



P&O names *Explorer*

P&O Cruises yesterday confirmed that its newest ship will be named *Pacific Explorer* (CW breaking news) when the vessel currently sailing as *Dawn Princess* joins the P&O Australia fleet in May 2017.

Carnival Australia Senior Vice President, Sture Myrmell, said vessel enhancements would build on the "fresh and contemporary design" of *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden* which will become part of P&O Australia's fleet next month after they transfer from Holland America Line.

Myrmell said the 2,000 passenger *Pacific Explorer* would offer "resort-style pool areas" and P&O's recently launched The Pantry dining experience, as well as the same Angelo's Italian, Dragon Lady and Waterfont eateries as on *Eden* and *Aria*.

"We have grand plans for *Pacific Explorer* and we think her new features are going to cause a lot of excitement in the local industry," Myrmell enthused.

Other additions hinted at include a new cabaret-style restaurant and night club, as well as a "secret and intimate small bar," while the vessel will feature more than 400 balcony cabins.

Myrmell confirmed that *Pacific Explorer* would sail from Sydney for her inaugural season, with the first program featuring the sixth P&O vessel to be released early next month.

Sydney welcomes *Noordam*

THE NSW Ports Authority formally welcomed Holland America Line's *ms Noordam* to Sydney last Sun, with the cruise ship making her first ever visit to Australian waters.

In a ceremony in the ship's Vista lounge, Libby Larkin from the Authority exchanged commemorative plaques with the *Noordam's* Captain Henk Draper (pictured), with Larkin also handing over a plaque on behalf of Cruise Down Under to celebrate *Noordam's* arrival.

Noordam is HAL's newest Vista-class ship and cruised into Sydney after a 25-day voyage from Alaska.

She takes the place of *ms Oosterdam* in the local market, and offers a range of enhancements following a drydock earlier this year which included the installation of innovative LED screens in the main show lounge.

Noordam has more verandah staterooms than *Oosterdam* and also features the popular nightly B.B. King's Blues Club live show.

The ship will sail a program of 12-29 day Australia, NZ and South Pacific itineraries before departing in Apr next year.

Also in attendance at the event was HAL's head of international sales, Mark Kammerer, who spoke



about the excitement within the company about the debut next Apr of *ms Koningsdam*, the first new ship for HAL in six years.

Style at Sea with TLC



PRINCESS Cruises has announced a new "Style at Sea with TLC" guest experience as part of its partnership with the Discovery cable network.

Created with the help of fashion expert Stacy London (pictured), the "branded content program" provides how-tos and style advice, to help answer many of the questions women ask when preparing for a cruise holiday.

Personalities from the TLC Channel will host a video series from early 2016, with tips on what to wear, dressing up for a special occasion on board or accessorising a bathing suit.

The move will also see the cruise line's 'Runway at Sea' activity revamped, to offer Princess guests the opportunity to model clothing from the on-board boutiques.

Lirica's China customs

MSC Cruises and its Chinese partner CAISSA Touristic Group have announced the details of the on-board offering which will feature on *MSC Lirica* when she is deployed year-round from Shanghai from May next year.

While maintaining its distinctive European flavour, *Lirica* will have a high density of Mandarin speaking crew, dining concepts from Chinese celebrity chef Jeremy Leung and a 20-hour-a-day entertainment program.

MSC ceo Gianni Onorato said *Lirica* would be customised by drawing on the "unrivalled local knowledge of our partner," with features including five distinct kids clubs, an open-air waterpark, three nightly theatre sittings and a range of themed evenings.

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Uniworld + Virtuoso

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has signed a new preferred agreement with the Virtuoso Travel Group.

It's the first cruise addition for Virtuoso in almost five years.

Under the partnership Virtuoso members will be able to offer clients an "assortment of exclusive opportunities and Voyager Club on select sailings," said Uniworld chief Guy Young.

Cruise Calendar	
This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.	
SYDNEY	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	28 Oct
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	29 Oct
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	30 Oct
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	31 Oct
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	31 Oct
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	01 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	02 Nov
MELBOURNE	
<i>Noordam</i>	27 Oct
<i>Golden Princess</i>	30 Oct
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	02 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	02 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	02 Nov
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	31 Oct
HOBART	
<i>Noordam</i>	29 Oct
DARWIN	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	28 Oct
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	29 Oct
<i>Volendam</i>	30 Oct
<i>Sun Princess</i>	31 Oct
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	28 Oct
FREMANTLE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	29 Oct
GERALDTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	30 Oct

Silversea in Sylvania

SYDNEY'S Sylvania Travel & Cruise held a client function with Silversea Cruises last week, with the event taking place at the Royal Motor Yacht Club in Port Hacking.

Pictured during the luncheon with Scott Graham from Silversea are the Sylvania Travel & Cruise team of Sonia Antilla, Vivien Davies, Lisa Priestley and Sally Burton.



Cunard in fashion

CUNARD has announced two special "event cruises" for 2016, with the cruise line promising to celebrate the worlds of fashion, food, music and dance.

The departures include the first 'Transatlantic Fashion Week' cruise which will arrive in New York on the same day that New York Fashion Week 2016 begins.

On board will be pioneering British designer Dame Zandra Rhodes, fashion historian Colin McDowell, and New York Fashion Week founder Fern Mallis.

Also new for 2016 is a British Isles Culinary Discovery cruise on board *Queen Elizabeth* in Jun.

And each of the three Cunard Queens will host their own Big Band Balls in Nov 2016, with large on-board orchestras delighting guests with music from Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

Escape handed over



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line ceo Frank del Rio (left) is pictured formally taking delivery of the new *Norwegian Escape* from Meyer Werft managing partner Bernard Meyer in Bremerhaven, Germany last week.

Constructed in just 17 months, *Escape* is the first ship in Norwegian's new Breakaway Plus Class, and has set sail for Hamburg and Southampton before making the crossing this week to her year-round homeport of Miami.

Norwegian Escape will be christened in Miami on 9 Nov.



PRINCESS Cruises has arranged a spectacularly theatrical arrival for its *Golden Princess* when she cruises into Melbourne later this week.

The ship will become the largest ship to ever be homeported in Melbourne when she kicks off a five month season of cruises from the city on Fri.

To mark the milestone two gigantic golden curtains - suspended from helicopters - will symbolically part to make way for *Golden Princess* when she sails towards the city in Port Phillip Bay soon after 6am.

As well as having capacity for 2,600 passengers, the ship's features include a suspended nightclub at the rear of the ship which is accessed by a moving walkway about the decks.

Golden Princess is also the first in the Princess fleet to offer menu items by Curtis Stone, the celebrity chef who famously promised to help consumers feed a family of four for less than ten dollars.

Pullmantur write-off

ROYAL Caribbean Cruise Lines has announced a US\$399.3 million "impairment charge" in relation to the reduced value of its Spanish brand Pullmantur.

The non-cash charge reflects the weakness in the economies of Latin America, which has deteriorated further in recent months.

RCCL says the brand is re-focusing on its core market of Spain, with the revaluation eliminating all intangible items from the Pullmantur balance sheet.

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