



### Cruise Weekly today

*Cruise Weekly* today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### NCL Cuba on sale

**FOUR** roundtrip cruises from Miami with Norwegian Cruise Line are the latest Cuba itineraries to come online.

Set to sail from 01 May, *Norwegian Sky* will be the largest ship sailing to Cuba and will offer an overnight in Havana.

Norwegian will operate OFAC-compliant shore excursions which will visit a UNESCO World Heritage Site, view art, visit the local music scene and more.

The vessel will continue to NCL's private island destination in the Bahamas, Great Stirrup Cay.

For more see [www.ncl.com/au](http://www.ncl.com/au).

### Virgin order effective

**CONTRACTS** for three new cruise ships between Fincantieri and Virgin Voyages (**CW** 20 Oct) have come into effect.

The €2b agreement will see the three units built at the shipyard in Sestri Ponente, Genoa with delivery scheduled for 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Each will be about 110,000 gross tonnes, be 278m long and 38m wide and have a capacity for more than 2,800 passengers.

**MEANWHILE**, Fincantieri has established a local arm, Fincantieri Australia and will open a new Australian headquarters in Canberra soon.

The office will be led by Dario Deste, chairman of Fincantieri Australia and supported by Mark Purcell, svp Fincantieri Australia.

## Carnival's record profit

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has reported the most profitable year in the company's history and record fourth quarter earnings.

The corporation hauled in a whopping US\$2.8 billion in US GAAP net income for the full year 2016, an extra billion on the prior corresponding period (PCP).

Revenues for the full year 2016 were US\$16.4 billion, US\$700 million higher than the US\$15.7 billion in the prior year.

"The continued execution of our core strategy to drive consumer demand in excess of measured capacity growth, contain costs and leverage our industry-leading scale resulted in our third consecutive year of significantly higher earnings and return on invested capital," said Carnival Corp president and chief executive officer, Arnold Donald.

Gross revenue yields for Q4 increased 1.6%, while US GAAP net income reached US\$609

million, compared to US\$270 million for the prior year.

The "unusual" impact of fuel and currency worked against the company, decreasing earnings by \$0.04 per share compared with the PCP.

Next year is looking good for Carnival, with cumulative advance bookings for the first three quarters of 2017 well ahead of the prior year, and at considerably higher prices.

Booking volumes and prices for the first three quarters of 2017 have been "running well ahead of the prior year" since Sep.

The company expects full year 2017 net revenue yields to be up approximately 2.5%.

"We are anticipating another solid year of operational improvement in 2017," Donald added, noting "the underlying strength in our fundamental business leaves us well positioned to achieve sustained double digit return on invested capital".

### NZ pax Sth Africa visa

**FROM** 16 Jan, New Zealanders will need a visa to enter South Africa after a 20-year visa-free travel arrangement between the countries was scrapped.

Kiwis are required to obtain a visa from the South African High Commission prior to embarking.

### Merry Christmas!

**THIS** will be the final issue of *Cruise Weekly* for the year and we will be returning after the festive season on 03 Jan.

We hope your Christmas & New Year period is a jolly one!

### Cruise360 2017 date

**NEXT** year's CLIA Australasia's Cruise360 conference will fall on 25 Aug, three weeks earlier than this year's event.

"Cruise360 is a must-attend event for the cruise industry and our 2017 conference will include engaging seminars and opportunities to hear directly from cruise line members and industry leaders," said CLIA Australasia md Joel Katz.

The event will be held at Sydney's Hyatt Regency Hotel and the program will be revealed over coming months.

### MSC firms two ships

**THE** final contract between STX France and MSC Cruises for two Meraviglia-Plus cruise ships (**CW** 04 Feb) has come into effect.

Construction will begin "in due time", with the first scheduled for delivery in Oct 2019 and the other in Sep 2020.

The vessels will be the largest ever built for a European cruise line and the second largest globally, at 177,000GRT, 331m long and with a maximum capacity of 6,300 passengers.

MSC Cruises is executing a €9 billion investment plan for eleven new cruise ships that will come into service by 2026.

**MEANWHILE**, yesterday marked one year until *MSC Seaside* arrives in Miami.

### Coral Exp new tours

**CORAL** Expeditions has modified its Great Barrier Reef itineraries, replacing Pelorus Island with a rainforest tour on either Wheeler or Dunk Island.



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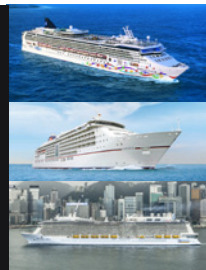
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## Ovation Dunedin skip

**DUNEDIN** cruise fanatics expecting to see *Ovation of the Seas* on the NZ horizon today may as well stay at home, with the superliner cancelling its call due to severe weather warnings.

The superliner also cancelled its scheduled scenic cruising in Dusky and Doubtful Sounds yesterday and instead increased the time spent in Milford Sound and Wellington.

## Grand Circle 2017

**FOUR** new small ship itineraries for 2017 have been released by Grand Circle Cruise Line, including the 16-day Italy's Western Coast & Islands and 17-day Undiscovered Adriatic.

Visit [www.gct.com](http://www.gct.com) for details.

## Northern Lights put on a show



**HURTIGRUTEN** and Bentours treated ten agents on a trip to Norway last month.

The team arrived in Oslo and explored fjords, mountains and valleys before spending seven nights aboard *MS Trollfjord*.

Travelling on the northbound route from Bergen to Kirkenes, a highlight on board was the coastal kitchen.

The initiative sees local produce collected daily from suppliers along the way.

With only three hours of sunlight a day, the group were given a very unique experience and a higher chance of seeing the Northern Lights.

## Fantasea new ship

**FANTASEA** Cruising has added a 16-seat water taxi to its Sydney fleet which will be used to service the small group market.

"Our industry partners are increasingly in need of options for small group, bespoke cruising, with complete flexibility for discerning groups and families," said Fantasea Cruising CEO Anthony Hayes.

Lo and behold, nature came through and participants were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights dance across the sky.

The group is **pictured** on board *MS Trollfjord* with one of Hurtigruten's captains.

## Cruise NZ disappoint

**CRUISE** New Zealand has expressed its disappointment that a newbuild for P&O Cruises Australia will not go ahead.

Executive officer Kevin O'Sullivan said the slow progress in building berths for larger ships in Auckland, as well as the hesitant call to provide a cruise ship berth in Lyttelton is hampering the growth of the cruise ship industry in NZ.

"The decision by P&O is a wakeup call that we must get our act together to improve cruise infrastructure if we are to continue to enjoy the benefits that cruise tourism brings," O'Sullivan said.

When *Ovation of the Seas* arrives in Auckland on 27 Dec, it will have to tender pax to shore as she is too long for the wharf.



Jill Abel - CEO



## An exciting season

AS WE approach the end of 2016 and others are looking to put their feet up and take a well-deserved break, our cruise industry members are in top gear to support the arrival of happy holiday makers around Australia.

We have already seen an exciting start to the season with the arrival of new ships such as *Emerald Princess* and *Ovation of the Seas* - the largest ship to ever cruise Australian waters - our members are working hard to ensure that guests enjoy their arrival into the ports.

We are also excited by the opportunities for our members to work alongside the cruise lines for special events. *Crystal Symphony* will arrive into Sydney on New Year's Eve so guests can ring in 2017 in one of the most beautiful harbours in the world.

In Jan, P&O will again run its Australian Tennis Open cruise package to Melbourne which includes a two day pass to the must see tennis tournament. In Mar, we will be heading to Florida for Seatrade Cruise Global.

The Association will be represented by a record number of delegates including those from Australia, PNG, NZ and New Caledonia, reflecting the continued growth of the Australian/Pacific cruise market.

As we head towards another exciting year, we want to take this opportunity to thank all our members and industry partners for their support and we look forward to working together in 2017.



**A SEAL** in New Zealand has gained quite the status after repeatedly settling in to catch some rays in rather inconvenient places.

Dubbed "Robbie" and "Dale" by the locals, one of the seal's most recent adventures involve laying in the middle of a road during the morning rush, meaning police had to be called to direct traffic.

Dunedin residents have started brainstorming ways to keep the Phocidae out.

"We were talking about getting a seal wall, and making the seals pay for the wall," radio presenter Jacob Kendall told *Newshub*.

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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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Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper

Editorial: [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Managing Editor: Jon Murrie

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

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan, Melanie Tchakmadjian [advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)

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

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