gold Agency of the Year Award - their fourth in five years.

PLEASE enjoy another selection of photos from the 2014 CLIA Cruise Industry Awards held last Sat night. For the entire album from the awards and from Cruise3sixty, **CLICK HERE**.

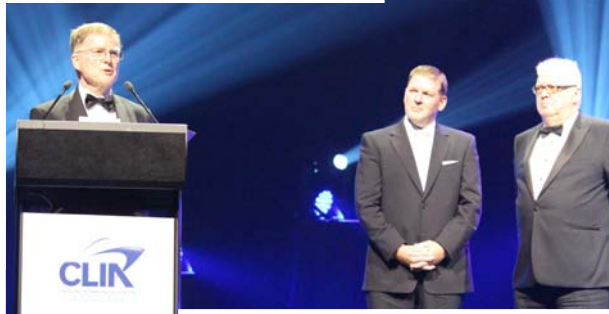
BELOW: In a succession of performances that brought the house down, Sabrina Batshon and Kat Jade from *The Voice* dominated the stage.



ABOVE: APT had four members of the team at the big dance, from left is NSW/ACT bdm Ryan Montgomery, commercial manager retail Susan Haberle, chief marketing officer Debra Fox and group managing director Chris Hall.

BELOW: Preparing for the gala night from left, front row is Melanie Stedman and Dallas Bent from Helloworld Winston Hills; Deb Long and Emma Sullivan from Weston Cruise & Travel.

Back row: Dave Long, Weston Cruise & Travel and Scott McGlynn, Helloworld Winston Hills.



LEFT: Veteran trade journalist and newly inducted CLIA Hall of Fame member Ian McMahon graciously accepts from CLIA chairman Gavin Smith and the prior year's inductee Steve Lloyd, Cruiseco co-founder.



ABOVE: Representing for Scenic Tours at the Awards night was Michelle Black, Aleisha Fittler, Robert Kalembe, Nicole Henry and Jane Moggridge.

RIGHT: Many of the MTA - Mobile Travel Agents team including ceo Don Beattie were on hand to celebrate one of its own - Wendy Allen - who won the inaugural Home Based/ Mobile Agent of the Year award.



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