

Cruise Weekly today

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

Eclipse microsite

SCENIC has launched a specific microsite to promote its brand new ocean cruising project, *Scenic Eclipse* at scenic.com.au/eclipse.

The portal provides extensive information on *Eclipse*, as well as a promotion video - [CLICK HERE](#).

Scenic set new benchmark in ocean luxe

MOVE over Ponant, Silversea, Seabourn and Regent Seven Seas, there's a brand new mega yacht operator on the horizon and it's Australian owned & is preparing to redefine luxury cruising.

Speaking on Sat at Scenic's Night of Stars trade event, chairman Glen Moroney revealed what the company has been planning "in its spare time" for the past three years, officially launching the world's first 'Discovery Yacht'.

Slated to enter service in late Aug 2018, the ultra luxury vessel *Scenic Eclipse* (**CW** breaking news) will provide new benchmarks in terms of technology, luxury, space, amenities and safety.

At a maximum capacity of 228 guests, *Eclipse* is set to offer "the ultimate in all-inclusive luxury," Scenic says, "from opulent suites and 6-star amenities, to attentive service and world-class cuisine".

Scenic Eclipse features Verandah Suites (32m²), Deluxe Verandah Suites (38m²), Spa Suites (48m²), Panorama Suites (56m²), Grand Panorama Suite (100m²), Owner's Penthouse (185m²) and the Two-bedroom Owner's Suite (233m² including a 65m² terrace).

The eight-deck ship will offer six on board dining options, including contemporary French, Pan Asian & Italian restaurants, plus butler service for all guests and a staff-to-guest ratio of almost 1:1.

Among *Eclipse's* features will be two twin-engine helicopters and a submarine, opening up new possibilities of exploration.

Accommodating six guests plus the pilot, the submarine (**right**) is certified to explore depths of up to 200 metres.

Destinations for the ship will include Antarctica, the Arctic & Fjords, Europe & the Mediterranean and the Americas.

Scenic has assigned Croatian shipbuilder Uljanik Group (which specialises in barges and ferries) to construct *Scenic Eclipse*.

Speaking of the development, Moroney told **Cruise Weekly** the firm had come close to signing contracts on numerous occasions for its first ocean-going ship, but baulked.

"We had a multitude of different designs and we kept going back and improving them.

"We actually got really close to contract stage twice, but we weren't happy, so we turned around, went back & did it again. It's been a gradual improvement," he told **Cruise Weekly**.

Moroney told attendees at the event that *Eclipse* originally

passenger ship ice class rating of Polar Class 6 (Ice Class 1A Super), surpassing new polar codes being rolled out in 2018.

The ship (**below**) will be fitted with world-class internal safety features, including a reinforced double-hull and independent



back up engine room, wheelhouse and more.

Oversized stabilisers will ensure a smoother ride than any other luxury yacht in market.

"Our aim is to get people who have never been to Antarctica there because they were too scared of Drake Passage.

"Of course we can't smooth the oceans, but if we can make it as smooth as possible, then this ship will certainly do that," Moroney commented.

A sister-ship to *Scenic Eclipse* is almost certainly on the cards.

"We've got a firm option for a second ship for delivery in May 2019, and I think it is most likely that it will be



started out "relatively simplistic but ended up with absolutely no compromises".

"Most important to us was safety and comfort of our guests. *Eclipse* will have the highest

built," he told **Cruise Weekly**.

Questioned by **CW** how he was so sure there was a void in the luxe yacht market for *Scenic Eclipse*, Moroney said "Well I'm not. I'm just hoping!"

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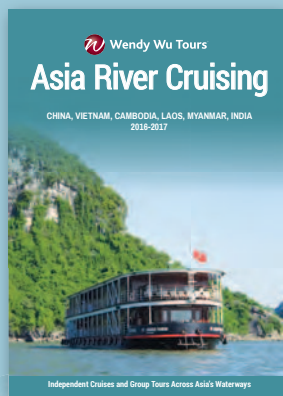


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Azamara keen to expand

AZAMARA hotel director, Philip Herbert, told *Cruise Weekly* he was "confident" newbuilds would be announced for the company in the near future.

"With the noise I've heard at head office in Miami, hopefully it won't be too long now," he said on *Azamara Quest* during her maiden visit to Sydney last Fri.

Before any line expansion can take place, Azamara has \$50 million worth of dry dock refits to complete on its two vessels.

Azamara Journey is currently undergoing a \$25 million refit in the Bahamas and *Azamara Quest* will have an identical makeover in Singapore this Apr.

All of the staterooms will be refreshed and the ships will have new carpets, curtains and soft furnishings throughout.

With a 95% repeat guest rate, Azamara asked its regulars for their feedback before finalising plans for the upgrades.

A spokeswoman for Azamara said the guests requested the cabaret lounge remain untouched during the facelift.

Azamara Quest left Sydney on Sat for a 16-night Australia and

New Zealand cruise with calls at Melbourne, Port Arthur, Hobart, Milford Sound, Dunedin, Akaroa, Picton, Napier and Tauranga before arriving in Auckland.

She will then sail a return trip to Sydney from Auckland, before repositioning back to Asia.

Azamara has confirmed it will deploy a ship to Australia for another two seasons, with *Azamara Journey* arriving for the first time in 2017 and *Azamara Quest* returning in 2018.

Herbert said Australians were the third largest demographic aboard Azamara cruises followed by North American and the UK.

"Heading into 2016 I won't be surprised if Australia takes second place on that list," he said.

Carnival Corp's new chair in China

CARNIVAL Corporation & plc has announced the appointment of Roger Chen as chairman in China, effective 01 Jan.

Chen brings over 25 years of experience working for major global companies and has been employed by the Chinese govt.

MEANWHILE, food and beverage offerings are being added to *Carnival Inspiration* as part of her multi-million dollar makeover.

New options to be added include: Guy's Burger Joint, Blueiguana Cantina, RedFrog Rum Bar, Alchemy Bar, Blueiguana Tequila Bar and Cherry On Top.

The vessel went into dry dock yesterday and is due to be completed 05 Feb, after which she will resume her year-round schedule.

Evergreen ships for France and Portugal

EVERGREEN Tours is expanding its fleet of European river cruising vessels in 2017 to include two new 'Star Ships' destined for the rivers of Portugal and France.

The new additions include the 138-passenger *Emerald Liberté* which is stencilled on Evergreen's existing fleet of ships, but on a smaller scale (110m vs 135m), with 16 staterooms and 54 suites.

Facilities such as *Emerald's* pool/cinema zone at the rear of the ship will also be carried over.

Liberté will be dedicated to Portugal's Duoro River.

At 89m in length, *Emerald Radiance* will sail on the Rhône and Saône rivers in France, carrying 112 guests (split over 10 staterooms and 46 suites) and will feature a rooftop pool.

Radiance will also feature a new category of suite on the Horizon Deck which provides windows on both sides of the ship.

Liberté and *Radiance* will offer eight day itineraries which start from \$3,695ppts and can be sold as a 15-day Duoro & Southern France River Cruise, priced from \$7,985ppts including flights.

City-extensions are available in Lisbon, Nice and Paris.

GM Angus Crichton told *Cruise Weekly* the big selling point of the new ships is Evergreen will offer seamless itinerary connections.

"Guests can enjoy an eight-day Duoro cruise starting on Saturday then join the Rhône cruise the following Saturday," he said.

"Alternatively they can cruise from Amsterdam to Basel over 8 days and then seamlessly transfer to the Rhône cruise."

Evergreen's preview brochure is offering 2017 trips at 2016 prices.



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Tuesday 19 Jan 2016

Scenic's stars come out in Syd



OVER 240 agents attended Scenic's glamorous 'Night of Stars' awards in Sydney on Sat.

Seven awards were given to the top offices in each state plus four national awards – Top Multiple Location Agency and Top Single Location Agency; and the Top Consultants in Australia and New Zealand.

Weston Cruise & Travel was a

big winner on the night, taking home the NSW/ACT award for Top Office, the National Award for a Single Location and Owner Deb Long won Top Consultant National Awards - Australia.

Long is pictured (centre) with Scenic's Emma Davie, national sales manager and Rob Kalemba, national business development manager.

Tempo 2-for-1 deal

TEMPO Holidays is offering a two-for-one deal on Classical Rhine and Across Europe cruises booked from yesterday through to 19 Feb.

The Across Europe cruise travels between Budapest and Amsterdam and is available for travel between 28 Apr-28 Aug.

The Classical Rhine cruises between Basel and Amsterdam and the special is valid for travel between 01 Aug-27 Oct.

Visit tempoholidays.com.

Crystal avoids Turkey

CRYSTAL Cruises has rerouted two of its itineraries for *Crystal Symphony*, replacing visits to Istanbul and Kusadasi due to security concerns.

The 24 Apr sailing will instead call into Souda Bay/Chaina, Navplion, Hydra & Athens/Piraeus and the 01 May trip to Athens/Piraeus, Patmos and Rhodes.

Crystal ceo and president Edie Rodriguez said "the safety and peace of mind of our guests are our primary concerns, and we do not take any risks with either."

Turkish ports of call scheduled for Apr and Nov aboard *Crystal Esprit* will also be changed, but itineraries are yet to be finalised.

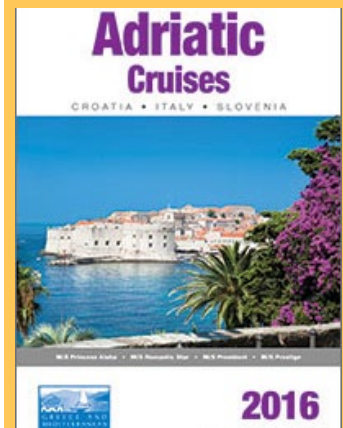
Strand industry rate

THE *Strand Cruise* in Myanmar is offering the industry 50% off published rates, excluding 05 & 08 Feb, 25 Mar, 23, 26 & 30 Dec departures - to book, contact sales@thestrاندcruise.com.



Brochure Spotlight

Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre - Adriatic Cruises 2016



THE Adriatic Cruises 2016 program offers a combination of adventure and relaxation on newly built vessels, *M/S Princess Aloha*, *M/S Romantic Star*, *M/S President* and *M/S Prestige*.

Trips range from eight to 12 days in length and explore Croatia, Slovenia, Italy.

New tours for 2016 are the 10-day Croatia & Adriatic Cruise, 12-day Adriatic Cruise Croatia & Italy and 8-day Adriatic Cruise on *M/S Prestige* or *President*.

Highlights include exploring fishermen's villages, national parks, swimming in picturesque coves, island hopping and tasting local Mediterranean cuisine.



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Due to expansion we are seeking an experienced Reservations Team Leader. In this hands-on leadership role you'll be consulting at a senior level whilst also managing the small reservations team so it's essential to come from a strong sales and customer service background with previous travel consulting experience in the expedition, luxury or cruise space plus the ability to manage, drive and inspire a small contact centre team.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	19 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	19 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	21 Jan
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	22 Jan
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	23 Jan
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	24 Jan
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	24 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	25 Jan
MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	21 Jan
<i>Golden Princess</i>	23 Jan
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	24 Jan
BRISBANE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	22 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 Jan
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	23 Jan
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	24 Jan
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	25 Jan
HOBART	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	20 Jan
ALBANY	
<i>Astor</i>	21 Jan
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Venus</i>	21 Jan
<i>Astor</i>	25 Jan
YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	19 Jan
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	20 Jan
AUCKLAND	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	19 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	19 Jan

On board the Quest



CRUISE Weekly enjoyed a tour of *Azamara Quest* when she made her inaugural call into Sydney Harbour last Fri.

The mid-sized boutique liner features six dining options, seven different entertainment venues and lounges as well as a fitness centre, spa, thalassotherapy pool, acupuncture at sea, salon and main pool with jacuzzi, topped off with English butler service.

To help travel agents familiarise themselves with the unique Azamara brand, hundreds of agents were invited on board the vessel during its Australian visit.

"There's something really special about these cruises," Azamara hotel director (pictured) Philip Herbert, told **CW**.

"People come for the unique ports we can take them to and

leave saying how good the cruise itself was. It's a common reaction," he said.

See a gallery on **Facebook**.

Rijksmuseum at Sea

REPRODUCTIONS of some of the art at Netherlands' museum Rijksmuseum will be installed on *ms Oosterdam* during her dry dock in Apr & will move fleetwide over the next several years.

Avalon waives supp

AVALON Waterways has waived single supplements across its 2016 season of European river cruises for bookings until 08 Apr.

The offer applies to deluxe staterooms (category D and E) aboard all European departures.

To book, call 1300 230 234.

P&O's all time high

THE first week of Jan proved to be the biggest on record for P&O Cruises Australia, with bookings up 84% year-on-year.

Thu 07 Jan was the biggest booking day ever, encouraged by the cruise line's 24-hour sale.

P&O Australia president Sture Myrmell said the latest ships, *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria*, are in demand.

"We've been selling our expanded five-ship fleet for more than 12 months, but the bookings for *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden* are really pouring in now that the ships are here," Myrmell said.



JEDI-MASTERS have returned from the first of eight *Disney Fantasy* sailings (**CW** 12 Feb 15), where they were transported to a galaxy far, far away for a Star Wars Day at Sea.

Guests enjoyed a full day of Star Wars celebrations, including a deck party, meet-and-greets with characters, Star Wars-themed family and youth activities, unique food and beverage offerings, and special merchandise.

Padawans will be able to use the force on further cruises sailing on 23 Jan, 06 & 20 Feb, 05 & 19 Mar, 02 & 16 Apr.



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