

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 16 Feb 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

Liberty Set Free

ROYAL Caribbean International's *Liberty of the Seas* has emerged from dry dock with far more than a new coat of paint.

The ship has had a bow-to-stern makeover introducing a number of firsts for the line including a new collection of waterslides, boomerang style slide-at-sea as well as an aqua park with an interactive kids zone.

There's also an array of new dining and beverage facilities.

SuperStar deals

FOR select departures in Feb and Mar, Star Cruises is offering buy one-get-one-free deals on sailings of two- to five-night cruises from Singapore aboard *Superstar Gemini*.

When one pax pays full fare for their cruise plus taxes, the second will pay just taxes.

Plus those booking a balcony cabin will get a bonus food and beverage credit.

Prices start at \$321pp.

P&O dining changes

P&O has introduced an on board booking system for Angelo's Italian and Dragon Lady on *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden*.

Prior to the ships' launch P&O flagged that surcharges may apply to the restaurants, but decided that the surcharges were unnecessary.

New Brisbane port advances

A \$100M mega ship cruise facility at the mouth of the Brisbane River may become a reality, with the Port of Brisbane given the green light to investigate the development of a new terminal.

The proposed location at Luggage Point has access to a swing basin, allowing vessels 270m+ in length access, deep water frontage, close proximity to the airport, separation from cargo-related activities and the ability to expand in the future.

Currently vessels longer than 270m are restricted to berthing at Fisherman's Island as there is no dedicated facility in Brisbane to accommodate mega ships.

"By 2020, mega ships will represent approximately 60% of Brisbane's vessel calls and without a new facility, Brisbane and Queensland may miss out on future visits," Port of Brisbane ceo Roy Cummins said.

A new cruise facility has potent to triple the size of Brisbane's cruise industry over the next 20 years, bringing 766,260 int'l and domestic cruise visitors annually to the state, and contributing approx \$1 billion in gross output annually to Qld's economy.

Both Carnival Australia and Royal Caribbean outpoured support for the move.

Carnival Australia executive

Silversea new role

SILVERSEA has stepped up their presence in Australia and NZ with the newly created role of national expedition sales manager.

For details, see **pg 2**.

chairman Ann Sherry said the "announcement means we are moving one step closer to a solution that meets the long-term needs of the industry".

Gavin Smith, regional vp, RCL Cruises Asia Pacific said "Australia requires new, modern and fit for purpose cruise infrastructure, which is accessible by modern cruise ships of all sizes".

With existing infrastructure, only one of RCL's ships worldwide is able to access the Brisbane Cruise Terminal.

The Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) also welcomed the move, with BAC ceo & md Julieanne Alroe saying the project "will provide real momentum in growing the State's primacy in the int'l & domestic visitor economy".

Port of Brisbane will now complete design, environmental & technical investigations.

Seabourn eye the rich

SEABOURN is aspiring to bring its average booking up to US\$18,000, the cruise line's svp global marketing and sales, John Delaney told media on Fri.

Seabourn is well on its way, with its average transaction for 2016 so far sitting at \$US17,000.

"We've attracted a very different kind of affluent traveller," Delaney said.

In 2011, when the average was US\$11,000, Seabourn was "scraping the top of premium".

Today, Seabourn's guests "travel all the time, they travel incredibly well and they have very high expectations," Delaney said.

For more, see **pg 3**.

Walk This Way

IN WHAT will be a welcome relief for cruise ship passengers docking in Darwin, work has started on a new \$1.2m shaded walkway from the cruise terminal to Darwin's precinct area.

The structure above the walkway will maximise shade and complement other existing infrastructure at the waterfront.

When complete it will cover 350 meters of path.



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“Stylish Sat” in Syd

SATURDAY saw four of the world’s most luxurious vessels berthed in Sydney Harbour - with an unprecedented two vessels at Circular Quay (see right).

The 142-metre long PONANT *Le Soleal* and 180-metre long *Azamara Quest* shared the Quay for the day, while the 458-guest *Seabourn Odyssey* and Silversea Cruises’ 382-guest *Silver Whisper* were berthed at White Bay Cruise Terminal.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia commercial director Brett Jardine said the four ships brought more than 2,800 visitors to the city.

“CLIA studies show int’l passengers from Sydney spend an average \$762 a day in the city, while transiting guests spend more than \$200 a day...we estimate these ships’ visits would have injected more than \$2 million into the economy in just one day,” Jardine said.

Le Soleal swings by Sydney



Photo credit: Nick Rains

“**THIS** is a feel for what you’ll get, it’s a sexy French feel, that ain’t going to go away”, Sarina Bratton, chairman-Australasia, Compagnie du Ponant, told trade aboard luxury yacht *Le Soleal* in Sydney for the first time on Sat.

Bratton also assured trade of Ponant’s commitment to

continuing with fleet expansion.

“We are finding we’ve got so much demand for our product that we have to expand and yet there are more destinations for us to go to,” Bratton added.

Whilst no exact details were provided on new ship builds, Bratton alluded to expansion occurring from 2018 and beyond and suggested that the style of *Le Soleal* will be the basis for future yacht developments.

Le Soleal, launched in Jun 2013, has an ice rated hull and is regularly seen in both the Arctic and Antarctic.

The vessel represents the latest in nautical design, a step forward from the traditional brass and glass of older ships.

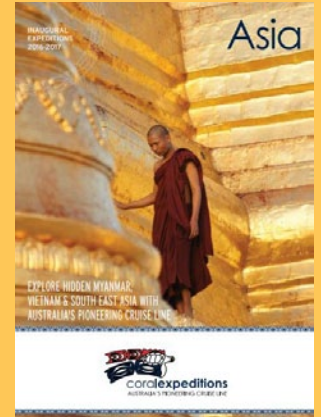
At just 142m long she boasts stylish interiors created by French designer Jean-Philippe Nuel.

See more photos [HERE](#).



Brochure Spotlight

Coral Expeditions - Asia 2016/17



Coral Expeditions has released a series of new itineraries exploring South East Asia. The inaugural Asia season features a series of seven expeditions charting the diverse coastlines of Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. Itineraries run from Nov 2016 to Feb 2017 and visit areas only accessible by small ship. The season will begin with an eight-night itinerary from Kalimantan to Singapore, where *the Coral Discoverer* will undergo a major refurbishment. Highlights in the itineraries include sailing up the Irrawaddy River to berth in the old working river port at Yangon and visiting the still-active Anak Krakatau volcano in Indonesia.

SILVERSEA®

Silversea Cruises own and operate a fleet of eight “Boutique” cruise ships and is recognised as the market leader in the ultra-luxury sector. Their Expedition fleet of 4 purpose-built, luxury expedition ships carry guests to the furthest boundaries of the planet from the Arctic to the Antarctic, and this year, in partnership with long term partner The Royal Geographic Society, will celebrate the centenary of Shackleton’s Endurance Expedition on their Antarctic & South Georgia programme.

NATIONAL EXPEDITION SALES MANAGER (SYD, MEL or BNE based)

We are seeking a results driven, National Expedition Sales Manager to take ownership of the expedition segment, driving revenue performance through the sales development and management of a national portfolio of accounts across both AU and NZ. Reporting to the GM Australasia and working closely with the local field sales team and global expedition team, this newly created role is accountable for delivering revenue targets through both strategic and tactical efforts and responsible for contract negotiation, budget management, marketing planning, regular sales calls and developing agency point of sale and incentive programs. To be considered for this role you must have significant sales experience within the expedition travel sector, preferably with a luxury brand and be able to demonstrate exceptional public speaking, relationship, negotiation and communication skills and be flexible to travel nationwide on a regular basis.

Confidential applications to Philippa Baker on 02 9506 7000 or email Philippa@alexander-associates.com.au
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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	16 Feb
<i>Artania</i>	16 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	16 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	17 Feb
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	18 Feb
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	19 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	19 Feb
<i>Aurora</i>	20 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	21 Feb
<i>Ms Marina</i>	22 Feb

MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	16 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	17 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	18 Feb
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	18 Feb
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	19 Feb

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	16 Feb
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	16 Feb
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	18 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	19 Feb
<i>Artania</i>	19 Feb
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	19 Feb
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	20 Feb

WHITSUNDAYS	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	16 Feb
<i>Le Soleal</i>	19 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	21 Feb
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	21 Feb
<i>Artania</i>	21 Feb
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	22 Feb

ADELAIDE	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	16 Feb

DARWIN	
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	20 Feb
<i>Amsterdam</i>	20 Feb

CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	16 Feb
<i>Amsterdam</i>	16 Feb
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	17 Feb
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	19 Feb
<i>Le Soleal</i>	22 Feb

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Carnival promotion

CARNIVAL Corporation & plc has promoted Trey Hickey to the newly created role of senior vice president, international sales for the Princess Cruises brand.

He was previously vice president of international sales.

Super RCI savings

ROYAL Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises are offering a range of specials on select departures when booked by 20 Feb.

RCI has six cruise sailings with fares starting from \$999pp for a 14-night Asia and East Coast Treasures cruise dep 16 Apr.

Celebrity Cruises is offering a range of European itineraries with savings of up to 45% and Azamara Club Cruises is giving guests free upgrades on a selection of sailings onboard *Azamara Journey* and *Azamara Quest* - call 1800 754 500.

Oceania new desserts

OCEANIA Cruises is rolling out an expanded dessert offering with pastries developed in conjunction with world-renowned Master Pastry Chef Christophe Menard.

Seabourn's taste of Encore



SEABOURN *Encore* will be "the most beautiful ship that Seabourn has ever built", the cruise line's svp global marketing and sales, John Delaney told agents and media on board *Seabourn Odyssey* on Fri.

Set for delivery in Dec this year, *Seabourn Encore* will head straight for Sydney following an inaugural ceremony in Singapore.

Guests can look forward to a ship that looks "an awful lot like the *Odyssey*, *Sojourn* and the *Quest*", but bigger.

"We want to keep a consistent fleet, yes it's bigger, but it's bigger because its longer, wider and has one extra deck but it is the same basic footprint and deck plan of those ships," Delaney said.

Delaney announced a sushi restaurant will be on board and Seabourn Square has been redone to give it "a cafe feel".

Grab-and-go items will be expanded, a pastry oven will be added and the cruise line will be roasting their own coffee beans.

The suites will be a little larger due to the wider ship and the ship will be fitted out with a US\$3 million art package, with

each piece hand-selected for the space.

As for the rest of the line, Seabourn has hired mixologist Brian Van Flandern and will be "stepping up the entire bar delivery service, cocktail and mixology to a whole new level".

Also on the cards is a dedicated Thomas Keller restaurant on *Quest*, a new spa enhancement, a series of new international concerts and art and a champagne upgrade.

Pictured: John Delaney with Richard Maier, public rooms manager and Bogdan Crnobrnja, bar manager at the agent and media lunch on Fri.

Crystal's maiden calls

FOUR new ports will be part of *Crystal Serenity's* 94-day Southern Celebración voyage departing 10 Jan, 2017.

Crystal's maiden call destinations on the 2017 World Cruise are: Santo Tomás de Castilla, Guatemala, Matarani, Peru, Iquique, Chile and Castro Island, Chile.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.



SEA animals seem to be acting out lately, with a video circulating the web of Catarina the 'gangster' pet crab waving a stolen knife while fleeing from her owner in Brazil.

In the video, the owner is seen trying to remove the blue and silver knife from the crab's claw several times.

But the crab raised the knife, waving it around whilst backing away along a wall.

Watch Catarina **HERE**.

MEANWHILE, the sea lion with expensive tastes who was found sitting inside a San Diego restaurant earlier this month is on the mend.

The underweight sea lion was found on 04 Feb asleep in a dining booth at The Marine Room, and has since been cared for at SeaWorld's Animal Rescue Center.

She could be released in the next six to eight weeks.