

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 26 Mar 2015



## CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine  
GM, CLIA Australasia

### Safety at Sea

THE cruise industry is a heavily regulated industry with safety as the top priority.

In fact, cruising is one of the safest forms of travel among all forms of passenger transportation - including walking.

Cruise ships are designed and operated in compliance with strict requirements of international law and follow an extraordinary number of rules to protect passengers & crew while onboard.

Captains and all crew undertake extensive and ongoing training including drills for emergency situations and ship evacuations.

The average cruise ship today carries around 2,700 pax and 800 crew, typically has five fire fighting teams, 4,000 smoke detectors, 500 fire extinguishers, 25km of sprinkler piping, 5,000 sprinkler heads and 10km of fire hose.

Minimum safety requirements for cruise ships include life boats, life rafts and life jackets for every person onboard as well as additional capacity.

Life boats must be capable of being loaded, launched and manoeuvred away from a ship within 30 mins of a Captains order.

Safety drills are now required to be held prior to a ships departure from port and can be conducted in multiple languages.



## Virgin design on the table

COURT documents filed in Miami have revealed a futuristic cruise ship design at the centre of Virgin Cruises' entry into the marketplace.

Renderings of what could take to the sea under Virgin branding shows an innovative hull design typical of the Virgin/Branson creative mind.

The striking image is a stark move away from the conventional cruise ship design and is at the centre of an argument by former Norwegian Cruise Line ceo Colin Veitch who says Virgin founder Richard Branson stole his concept design (CW 17 Mar).

Virgin Cruises has signed a letter of intent with Germany's Meyer Werft shipyard for two 4,000-pax "ultra-ships" but currently isn't planning on debuting until 2019.



MEANWHILE, fifteen-year Princess Cruises executive Stuart Hawkins has been appointed as Virgin Cruises' senior vp in charge of newbuilds, president and ceo Tom McAlpin has confirmed.

Hawkins will oversee the design of the Virgin Cruises entry to cruising, and brings experience in having managed the design of *Royal Princess* and *Regal Princess*.

## Titanic II all but sunk

WORKERS at the CSC Junling Shipyard in China - where Clive Palmer's ambitious *Titanic II* ship is to be constructed - say they are convinced the project will never make it past the concept stage.

Already at least two years behind schedule (CW 15 May 2014), no actual construction work on the \$500 million project has begun, with its maiden voyage across the Atlantic originally set for 2016.

"The Australians have used this for propoganda, it will not happen," one shipyard employee recently told *The Australian*.

Palmer has been embroiled in a protracted legal dispute with the Chinese shipyard management over funding for some time, with no real progress on the project.

## TravelSIM ship calls

PRE-PAID international roaming service TravelSIM is now offering customers discounted phone call and text message rates for pax on a wide variety of cruise ships.

SMS rates start at \$0.50c for every 160 characters or voice calls from US\$3.30 per minute.

"We wanted to ensure that our customers could stay connected at sea as well as on land," TravelSIM chief executive Jamien Zimmermann commented.

CLICK HERE for a list of ships offering TravelSIM coverage.

### Today's issue of CW

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of news & photos.

## Tapestry II weaves its way to water



DEMAND for Avalon Waterways' popular Suite Ship concept in France has been met with the line launching its newest vessel *Avalon Tapestry II* in the French village of Les Andelys, christened by US author Diana Gabaldon.

A second Suite Ship in *Avalon Poetry II* will double capacity in France tomorrow, with the pair

joining two other ships *Avalon Creativity* and *Avalon Scenery*.

Yet another Suite Ship - *Avalon Tranquility II* will be launched next month in Strasbourg, France.

Pictured above in front of the new vessel from left is Avalon Waterways managing director Patrick Clark & *Avalon Tapestry II* Godmother Diana Gabaldon.



**DO TOP END RAIL & CRUISE**

Do exclusive packages aboard The Ghan & Princess Cruises

Do departures in September & October



Call 1300 854 897  
or click here for more details

in conjunction with

Holidays of Australia

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 26 Mar 2015



Follow us  
on social media

Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the *Cruise Weekly* breaking news as it comes to hand



## Private Santorini tour

**SMALL-BOAT** cruises touring the islands of Santorini in Greece have been introduced into the Australian market by Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre.

Kicking off from Apr, guests can choose from three different boat types, each offering capacity of up to 26 pax per departure.

Each tour lasts for 4-5 hours and includes snorkelling gear, open bar, full BBQ and hotel transfers.

Phone 1300 661 666 for details.

## Thanks from Tauck

**FAMILY-OWNED** luxury touring firm Tauck has launched a trade incentive to thank Australian agents for strong booking levels, in partnership with local representatives Travel the World.

Agents can earn a free tour for every four new Tauck pax booked and deposited by 30 Apr, with eight pax bookings allowing the agent to bring a companion.

FOC bookings must be complete by 03 Jan - info on 1300 857 037.

## Second Quantum for China

**ROYAL** Caribbean International will operate two of its three Quantum-class vessels from China within a year, confirming it will send *Ovation of the Seas* to homeport in Tianjin on its debut to cater to the market in Beijing.

The announcement was made overnight by RCI chief executive officer Michael Bayley during a visit to the Chinese capital.

Like its older sister *Quantum of the Seas* - which will ply its trade from Shanghai as of May - *Ovation* will run a 52-night repositioning

## Disney back in Europe

**FIFTEEN** European countries will be visited by Disney Cruise Line as part of its 2016 summer deployment for *Disney Magic*.

The season will see the liner operate its first British Isles cruise to Scotland, England, Ireland and France, with other itineraries including visits to Norway, Iceland and the Mediterranean.

voyage for its move to China.

Sectors will include a seven-night England to Barcelona cruise, 16-nights to Dubai, 14-nights to Singapore, three-night roundtrip to Malaysia and concluding with a 12-night final leg to Tianjin.

Once operational, *Ovation* will be one of five RCI ships in China on a year-round or seasonal basis.

## Viking adds 12 to fleet

**TWELVE** long-serving Viking River Cruises employees have joined to christen 12 new ships at a ceremony in Amsterdam.

The new ships come just a year after Viking christened 18 vessels in a 24-hour period - recognised as a Guinness World Record.

The latest christenings include 10 of the popular Viking Longships and two smaller vessels designed for the Elbe River.

Viking's fleet has now swelled to 60 vessels, with the company to add six more in a year's time.



**SELECTED** members of *Carnival Legend's* crew were recently invited to witness an extremely rare event - the coronation of a new chief - which typically occurs once every 25-30 years.

The invitation to the Chief Enthronement Ceremony came during a scheduled visit to Lifou, New Caledonia, attended by *Legend's* staff captain, guest service mgr and hotel director.

The day included traditional dancing and a lunch, hosted by the newly appointed chief and his band of tribal leaders.



# You're so suite...

We're flattered to be nominated for Best River Cruise Operator (Category 23).  
Vote for Avalon to keep the good times cruisin'.

♥ Low hold times   ♥ All cruises guaranteed   ♥ Outstanding sales support   ♥ Top commission on cruises & excursions

Click here to vote ♥

**AVALON**  
WATERWAYS®



## McEvoy climbs chair

**FORMER** Tourism Australia managing director Andrew McEvoy has been named as the new non-executive chairman of Sealink Travel Group.

McEvoy was named earlier this year as a non-executive director on the firm's Board (**CW** 15 Jan) and now moves into the role vacated by Guiliano Ursini, who is set to retire after 19 years as chair.

Assisting McEvoy in the role of deputy chairman is Lucy Hughes Turnbull, with both appointments taking effect from 01 Jul.

**MEANWHILE**, SeaLink Travel Group shareholders have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the purchase of an additional two vessels for its Captain Cook Cruises Sydney ferry operations.

In anticipation of winning new charter contracts & expanding its harbour hop-on-hop-off services, the two new craft will be funded by existing debt facilities.

The two will be named *MV Palm Cat* and *MV Maggie Cat* and will offer capacity for 300 pax each.

Ursini said the new high-speed vessels were ideal for CCC ferry operations on Sydney Harbour.

## Bask in midnight sun

**DISCOVER** the World is offering seven-day packages allowing pax to enjoy round-the-clock sun in the upcoming northern summer on a Hurtigruten voyage, with cabins on a Classic Voyage South on 02 Jul starting from \$1,964pp.

## Princess cans Tunisia

**PRINCESS** Cruises has made the decision to drop a single port call at La Goulette in Tunisia following the city's recent terrorist attack.

*Emerald Princess* was due to call in the port on 30 May but will instead visit Naples, Italy as part of an upcoming Med voyage.

Future Tunis calls are still being evaluated, with pax and crew safety and security "our foremost priority," Princess Cruises said.

## RCI crew drug bust

**TWO** members of crew on Royal Caribbean's *Splendour of the Seas* have been busted by Customs officials in Argentina with packets of cocaine taped to their bodies.

The 15kg haul was valued at US\$1m, with both men dismissed by RCI & detained by authorities.

## Last spots at Gallipoli

**JUST** over a month remains before the Anzac Centenary, and for the latest of the late planners, places remain on a 14-day tour.

Travel Partners member agency Horizons Cruise & Tours has a few spots left on its Anzac Centenary Cruise and Tour, which departs Australia on 15 Apr.

The package includes return flights and an eight-night cruise departing from Athens onboard *MV Louis Cristal*, with all shore trips & meals onboard included.

Remaining places are priced from \$7,277pp twin share - for more info, phone 0418 289 399.

## APT directors ready to set sail



**PRE-SEASON** training has just wrapped up for this team of 60 APT and Travelmarvel cruise and tour directors, who have now dispersed across Europe ready for the peak northern summer.

Two new ships will join both the APT and Travelmarvel fleets for 2015, with *MS AmaVista*, *MS AmaSerena*, *Travelmarvel*

*Sapphire* and *MS Excellent Queen* all set to enter service.

The brigade of cruise and tour directors are **pictured** above ready to go for the 2015 season.

## Improved Star returns

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has resumed service with *Norwegian Star* following a two-week drydock which saw the ship fitted with elements of the line's NEXT program of enhancements.

Preparing for its 2015 summer season in the Baltic region based in Copenhagen, *Star* now offers added complimentary dining in O'Sheehan's Neighbourhood Bar & Grill and Ginza Asian.

*Star* is the third ship in the NCL fleet to be fitted with the new dining and entertainment venues.

Other new highlights include the Five O'Clock Somewhere Bar.

## Tobago welcome CCL

**FOUR** Carnival Cruise Lines ships will visit the Caribbean island nation of Tobago in 2016 as part of its Carnival Journeys series of longer voyages (**CW** 09 Dec).

Starting next year, the line will bring *Carnival Glory*, *Carnival Miracle*, *Carnival Dream* and *Carnival Sunshine* to the region.

The announcement takes Tobago's forecasted cruise arrivals for next year past 80,000.



VOYAGES TO ANTIQUITY

## GRAND VOYAGES TO ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

August 2015 – October 2016

**BROCHURE OUT NOW!**

Mediterranean • Aegean • Adriatic • South Africa • India • Sri Lanka • Burma • Malaysia



FREE RETURN AIR ON 13 SAILINGS

**Cruise Weekly** is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia  
 Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia  
 P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

**Cruise Weekly** is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

**Editors:** Bruce Piper and Matt Lennon [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**Contributors:** Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Louise Wallace

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik [ads@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:ads@cruiseweekly.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper [accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY **travelBulletin** business events news **Pharmacy DAILY** Travel Daily TV



## Australia's only exhibition for the travel industry

Discover the world of travel

- > CONNECT with travel suppliers
- > DISCOVER new travel products
- > NETWORK with industry professionals
- > LEARN about the future of travel

**REGISTER NOW:**

[travelindustryexpo.com.au](http://travelindustryexpo.com.au)

**16-17 July 2015**

**Luna Park, Sydney**

**THE  
TRAVEL  
INDUSTRY  
EXHIBITION**

[TRAVELINDUSTRYEXPO.COM.AU](http://TRAVELINDUSTRYEXPO.COM.AU)



Industry supporter

**ATAS**

travel accredited