

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 02 Feb 2016

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a full page of jobs from **Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings**.

Kittson for Scenic



SCENIC has announced that Aussie actress and comedian Jean Kittson (**pictured**) will be godmother of its new *Scenic Azure* which is being christened in Porto, Portugal in Apr this year.

Scenic is the first operator to run its own purpose built river ship in the region, with the 48-cabin *Azure* having been custom built to cruise on the Douro while delivering Scenic's all-inclusive luxury experience.

Oceania & Regent go local

OCEANIA Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises will transition to the newly established Norwegian Cruise Line Holding's (NCLH) Asia Pacific headquarters in Sydney by 31 Mar.

NCLH is hiring "about a dozen" positions in field sales and in the contact centre in "the first wave" of recruitment for the two brands, Steve Odell, managing director NCHL Asia Pacific told **Cruise Weekly**.

Sales and call centre employees will be split up into two groups - the contemporary brand (Norwegian Cruise Line) and luxury (Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises), with back-office functions such as marketing and office management to be shared.

The move will see NCHL no longer represented by Wiltrans and the Cruise Office in Australia and Cruise Holidays in NZ.

"We've had representation since the company began but you never get a kind of full attack on the market unless you have your own office and your own

dedicated people," Odell said.

With the NCL office transition completed on 01 Jan, Odell said the trade has welcomed the investment in Australia.

"We've brought 50 new jobs to Sydney and the cruise business, that's been great for people who want to develop their experience and get involved in these brands," Odell told **CW**.

"We're really giving a lot to the local cruise industry in terms of potential to sell & make money."

The investment in NCL is already paying off, with the line's month-to-month sales for Jan running at about 50% ahead of the same time last year.

Agent education is a priority for the company, with a roadshow of all three brands around major cities planned for Apr and a series of fam trips in Europe and Hawaii in the works.

For details on the roles, see **pg4**.

Pitbull a hit for NCL

GODFATHER of *Norwegian Escape* and rapper Pitbull has been a successful ambassador for the cruise line in helping create a new generation of cruisers, Steve Odell, managing director NCHL Asia Pacific told **Cruise Weekly**.

"We've actually been really surprised," Odell said.

"Pitbull has been a very strong ambassador for us to use because he has such a huge following online so we've been able to use that, the music, the fun & party.

"That's not for all of our market but for the younger people that we're trying to attract, that has an appeal," Odell told **CW**.

MSC newbuilds

MSC Cruises has confirmed it will go ahead with construction of two additional Meraviglia class vessels at the STX shipyards in Saint-Nazaire, France.

The US\$1.7 billion order will see the vessels scheduled for delivery in Oct 2019 and Dec 2020.

The newbuilds will have 2,444 staterooms - 200 more than their predecessors - with maximum capacity for 6,300 passengers.



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Emerald's smoke on the water

EMERALD Waterways' newest ship, *Emerald Belle* has suffered "significant" damage from a late night fire over the weekend.

The fire broke out on board *Belle* in the Den Breejen Shipyard in the Netherlands, where she is under construction.

"At 12:30am (UTC+1:00) Sun morning, the owner of the Den Breejen Shipyard was alerted to a fire on *Emerald Belle*," said Glen Moroney, chairman of the Scenic Group, and owner of the Emerald Waterways line.

"Despite the efforts of firefighters, who were quickly

at the scene, the damage is significant."

The fire was concentrated in the bow section of the ship where all public areas are situated, but the damage extends beyond these areas, with additional damage caused by the water required to extinguish the fire.

The firefighting system on board was not yet operational and investigations are underway by local marine and fire authorities to confirm the cause of the fire.

Belle was set to sail in Apr and approximately 650 bookings are impacted by the fire.

Evergreen is in the process of reviewing bookings to see if they can be accommodated on similar departures on other Emerald or Scenic ships.

Nobody was on board at the time and there were no injuries to any shipyard worker or firefighters.

For ongoing updates on the affected sailings, head to evergreentours.com.au.

HAL finishes sea trials

HOLLAND America Line's *ms Koningsdam* has successfully completed two sets of sea trials off the Italian coast.

MEANWHILE, HAL has released the fourth "Countdown to *Koningsdam*" video, with the latest instalment showcasing the ship's staterooms and suites - [CLICK HERE](#).

Uniworld to add Joie de Vivre

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises will add another vessel to its European fleet next year, with the *SS Joie de Vivre* set to debut on 28 Mar 2017, *Cruise Weekly* can exclusively reveal.

Uniworld president Guy Young is currently in Australia, and will formally make the announcement of the new ship later today.

Joie de Vivre will sail in France on a "Paris and Impressions of the Seine" ten-day round-trip from the French capital.

Claimed to be "the most majestic ship on the Seine," itineraries will take in Auvers-sur-Oise, Etretat and Le Havre, Giverny and the beaches of Normandy.

At 125m in length the ship is the longest length permissible on the Seine, and will carry 128 guests in 64 staterooms including a total of ten suites, five of which offer triple accommodation.

Joie de Vivre will also be the first ship to feature two Royal Suites, while other onboard features include an infinity swimming pool, spa, fitness centre and a



dedicated wine tasting room.

The pool can also be covered to create a unique dining experience.

Europe going strong

EUROPE is still in "huge demand", with passengers looking for more of the smaller ports and intimate choices, Steve Odell, md NCHL Asia Pacific told *Cruise Weekly*.

The Baltic region is booming this year, with cruises out of Copenhagen up to St Petersburg particularly popular.

Odell says the company is moving to give people unique experiences in Europe, with a mix of out-of-the-way ports and highlight ports such as Venice.

"I think people want a mix of culture as well as nice relaxing resorts with beaches," Odell said.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	02 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	03 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	04 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	05 Feb
<i>Pacific Venus</i>	05 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	06 Feb
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	08 Feb
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	08 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	02 Feb
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	05 Feb
<i>Golden Princess</i>	05 Feb
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	06 Feb
<i>Amsterdam</i>	08 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	08 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Europa</i>	03 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	05 Feb
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	06 Feb
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	08 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Pacific Venus</i>	02 Feb
<i>Noordam</i>	03 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	06 Feb
<i>Golden Princess</i>	06 Feb
FREMANTLE	
<i>Astor</i>	02 Feb
EDEN	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	02 Feb
AUCKLAND	
<i>Amsterdam</i>	02 Feb
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	04 Feb
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	07 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	07 Feb
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	08 Feb
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	08 Feb
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	08 Feb
AKAROA	
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	02 Feb
<i>Le Soleal</i>	03 Feb
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	07 Feb
<i>Noordam</i>	08 Feb

Azamara emerges

AZAMARA Journey has emerged from dry dock with new venues, public spaces and technologies set to debut in Australia in Feb 2017.

The Patio now offers an al fresco dining experience, while Windows Café Discoveries Restaurant, Discoveries Bar and Living Room all have new decor and furniture.

The Casino has received new slot machines, sleek carpets, and reupholstered seating and, the Spirits bar has been completely transformed.

New Pandaw ship

PANDAW has revealed a new ship, the *Yunnan Pandaw* will launch this Sep, cruising a 14-night itinerary from Vientiane to Jinghong (or vv).

The *Yunnan Pandaw* will have 12 main deck and two upper deck staterooms, an observation deck and dining room.

Bollywood cruise

THE world's first Indian Cricket and Bollywood cruise has launched in Mumbai, with the product commissionable for Australian travel agents.

Monarch Cruise is headlined by brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar, and offers guests the opportunity to be "up close and personal" with cricketing legends, Bollywood superstars, celebrity DJs and MasterChefs.

The voyage will cruise on the *SuperStar Virgo* - for more details contact James Sitters on j.sitters@monarchcruise.com or see www.monarchcruise.com.

Costa designer

COSTA Cruises has appointed New York "hospitality designer" Adam Tihany as creative director for its two newbuilds which are scheduled for delivery from 2019.

The vessels will be the first in the cruise industry to be powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (along with two newbuilds for German sister brand Aida).

Tihany's design pedigree includes the creation of luxurious interiors and signature restaurants at some of the world's most iconic properties including The Beverly Hills Hotel in LA, the Mandarin Oriental Las Vegas and the Belmond Cipriani in Venice.

Hurtigruten to use shore power

HURTIGRUTEN today announced it would modify several of its vessels to use shore power when in port, after signing an agreement with the Port of Bremen for the development of the land-based connections.

The environmental initiative will significantly reduce fuel consumption and air pollution during port calls, and Hurtigruten is encouraging other ports to follow suit.

Silversea wellness

SILVERSEA Cruises is partnering with fitness company Technogym to operate a series of Wellness Expedition Voyages aboard its *Silver Discoverer*.

Fitness classes, spa treatments and gym sessions are on offer on cruises in Southeast Asia, Australia, Oceania, Africa, and the Indian Ocean.



A PAIR of amateur sailors have been dubbed 'Captain Calamities' after being rescued nine times so far as they venture across the Atlantic.

The 71-year old American screenwriter and former Army helicopter pilot set off on a 38-year-old vessel in Jul from Norway with the goal of sailing to Maine within 12 months.

The most recent disaster occurred when the pair made a mistake tying up their boat and it tipped at low tide, with a candle on board lighting a fire.

Two fire crews, two water rescue teams, police, coastguard and an ambulance crew all attended the blaze.

The sailors have insisted their "resilient" boat is "fit to sail", despite so far the team suffering a leak, a dead battery and running aground several times.

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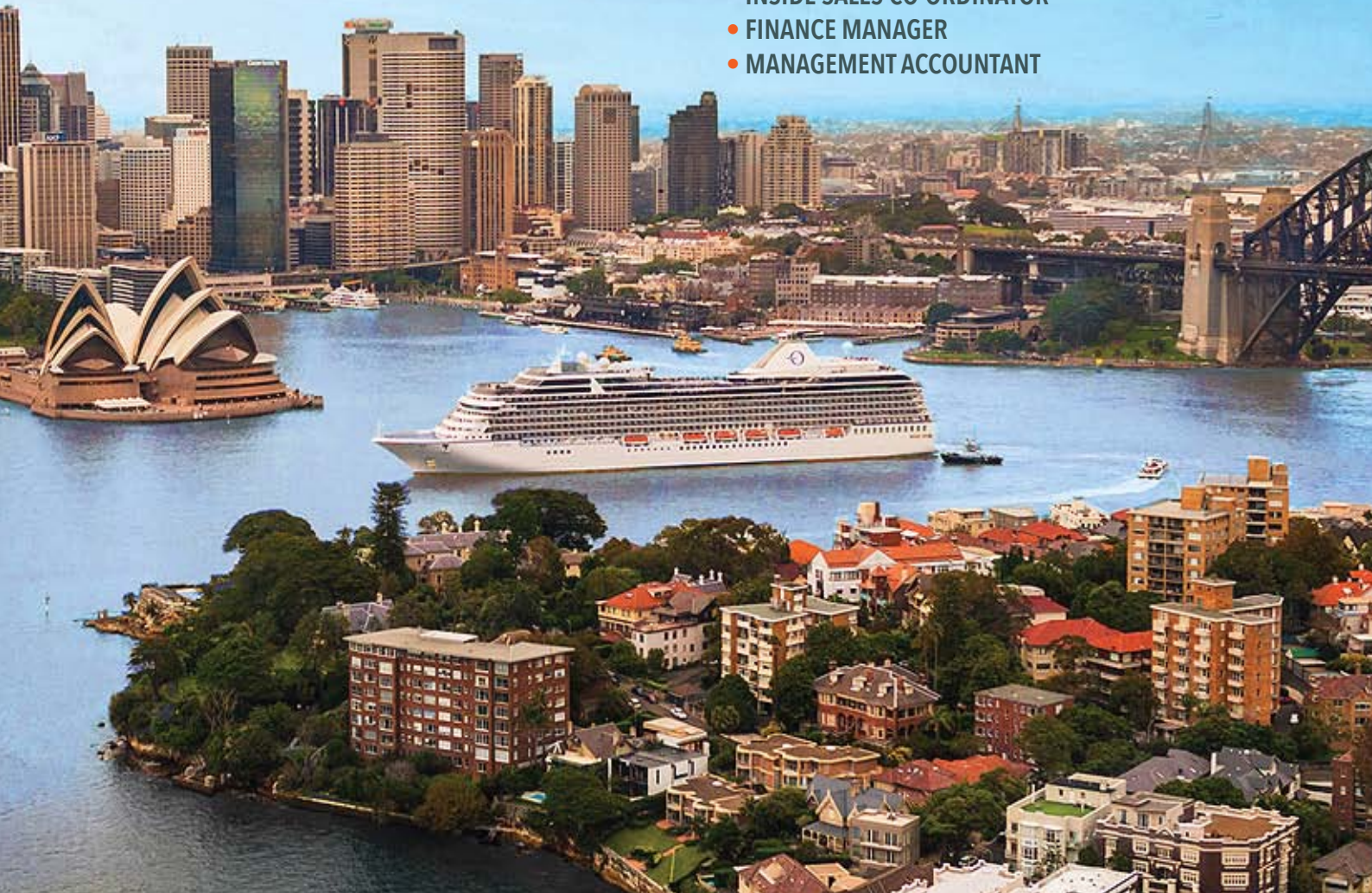
Oceania Cruises offers an unrivalled cruise experience, renowned for luxurious ships and the finest cuisine at sea and destination-rich itineraries spanning the globe.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises is the most inclusive luxury experience™, famous for highly personalised service and acclaimed cuisine, with some of the most spacious ships at sea visiting nearly 350 destinations around the world. Launching in July 2016, Seven Seas Explorer will be the 'most luxurious ship ever built'.

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