

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 21 Apr 2016

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos.

Carreras on *Radiance*

SOUTH Australian-based Choose Your Cruise has chartered Royal Caribbean's *Radiance of the Seas* for a themed voyage from Sydney to New Caledonia in Oct next year featuring Spanish opera singer Jose Carreras.

His appearance will be particularly poignant, with Carreras, one of the famed 'Three Tenors', embarking on his farewell tour in 2017.

Choose Your Cruise, which partners with Cruiseco and Royal Caribbean, has been operating music-themed cruises since 2011, with the 2017 "Bravo! Cruise of the Performing Arts" trip also featuring Aussie soprano Marina Prior and tenor and composer David Hobson among many more.

Other upcoming Choose Your Cruise departures include the 2017 Cruise N Groove trip, also on board *Radiance*, which will feature 80s superstars Boney M.

CLIA declares Cruise Month

CRUISE Lines International Association Australasia this morning announced the expansion of its regular Cruise Week promotion into a month-long campaign during Oct.

The move sees CLIA Australasia coordinate with other CLIA offices around the world, which are all synchronising the campaign for the first time ever.

CLIA's "Plan a Cruise Month" debuted in the US last year, and is now rolling out globally according to CLIA Australasia commercial director Brett Jardine.

Jardine told **Cruise Weekly** the timing was perfect for the Australian market as it coincided with the start of the local peak summer cruise season.

"As the cruise industry continues to boom in Australia and around the world, a week is no longer enough time to promote cruising," he said.

The first CLIA Australasia cruise month will focus on providing agent members with the tools and resources to promote cruise holidays to new and current clients, Jardine said.

"It will also highlight the expertise of CLIA certified travel agents as the best port of call for holidaymakers wanting to take a holiday at sea," he added.

"Plan a Cruise Month will provide the perfect platform for travel agents, cruise lines and industry partners to showcase the many attributes of a cruise holiday and underline that there is a cruise for everyone."

Full details of activity to be undertaken during Cruise Month are still being finalised and will be released in the coming months.

New A&K cruise tour

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has launched a new 16-day 'culture, cuisine and cruising' journey which travels from Italy to Croatia aboard Ponant's *Le Lyrial*.

The A&K group size is limited to 24 guests and is priced from \$17,995 per person incl flights from Australia - 1300 590 317.

Star Cruises Shenzhen

STAR Cruises has announced a three month Vietnam and Sanya deployment of its flagship *SuperStar Virgo* which will be based out of Shenzhen Tai Zi Bay from 12 Nov 2016.

The cruise will visit Hoi An, Da Nang, Nha Trang and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam before calling at Sanya, Hainan.

Star Cruises has also announced an upgraded guest experience, with guests who stay in Oceanview Stateroom Balcony cabins and above will be entitled to room service dining, free show tickets and other benefits.

RCI 2017/18 on sale

ROYAL Caribbean this morning opened its 2017/18 Australasian program for sale which includes voyages for the second down under deployment of its *Ovation of the Seas* (CW Tue).

Launch savings of up to \$1300 per person off standard cruise fares are on offer for bookings made before 31 May 2016.

More information on the 66 sailings via 1800 754 500.



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The unseen Queen



AHEAD of The Queen's 90th birthday today Cunard has released a series of never-before-seen photos of Her Majesty, to mark the occasion.

The photos, which record each of the Cunard events that she attended, include The Queen attending her first Cunard event in 1938 when she was just 12.

At the time she accompanied her mother Queen Elizabeth to the launch of *Queen Elizabeth*,

the biggest liner in the world.

Since then The Queen has launched and named four Cunard ships.

Her Majesty is the only person present at the launch of all three Cunard Elizabeths - the first in 1938, *QE2* in 1967 and *Queen Elizabeth* in 2010.

Pictured above Princess Elizabeth launches *RMS Caronia* in 1947 which served with Cunard until 1967.

Seven Seas Itineraries

REGENT Seven Seas Cruise has unveiled its collection of itineraries for 2017-18 with the four ship fleet set to make more than 100 voyages during the season.

Highlights include the 30-night Grand Northwest Passage which will take a rare summertime excursion through Canada's Northwest Passage.

Additional departures are planned from Los Angeles this season, increasing the number of voyages visiting the Hawaiian Islands, Mexican Riviera and the Panama Canal.

For more specific itinerary details email res.apac@rssc.com.

AmaViola launch

AMAWATERWAYS has announced the debut of *AmaViola*, the company's new 170 passenger ship, sister to the recently launched *AmaStella*.

AmaViola has been designed with connecting cabins to accommodate families - six sets of adjoining cabins can be connected via an internal doorway, accommodating families of up to five while four suites can accommodate families of up to four.

New features include, expanded fitness rooms & massage areas.

New Disney adventures

NEW European river cruise sailings on the Rhine River with AmaWaterways is a point of difference for Adventures by Disney's new 2017 itineraries.

As well as offering a second season of Danube River sailings, Adventures by Disney is also adding voyages along the Rhine River in 2017.

Rhine River itineraries are on board the 170-passenger *AmaKristina* through France, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands.

Highlights of the seven-night Rhine itineraries include exploring the Alsace Region of France by canoe or on horseback, biking along the Rhine River and clog painting in Holland.

See AdventuresByDisney.com.

Fathom Arrival

THE first Fathom cruise has arrived in the Dominican Republic - the inaugural one-week cruise will see passengers working alongside local residents in existing community programs.

Part of the Carnival Corporation family, Fathom will offer round trips from Miami to the Dominican Republic and Cuba for "social impact travel".

New 2017/2018 ITINERARIES

Our new season has now launched. Explore the world with Oceania Cruises - a total of 173 sailings, including 109 NEW itineraries plus 41 extended journeys.

To celebrate, we are offering a special introductory bonus commission of 5%*, on top of the already lucrative standard commission when you book and deposit any Oceania Cruises in April 2016.



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*Bonus 5% commission valid for new bookings made and deposited from 1 April 2016 to 30 April 2016. Valid for all sailings on Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

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Magic in the Med

CREATIVE Cruising's 13-night Monte Carlo to Barcelona package is priced at just \$8,839 pp when booked by 31 May.

The cruise departs on 16 Sep, see www.creativecruising.com.au for more.



CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Peter Kollar
CLIA Australasia

YOUR client requests their vessel of choice must have a laundry, preferably with pressing facilities or services with minimal fees. Do you search over 60 cruise lines to find the right one? Or they ask which electricity adapters to bring, or more information on Kids Clubs. How do you find all this information?

For all our CLIA members we ask you continually check into our Resource Library to find the information you need as it is continually updated.

This can be accessed via our Membership Services – CLIA Learning Academy. As all products are only as effective as their audience usage, if there is a reference sheet that can make your job a little easier, then please let us know and we will do our best to source and add the information into our centre.

While on the subject of new additions, this month we have released a new Elective Module; European River Cruising. This 3-hour online program covers selling European river cruises, from the holiday experience to the intricacies of the vessels, plus a guide to the rivers of Europe. The confidence you will gain will be enhanced by viewing the accompanied resources; photographs, maps, games, fact sheets, videos and commentary - helping to grow your cruise specialisation skills. In May we will release a further elective; Cruising the Pacific – which focuses on selling Micronesia, Polynesia & Melanesia cruise itineraries.



Save on Europe cruise

UNIWORLD is offering savings of \$4,269pp on the 6 Nov departure of its 15-day European Jewels all-inclusive river cruise when booked before 30 Apr.

Prices for the sailing along the great Danube, Rhine and Main rivers start at \$5,420pp.

Call 1300 780 231.

Legend crew farewells Sydney



CREW on *Carnival Legend* waved goodbye to Sydney yesterday afternoon as the ship set sail for Hawaii following its extended summer season Down Under.

Carnival Legend has carried more than 50,000 Australians on 20 round trip cruises from Sydney over the past six months.

She will return to our shores again on 11 Oct this year for her third summer of cruising alongside *Carnival Spirit*, which is based in Australia year round.

Pictured left to right on board *Carnival Legend* as she leaves Sydney are: *Carnival Legend* Master Captain, Francesco La Fauci; chief engineer, Vincenzo Criscuolo; cruise director, Jen Baxter; hotel director, Erik Speekenbrink and the guest services manager Fernando C. Maliwanag, III.

Curtis Stone debut

SHARE by Curtis Stone will debut on select Princess ships with *Sun Princess* the first to offer the signature restaurant Down Under after her multi-million dollar refurbishment this month.

Emerald Princess, arriving in Sydney in Nov for her first Australian season will also feature the renowned Australian chef's restaurant.

SHARE's menu and restaurant has been designed to encourage diners to "connect with each other and share holiday memories over a delicious meal".

MEANWHILE *Sun Princess'* Kai Sushi restaurant has become the Kai Seafood Bar with a brand new wine and fresh seafood experience exclusively designed for the Australian market and a New Zealand Natural ice cream outlet will be added to the pool.



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Contact your preferred wholesaler for further information or visit www.starcrui.com

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Tauck about a lucky agent!



TRAVELMANAGERS' personal travel manager Kathy Myatt thoroughly enjoyed the major prize she nabbed during her very first suppliers function.

It was during the Tauck World Discovery brochure launch that the Queensland-based agent scored a seven-night river cruise adventure exploring Switzerland, France and Amsterdam.

Myatt and her husband have recently returned from their 'Romantic Rhine – Basel to Amsterdam' river cruise on board *MS Inspire* and they "cannot speak highly enough about their experience".

"The cruise directors and every member of the crew were so accommodating, you could tell

they truly cared about their guests...every day was magical," she said.

Myatt said regardless of who you were on board, everyone got five-star treatment.

Tauck, through Travel the World's representation, is a long established TravelManagers' partner supplier.

Sharon Hando from Tauck said she was pleased to reward a Travel Manager with experiencing one of their river cruises for themselves, knowing they would become an even more passionate supporter.

Pictured above is an excited Kathy Myatt preparing to board her European river sailing on *MS Inspire*.

Carnival experience

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has launched its new Carnival Journeys program offering guests on transpacific cruises a range of new on board experiences to enhance their days at sea.

Activities on offer include Academy of Fun sessions blending to help guests build their knowledge in areas such as photography, astronomy and art to food and social media.

There will also be opportunities to get to know the crew with Q&A sessions, galley tours, a crew talent show.

The Australian Carnival Journeys program premiered on *Carnival Legend* on Mon.

Culinary Discovery

OCEANIA Cruises has announced new Culinary Discovery tours for the upcoming Mediterranean season on board *Riviera* and *Marina*.

New additions to the Culinary Discovery Tour itinerary for 2016 include a Provençal Olive Grove Luncheon in Antibes, France with a neighbouring wine maker; a chef tour and Moroccan cooking class in Casablanca, Morocco including a visit the colourful Central Market and a farm-to-table lunch in Heraklion the Greek Island of Crete.

For more information on the new offerings head to oceaniacruises.com.



INKY was over it. The quick-thinking octopus couldn't stand one more day in captivity at the National Aquarium of New Zealand in Napier.

Waiting until nighttime fell, the cephalopod made his great escape to the ocean.

According to news outlets across New Zealand this is no tall story, Inky really did get away, taking advantage of a tank lid left slightly ajar.

Staff believe Inky suction cupped his way to the top of his tank before sliding down to the floor.

The octopus was wasting no time, reportedly leaving "octopus tracks" where he slid more than two metres across the floor before squeezing into a 50 metre drainpipe and sliding into Hawke's Bay.

His escape wasn't a surprise to scientists in the field who said octopuses are known for their "strength, dexterity and intelligence".

The aquarium's manager, Rob Yarrall, told *Radio New Zealand* employees searched the aquarium's pipes after discovering Inky's trail - but there was no sign of him.

"Didn't even leave us a message," Yarrall playfully lamented.



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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Editor: Bruce Piper info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Nathalie Craig, Bonnie Tai, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik ads@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

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