

### Escape's great escape

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line's new *Norwegian Escape* has left the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, taking about 24 hours to undertake a conveyance along the Ems River.



Sailing backwards, *Escape* squeezed through the shipyard's locks with just 1.2m clearance in an initial manoeuvre which took about two hours, at a maximum speed of just 0.2 knots.

She's now in Eemshaven in the Netherlands taking on extra provisions and materials prior to commencing trials in the North Sea later this month.

The first passengers are expected to be welcomed on board in late Oct, with the 4,200 passenger vessel set to sail weekly seven-day itineraries year-round from Miami to the Eastern Caribbean, with destinations including St Thomas, Tortola, the US and British Virgin Islands and Nassau in the Bahamas.

### Cruise Express now selling Fathom

**SYDNEY-BASED** travel agency Cruise Express has become formally registered as a seller of Carnival Corporation's newest brand, Fathom.

The first Fathom season, aboard the 710-passenger *Adonia*, will kick off from Miami to the Dominican Republic next Apr, with the "humanitarian journeys" targeting the growing number of socially conscious travellers.

Cruise Express md Meg Hill said she believes Fathom will be very successful in tapping demand from "caring travellers to make their holidays more meaningful".

## Crystal to build own ships

**ASIAN** cruising investor Genting Hong Kong - the owner of Star Cruises and Crystal Cruises - is further expanding its reach into the sector, signing a deal to purchase the Lloyd Werft shipyard in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Still subject to final purchase terms, the deal will see Genting pay €17.5m for 70% of the shipbuilding business and 50% of the land where it operates.

The agreement is a significant vertical integration of the company's supply chain, with Lloyd Werft tasked with building the new vessels behind the rapid expansion of Crystal Cruises.

The Lloyd Werft Bremerhaven shipyard has been responsible for several newbuilds including Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America*, *Norwegian Sun* & *Norwegian Sky*, and also

lengthened the *SuperStar Aquarius* and *SuperStar Gemini* about 20 years ago.

As well as three new Exclusive-class polar class ocean-going vessels for Crystal, Lloyd Werft will also build the line's brand new European river cruise ships.

The first new ocean-going Crystal ship is scheduled to enter service in late 2018, and will also see the debut of Crystal Residences - 48 on-board "private homes" for well-heeled residents.

The Lloyd Werft yard has six docks and a 1.6km pier, with extensive experience in newbuilds and upgrades, including the "dieselisation" of Cunard Line's *QE2*.

### Solstice showing off

**THREE** new onboard production shows will roll out on *Celebrity Solstice* this month as part of the line's recently revamped focus on entertainment (**CW** 02 Apr).

Among these will be *Amadé*, the newest show to come out of The Studio, which looks into the life of a world-famous musician.

Also new is adults-only fairytale *Elyria* and illusions on *iMagic*.

All shows have been developed by The Studio, the Florida entertainment base of Celebrity parent Royal Caribbean Cruises.

**MEANWHILE**, late night dining deliveries on Celebrity Cruises will soon increase in price, with a US\$3.95 fee for room service now in effect across the fleet, except for Aqua, Concierge or Suite class.

**FURTHER**, European earlybird fares on 2016 Celebrity Cruises departures have been extended for sale by nearly a month to 18 Oct due to popular demand.

The deal offers two extra perks for free to guests booking an Oceanview stateroom or higher.

### Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Oceania Cruises** promoting the line's O-life advantages.

### Aurora flight credit

**AIRFARE** credit of \$500pp is on offer to spend on flights to South Africa on bookings of Aurora Expeditions' new-look African Cruise Safari on 2016 departures.

The three-night cruise onboard the *Zambezi Queen* along the Chobe River includes a stay at the Kapama Private Game Reserve.

Book by 30 Nov to secure the air deal for the safari which also takes in Victoria Falls.

## Come and join our team at



### Want to become part of our dynamic team?

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- thrive on gaining and maintaining product knowledge and skills?

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Please send your resume and covering letter through to **julie@justcruises.com.au** addressing how you could benefit our business model



## Fleet shuffle for Silversea

**SILVERSEA** Cruises is set to expand its presence in polar waters, outlining a plan to shift the 296-passenger *Silver Cloud* over to its expedition vessel fleet.

To be completed in time for the 2017/18 Antarctic season, *Silver Cloud* will undergo a significant refurbishment in Aug 2017 which will see the hull strengthened to handle the region's ice floes.

Passenger capacity will also be reduced from 296 to a maximum of 260, however when sailing in

polar waters, only 200 guests will be accommodated per sailing.

Doing so adheres to the guidelines of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators, which upholds strict sustainability policies regarding land touring in polar regions.

"By converting *Silver Cloud* into an ice-class ship for our expedition fleet, we will be better positioned to meet the increasing demand for comfortable adventure travel, particularly to the Arctic and Antarctica," Silversea gm Australasia Karen Christensen said.

*Silver Cloud* will become the fourth in the Silversea Expeditions fleet of all-suite vessels.

### Viking Med discounts

**CHRISTMAS** departures in the Mediterranean for this coming year have been reduced in price on Viking Ocean Cruises if booked before 30 Sep, the line said.

Savings of up to \$500pp are on offer for a nine-day journey departing Barcelona and visiting France, Monte Carlo and Italy.

Six shore excursions are included in the itinerary, which is now priced from \$2,999ppts for bookings made by 30 Sep.

## RCCL hits the greens with Magellan



### Explorer nearly here

**JUST** over two months remains until the newest Royal Caribbean ship to be based in Australia - *Explorer of the Seas* - sails into Sydney for its first Aussie summer.

*Explorer* is the twin sister ship to established Aussie favourite *Voyager of the Seas*, which itself returns later this year for its second season following a major renovation around a year ago.

RCI is celebrating *Explorer's* arrival with a US\$100 onboard credit offer per stateroom.

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruise Lines sponsored the Magellan National Conference's Masters Golf Day, held last week at the Victoria Golf Club, Cheltenham.

Magellan director Kevin Dale from National Network Travel is pictured above centre with Royal Caribbean's Tony Soden and Michael Stephenson.

The golf day was part of the lead-up to the conference proper which saw more than 250 member and supplier delegates in attendance.

### Thomas Cook in CLIA

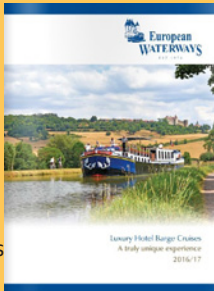
**BRITISH** retail travel giant Thomas Cook has joined CLIA UK and Ireland, boosting the organisation's membership in the region to more than 3,000 agents.

The addition of Thomas Cook as a CLIA member follows the launch recently of the brand's 11 Cruise Concept Stores which focus on promoting and selling cruising.

## Brochure Spotlight

### European Waterways 2016/17 cruising

**THIS** new program from European Waterways showcases its range of luxury hotel barges which operate throughout France, Italy, Holland and the British Isles.



European Waterways has a fleet of 17 vessels, with the program expanded to 80 pages including new double-page images, some taken from the air, which convey the "hotel barging experience".

Unlike river cruising on larger vessels, hotel barging offers a slower paced 'gentle voyage of discovery' along the more intimate canals of Europe.

Detailed maps of the cruising routes and daily itineraries aim to inspire clients, with the program also showcasing the new hotel barge *Finesse*, which will begin cruising the River Saône and Canal du Centre in southern Burgundy from May next year, with capacity for eight passengers in four air-conditioned double bed suites.

Copies of the guide are now available - for further information call 1800 828 050.

## WIN HURTIGRUTEN'S "NORWAY'S COASTAL KITCHEN" COOKBOOK



Enjoy the taste of **Hurtigruten's** "Norway's Coastal Kitchen" cookbook!

Hurtigruten's voyage along the Norwegian coast not only offers a whole host of incredible experiences and wondrous scenery, but also a culinary journey.


The recipes in the book have been compiled by Hurtigruten's own chefs and include mouth-watering traditional Norwegian dishes as well as some with a modern twist, such as 'steamed mussels with local cheese' or 'lightly fried king crab and kale salad'.

To win your very own copy of the book, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:comp@cruiseweekly.com.au).



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Hurtigruten recently welcomed a new ship to its fleet... what is her name?




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## Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	25 Sep
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	26 Sep
<i>Sun Princess</i>	27 Sep
DARWIN	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	23 Sep
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	24 Sep
YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	22 Sep
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 Sep
GERALDTON	
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	26 Sep

## Seabourn upgrades

**SEABOURN** is offering complimentary veranda upgrades for Aussies making bookings on more than 80 European departures during 2016.

The bonus upgrades are on sale until 04 Oct on voyages in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe as part of a Spring Sale - more info on 13 24 02.

## Antarctica half price

**PEREGRINE** Adventures is offering 50% savings on expeditions to Antarctica booked through the Intrepid Group.

Valid for this week only, the "half price flash sale" is valid on selected Antarctic departures between Nov 15 and Mar 16 including the "Antarctic Explorer", "Crossing the Circle" and the "Antarctic Express (fly north)".

The offer is available for booking until 4pm AEST on Fri 25 Sep - see [www.peregrineadventures.com](http://www.peregrineadventures.com).

## Celebrity incentive deadline near



**ONLY** eight days remain for agents to get their entries in to Celebrity Cruises' "Go Big, Go Better, Go Best" incentive, with all entries required by 30 Sep.

Celebrating its amended pricing structure which entered the market early last month, a major prize of a 12-night South Pacific & Fiji cruise for two is up for grabs, sailing onboard *Celebrity Solstice*.

Champagne corks will also be popping for the runners-up, with six jeroboams (three litres - equal to four standard bottles) of GH Mumm champagne awarded to a further six winners drawn.

Agents need to register all of their Celebrity Cruises bookings made during the competition period which began on 09 Aug through to 30 Sep to be eligible

## Young CCC Master

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises has appointed 25-year-old Nicholas Sciancalepore as Master of its *PS Murray Princess*, which operates cruises along the Murray River.

He is the ship's second youngest Master, two months older than Captain James McDougall.

for the major prize - **CLICK HERE**.

"It's the little details that make the big difference with Celebrity Cruises," RCL Cruises commercial director Adam Armstrong said.

"The grass is greener, the champagne is finer and now the benefits are greater with the launch of our new Go Big, Go Better, Go Best agent incentive."

**Pictured** above celebrating the incentive are Celebrity's all-girl NSW district sales managers in Wendy Anderson, Amy Ryan, Nicole Stojic and Jessica Jones.

## NCL service policy

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is continuing to tinker with onboard charge policies, with the latest amendment affecting the daily service charge from \$US13.50pp.

The latest change requires pax to wait until the end of their cruise before being able to adjust or remove the charge from a bill.

Guests may still alter the charge higher or lower to reflect the level of service received by staff during their specific voyage.

The charge has steadily climbed from US\$12 over six months.

## PORTHOLE

**THERE** was a quick reaction from the global cruise industry last Thu when *Cruise Weekly* published a photo of Cruiseeco's Steve Lloyd as part of a presentation by Crystal Cruises' Claudius Docekal during the Cruise Down Under conference.

Docekal was highlighting the friendliness of Australian passengers and the difference they can make to the on-board mix during a voyage.

Lloyd himself was very quick to point out that while it was a nice photo, "I'm not sure the point was well made, however, as the subject is a 100% non-Australian card-carrying Pom - albeit a friendly one!"

He also noted that Royal Caribbean's Australian chief Gavin Smith is likely to be particularly happy with the photo's location, because the pic showed Lloyd tinkling the ivories in the presidential suite of *Celebrity Eclipse*.

Crystal Cruises president Edie Rodriguez joined in, pointing out that although the picture was taken on *Celebrity*, "We all want YOU Steve!"

**CLICK HERE** to view Thu's issue.

## PNG visas for cruises

**ELECTRONIC** visas permitting short-term shore access in Papua New Guinea may be granted to cruise ship passengers, according to a new update from DFAT.

Passengers visiting the country on a cruise are advised to check with their line for the latest info.

The country removed the ability for Australians to apply for visas on arrival in Mar last year.

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