

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 10 Mar 2015

Diamond Elite partner

QATAR Airways has become the newest Diamond Elite Executive Partner of CLIA, announcing its new association at ITB Berlin.

The carrier's membership will grant access to CLIA member lines as well as marketing activity across CLIA's 15 global offices.



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Virgin ship order coming

TWO "giant" cruise ships are set to be ordered in coming weeks by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Cruises, his latest venture in the travel industry (**CW** 04 Mar 2014).

According to an interview with *The Telegraph* in the UK, Branson is set to spend around £1.7 billion on the new vessels, which will likely be built in Germany or Italy.

No details on proposed names for the ships have been divulged.

In the interview, Branson said he was in the final stages of negotiations for the new ships.

The introduction of Virgin Cruises will be a relatively slow process by industry standards, with the ships expected to take

four to five years to build.

Financial support has already been secured from investment partner Bain Capital, with former Disney Cruise Line president Tom McAlpin joining as chief executive.

It is expected the new line will take to the waves in 2019, based in Miami & sailing the Caribbean.

Virgin Cruises has said it plans to "shake up the cruise industry" with exciting onboard features.

Evergreen NZ cruise

EVERGREEN Tours' new 2016 NZ brochure for the first time includes a 25 day cruise tour.

A 15 day *Diamond Princess* voyage from Sydney to Auckland is combined with a 10 day tour of the north and south islands, with an earlybird deal offering \$500 off and a free cabin upgrade.

Asia golf theme cruise

ADELAIDE agency Travel Superstore has released its latest charter voyage - a 22-day golf-themed cruise itinerary through Asia taking in ten of the best golf courses in the region.

The round-trip program includes flights from Australia to Singapore and home from Shanghai, ten rounds of golf in Singapore, Japan, China, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand, an 18-day cruise on *Sapphire Princess*, pre and post cruise accommodation and more.

Prices start at \$9,799ppts - see www.asiagolfcruise.com.au.

Four worlds by Crystal

SYDNEY will welcome both of Crystal Cruises luxury vessels into the harbour at the same time on 17 Feb 2018 as part of four world voyages scheduled for that year.

For the first time in the line's history, global sailings will operate by both *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity* in the same year.

The voyages feature in the new 2018 World Cruise Collection, which will be *Symphony's* first global cruise since 2003.

Uniquely, guests will also be able to experience both ships in the same voyage, with Sydney to serve as a point for pax to switch.

The world voyages will range in length from 97 to 129 days, visiting a combined 111 ports in 45 countries including 16 maiden calls and 50 overnight port stays.

Koningsdam float out

HOLLAND America Line has moved closer to receiving its new vessel *MS Koningsdam* after the ship moved into the outfitting stages at the Fincantieri shipyard.

The ship was floated out from the building dock for furnishing of the interior ahead of its debut.

MEANWHILE, following its time in the Baltic based in Amsterdam, HAL has advised that *Koningsdam* will move to Port Everglades in Florida for a Caribbean season.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest news from the cruise industry.

Keel laid for Ovation

ROYAL Caribbean International president & coo Adam Goldstein has laid the ceremonial lucky penny in the building dock to mark the start of construction of *Ovation of the Seas*.

Like its two predecessors, the third Quantum-class ship will be built at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany.

MEANWHILE, RCI has released a new video covering the initial float-out of *Anthem of the Seas* - the line's second Quantum vessel.

The ship will shortly begin its journey down the River Ems to the open ocean where it will undertake sea trials ahead of its Southampton debut next month.

CLICK HERE to view the video.

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Long Carnival sailings

CARNIVAL Cruise Lines has launched a new range of longer voyages aimed at giving access to farther ports-of-call visited on a more infrequent schedule.

Dubbed Carnival Journeys, the collection of 9-15 day cruises comes following feedback for new cruise experiences, CCL president Christine Duffy said.

The inaugural season will run 04 Oct through 27 Nov 2016 and feature 28 departures from eight homeports visiting 40 ports in the Caribbean, Mexico, Hawaii, the Bahamas and Central America.

Darwin big spenders

NORTHERN Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles has praised the economic impact of a huge week of cruise ship arrivals which saw 3000 pax enjoy shore tours.

Thousands of visitors across five ships collectively contributed around \$2.5 million into the NT economy, with locals welcoming the multi-million dollar injection.

Sherry rallies agent power

TRAVEL agents can use their collective voices and continuing growth in cruise sales to lobby for an end to the inertia surrounding the infrastructure logjam, Carnival Australia boss Ann Sherry says.

Speaking following the success of the second annual Cruise360 trade show, Sherry said she welcomed the growing awareness within the trade that their success would drive the sector's success.

"Travel agents can play an influential role in advocating for infrastructure investment and better access to port facilities in Sydney and Brisbane in particular."

Carnival's local boss urged the trade to use the booming interest for cruising among their clients to ensure their federal members of parliament are aware of the economic opportunities that the sector is able to deliver.

"Travel agents possess the industry knowledge and experience to get the message out that tourism is a vital

part of the national economy, particularly as it reboots for the post resources boom era.

"They can also push for specific advances such as long term access to Garden Island to allow for expansion in Sydney as the gateway to Australia," she added.

Sherry referred to the fact that multiple ships too large to fit under the Sydney Harbour Bridge have had to be turned away from due to a lack of berthing space.

It is widely anticipated that 2015 will yield the announcement that over one million Australians took a cruise last year - a milestone Sherry says wouldn't have happened without trade support.

No inaugural encore

SEABOURN says its inaugural 10-day voyage from Singapore to Bali aboard its new *Seabourn Encore* sold out after two days.

The line is now accepting waitlist applications for the inaugural trip.

Harmony homeport

ROYAL Caribbean will deploy its third Oasis-class vessel *Harmony of the Seas* to Port Everglades in its 2016-17 Caribbean season.

Long-time partners *Oasis of the Seas* and *Allure of the Seas* will be split up, with the former moving to a newly-built terminal at Port Canaveral, with *Harmony* coming in its place, however all three will continue sailing in the Caribbean.

Yorkeys boost access

CRUISE tender infrastructure has been significantly upgraded at Yorkeys Knob, outside of Cairns, aimed at improving the visitor experience for ship passengers.

The Yorkeys Knob Boat Club has spent \$2.2 million on redesigning a tender wharf, which now allows the tender vessels of more than one ship to transfer pax at once.

Access to the wharf comes via two gangways for foot traffic, with other facilities including a landside undercover holding area, multiple bus bays and paved path.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	10 Mar
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	11 Mar
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	12 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	12 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	14 Mar
<i>Ocean Princess</i>	14 Mar
<i>Costa Deliziosa</i>	14 Mar
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	15 Mar
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	16 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	16 Mar

MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	10 Mar
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	13 Mar
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	14 Mar

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Mar
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	10 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	11 Mar
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	14 Mar
<i>MSC Orchestra</i>	15 Mar

ADELAIDE	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	15 Mar

HOBART	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	10 Mar

NEWCASTLE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	12 Mar
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	13 Mar

FREMANTLE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	11 Mar
<i>Astor</i>	12 Mar
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	12 Mar
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	14 Mar
<i>Astor</i>	16 Mar

GERALDTON	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	13 Mar

BUSSELTON	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	10 Mar

ALBANY	
<i>Astor</i>	10 Mar
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	11 Mar

YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>MSC Orchestra</i>	13 Mar

Magellan Godmother

CRUISE & Maritime Voyages has selected popular British TV travel presenter Gloria Hunniford as the Godmother of its newest vessel, *Magellan* (CW 04 Nov).

Hunniford will formally name the ship at an event this week at London's Tilbury cruise terminal as well as host two naming galas.

Maiden Mariner call

ROYAL Caribbean's *Mariner of the Seas* has made a maiden call in Kuantan in Malaysia as part of a three-night cruise from its Singapore home.

The 3,807-passenger ship is the largest ship currently based in Asia and has just completed its second northern winter in Asia.

Britannia name today

QUEEN Elizabeth II will today officially name *Britannia*, the newest member in the P&O Cruises World Cruising fleet.

The British-inspired ship sailed in to its Southampton home to great fanfare over the weekend, led by water-spraying tugboats.

MEANWHILE, fellow P&O fleet member *Aurora* has shown off the line's new Union Jack livery to Australia, making its first Sydney call since recent refurbishment.

Coral Princess II returns to action



CORAL Princess Cruises has resumed its year-round schedule of Great Barrier Reef sailings from Cairns following a \$500,000 renovation to *Coral Princess II*.

Along with brand new engines, the upgrade saw significant works to onboard amenities including modernisation of guest staterooms (pictured above).

In addition to new decor and the adding of in-cabin iPod docks, renovations to the restaurant saw the addition of an open-air deck.

Group gm Mark Fifield said the works would ensure *Coral Princess II* continues to appeal to "even the most discerning guests".



CRAZY yet lovable characters ran amok last week as Carnival Cruise Lines celebrated the 111th birthday of the enigmatic children's author Dr Seuss.

Among the party guests were the Cat In The Hat, Sam I Am and more, with cruise guests of all ages invited to enjoy some party food of all shapes...and colours.

Carnival Legend came to life during the party (pictured below), with characters celebrating the imagination behind their creation onboard.

The 'Seuss at Sea' family program continues to delight Australian families onboard *Legend*, and will be added to *Carnival Spirit* in Nov this year.



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