

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 28 Jan 2016

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Concordia photos

**THE** *Costa Concordia* disaster is set to become front of mind next month with the launch of a new book featuring images of the submerged wreck.

The book is being published by photographer Jonathan Danko Kielkowski, who says he swam to the *Concordia* in Aug 2014 and found it "freely accessible".

"The wrecked cruise ship is visible and attracts me like a magnet, so I finally venture to swim across," he said.

The new book will be released in a limited edition of 800 copies at the Los Angeles Art Book Fair on 11 Feb.

It's also available for ordering online at [www.whitepress.com](http://www.whitepress.com).

## Coral Expeditions into Asia

**AUSTRALIAN-FOUNDED** expedition cruise line Coral Expeditions has confirmed its expansion into the Asian market (*CW* 23 Jul 2015), with the launch of seven expedition itineraries in South East Asia.

The adventure expeditions will sail from Nov 2016 to Feb 2017, with the first an eight-night cruise from Kalimantan to Singapore.

Upon arrival in Singapore, the *Coral Discoverer* will undergo a major refurbishment to add a new class of Bridge Deck Balcony Staterooms and a new Sun Deck bar-lounge.

The itineraries range from 8-17 nights in length and chart the coastlines of Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Highlights of the new trips include sailing up the Irrawaddy River to Yangon, visiting the

still-active Anak Krakatua volcano in Indonesia and navigating the southern most tip of Vietnam.

Designed to appeal to active travellers, the itineraries are aimed at those looking to explore areas of the region only accessible by small ship.

"Our Asia season will be one of the most exciting series of itineraries for Coral Expeditions," said Group gm, Mark Fifield.

"These are truly expedition style cruises that bring our signature sense of adventure, dining experiences and Australian hospitality that our guests have come to know and love."

The line's expansion follows its majority acquisition from founders Tony and Vicki Briggs by Singapore-based Kallang Capital Holdings (*TD* 16 Dec 2014).

For more info or to book, visit [www.coralexpeditions.com](http://www.coralexpeditions.com).

## Local Celebrity TVC

**CELEBRITY** Cruises' first television commercial in Australia went to air on Foxtel over the weekend.

The advert highlights the brand's offerings – both onboard and ashore and concludes "here you'll discover why we've been voted best premium cruise line, eight years running".

The TVC headlines a new brand campaign for Celebrity Cruises in Australia & NZ and runs alongside new print and online ads.

View the TVC **HERE**.

## RCL to hire 30,000

**ROYAL** Caribbean plans to hire as many as 30,000 Filipino crew members over the next five years, according to the *Manila Bulletin*.

The company has launched a new personnel office and training facility in Manila to provide staff for its growing fleet.

Australia's  
**MEGA**  
CRUISE SHIP

TONIGHT 7:30 9

**LEARN MORE**

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

The advertisement features a large, 3D-rendered cruise ship deck with a green sports field in the center, set against a sunset sky over the ocean. The text is overlaid on the image.

## MSC halts Turkey calls

MSC Cruises has suspended calls in Turkish ports until further notice "amid growing concerns by guests as a result of the recent tragic events in Istanbul," the company said in a statement.

*MSC Magnifica's* weekly calls into Istanbul and Izmir from 29 Mar will be swapped out for Athens and Mykonos in Greece.

Last week, Crystal Cruises' announced it will replace visits to Istanbul and Kusadasi due to security concerns (CW 19 Jan).

## Travelmarvel savings

TRAVELMARVEL is offering earlybird deals across all of its European river cruise, ocean, rail and land journeys for 2017.

A 'Fly Free' deal is available on all river cruise dates, across all cabins, all 2017 itineraries will be offered at 2016 prices and solo supplements have been waived on select cruises.

See [www.travelmarvel.com.au](http://www.travelmarvel.com.au).

## Princess' \$450m renos

PRINCESS Cruises will sink \$450 million into The Come Back New Promise, a multi-year product innovation and cruise ship renovation campaign.

As part of the campaign, the cruise line has debuted SHARE by Curtis Stone and will replace 44,000 beds (CW 17 Dec).

Yesterday Chef Curtis Stone opened his restaurant SHARE by Curtis Stone aboard *Ruby Princess*, the second ship to offer the specialty restaurant.

SHARE is also available on board *Emerald Princess* and will soon open aboard *Sun Princess* in Apr.

The partnership includes "Crafted by Curtis" menu items available in the main dining rooms fleetwide and Curtis Stone's Chef's Table experience will kick off in SHARE venues later this year.

The Princess Luxury Bed, set to be rolled out to every stateroom across the fleet through 2018,

features a nine-inch, single-sided medium firm mattress and a plush, two-inch pillow top.

Other new additions for the cruise line introduced to deliver on the Come Back New promise includes the Salty Dog Gastropub and Style at Sea with TLC.

Jan Swartz, Princess Cruises president said the promise differentiates the cruise line and "offers our guests enriching vacation experiences by connecting them with each other, nature and different cultures in a new way."

## RCI TV cruise special

THE television special "Australia's Mega Cruise Ship" filmed on Royal Caribbean International's *Explorer of the Seas* will air on the Nine Network tonight at 7:30pm.

Hosted by Natalie Gruzlewski, the one hour show will look at life onboard the megaligner.

## NCL Europe 2017 trips

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line will for the first time sail five ships in European waters between Apr-Oct 2017.

The cruise line has unveiled its European summer itineraries, which will see *Norwegian Jade* complete her first season from Hamburg, with embarkation also available in the UK & Amsterdam.

*Norwegian Getaway* will return to Europe for eight- or nine-night Baltic Capitals cruises from Copenhagen.

The recently refurbished *Norwegian Epic* will embark on a seven-night Western Mediterranean itinerary; *Norwegian Spirit* will sail alternating 10- and 11-night Grand Mediterranean cruises between Barcelona and Venice and *Norwegian Star* will cruise from Venice to the Greek Isles and the Adriatic, Greece & Turkey.

*Norwegian Escape* will sail seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean cruises from Miami.

— 5 DAY —  
**extra**  
 — SALE —

Two Free Perks  
 + up to **US\$300** onboard credit

LEARN MORE

Hurry, ends 29 January

Celebrity **X** Cruises



### P&O lights up Syd for Australia Day



Photo credit: P&O Cruises/James Morgan.

FOUR P&O ships brought 6,500 guests to Sydney on Australia Day for a day of festivities followed by a spectacular fireworks display which lit up the sky at 9:30pm.

As a major sponsor of Australia Day in NSW, the cruise line had *Pacific Aria*, *Pacific Eden*, *Pacific Pearl* and *Pacific Jewel* on the harbour for the occasion.

The P&O Cruises Fireworks display is pictured above.

### EW new itinerary

EUROPEAN Waterways' hotel barge *Clair de Lune* will cruise from Trebes to Naurouze between 17 Jul-24 Sep.

To launch the new route, European Waterways are offering a \$4,660 discount off the charter price on Jul and Aug departures, when booked by 15 Feb.

See [www.gobarging.com](http://www.gobarging.com).

### Tauck Jewel relaunch

TAUCK will reconfigure its five Jewel class ships over the next two years to feature larger cabins at the expense of capacity and an upgraded second dining venue.

*ms Swiss Emerald* and *ms Swiss Sapphire* are first in line and will be reconfigured and re-launched next winter for the 2017 season.

Phase two is scheduled for the winter of 2017/2018 and will see *ms Swiss Jewel*, *ms Esprit* and *ms Treasures* undergo identical transformations in time for the 2018 season.

All vessels will replace 30 14m<sup>2</sup> cabins on the Ruby Deck with 20 cabins measuring 21m<sup>2</sup>, reducing capacity from 118 passengers to 98 and the total number of cabins to 49.

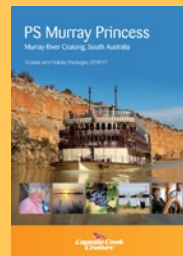
The Bistro will be renamed Arthur's and will be upgraded with its own kitchen and chef.

Expanded menus will continue to provide more casual alternatives to the ship's main Compass Rose restaurant.

### Brochure Spotlight

#### Captain Cook Cruises - Murray River Cruising 2016/17

WEEKLY, three-, four- and seven-night cruise itineraries on the Murray River between Mannum and



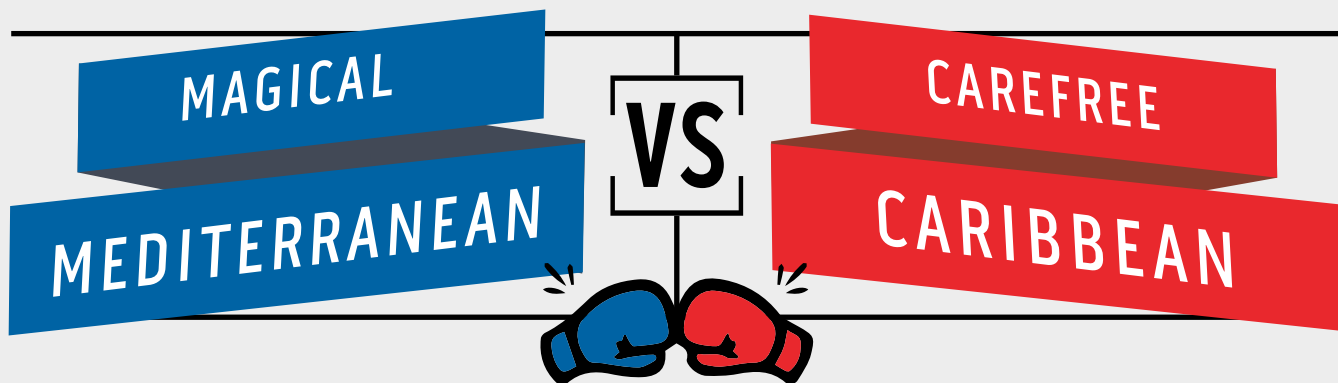
Blanchetown are featured in the 12-page *PS Murray Princess* Murray River Cruising, South Australia – Cruises & Holiday Packages brochure.

New to the brochure is a comparison chart of all three itineraries, their inclusions, township tours and highlights.

The brochure also provides an in-depth look at the facilities, accommodation and deck plans.



# CRUISE SHOWDOWN



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE? **SELL FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!**

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER**

AU/NZ 18+ only. Must be registered travel agent in AU/NZ & registered with Princess Academy. Ends 11:59pm AEDST 28/2/16. Click here for entry instructions and T&Cs. Permits: NSW LTPS/15/08652, ACT TP15/08055, SAT15/1983

## RCI partners with WWF

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises Ltd has inked a five-year global partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to set sustainability targets aimed to reducing RCL's environmental footprint.

As part of the agreement, RCL has contributed \$5 million to WWF's global oceans conservation work and the pair will collaborate to raise awareness about ocean conservation among the cruise line's more than 5m guests.

RCL's 2020 sustainability initiatives include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35% and sourcing 90% of wild-caught seafood by volume from certified sustainable fisheries.

In the cruise line's North America and Europe operations, the goal is to responsibly source 75% of its farmed seafood.

By 30 Jun, RCL plans to set additional goals regarding

seafood traceability and will also announce further targets regarding RCL's destination stewardship.

Targets on a sustainable sourcing strategy, and sustainable tour operations platforms are in the works.

"This partnership with WWF represents a great opportunity to make a big step forward in meeting our special responsibility to protect the oceans," said Richard D. Fain, chairman and ceo, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

Fain said the "aggressive" goals will start to be implemented "right away".

### Captain's Choice pact

**LUXURY** tour operator Captain's Choice has joined the Virtuoso product portfolio.

Captain's Choice offers luxury cruise, rail, land and private jet journeys.

## Avalon 2017 preview

**AVALON** Waterways has released a 2017 Preview Brochure along with a Fly Free offer on all European and South-East Asian departures between 01 Jan and 15 Jun 2017.

The offer is valid for bookings made before 05 Apr 2016, and allows passengers to choose between free flights or a cruise discount of up to 15% for those who arrange their own air travel.

Economy flights are on offer, which can be upgraded at an additional cost.

The 2017 Avalon Waterways Preview Brochure features over 30 of the river cruise operator's most popular European voyages on the Danube, Rhine, Rhone and Seine as well as in South-East Asia on the Mekong and Irrawaddy.

## RCCL appoints CISO

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises has appointed Renee Guttman as chief information security officer (CISO), effective 25 Jan.

Guttman was most recently vp of Information Risk and member of the Office of the CISO at cybersecurity company Optiv.

"Renee's leadership and oversight will innovate RCL so that our information and systems are protected and in compliance with global regulations," said Michael Giresi, chief information officer, RCL.

## MSC 96-hour sale

**MSC** Cruises' annual 96-hour sale is underway, with savings up to 50% off available until midnight 29 Jan EST.

The offer is valid for over 90 departures between Feb-Nov cruising the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Northern Europe, and selected Grand Voyages.

See [msccruises.com.au](http://msccruises.com.au).

## Haimark acquisition

**SMALL** ship river and ocean cruise operator Haimark Companies has been acquired by private equity firm VC2 Capital.

Hans Rood, president of Haimark said the transaction will allow the cruise line to launch their previously announced sailings to Cuba from Miami.

Haimark will be led by current management, who will be actively looking for new acquisitions in the luxury travel sector.

Haimark Companies comprises of Haimark Ltd, Haimark Line Ltd, Haimark S.A. Ltd and Haimark Affinity Travel Ltd.



# 96 HOUR SALE



► FIND OUT MORE



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## New Crystal voyages

CRYSTAL Cruises' "Crystal Getaways" now include five shortened segments of *Crystal Serenity's* "Southern Celebración" World Cruise.

The cruises range from six to 13 days in length.



**P&O CRUISES'** Hotel Services Engineer, Peter Woods (pictured below), has recounted one of his most memorable workplace incidents, which has been highlighted on the P&O Facebook page.

"One little old lady didn't like the lift, so she walked to the cafe and went back to her room with her cup of tea," he wrote.

Apparently by the time she reached her room the beverage was cold - so she put her cuppa in the in-cabin safe, thinking it was a microwave oven.

After waiting 15 seconds for it to warm up she found that the door wouldn't open - because she has locked it into the safe.

"She went to reception and they called the electrical department asking for help with the microwave.

"We told her there were no microwaves in the rooms, but we went up to help anyway," the obliging engineer said.

Upon arrival in the room they discovered the predicament, "and being electrical we didn't know how to break into a safe!"

Unfortunately the passenger had no idea of the combination she had used to lock the tea in.

"In the end she told us he'd put it in for 15 seconds, so we pressed 0-0-15 and it opened!"



## Aria visits Newcastle



**PACIFIC Aria** stopped in at Newcastle for the first time yesterday on her first Australia Day cruise.

The ship's 1,500 guests spent the day exploring the city and surrounds, visiting Stockton's sand dunes, dolphin cruises at Port Stephens and enjoying food and wine tasting tours of the Hunter Valley.

P&O Cruises Australia president Sture Myrmell said Newcastle was an increasingly popular call for the cruise line.

"Newcastle has a lot to offer our guests, from its beautiful beaches to the nearby Hunter Valley wine

region. Its location between Melbourne and Brisbane makes it an ideal destination for our increasingly popular short breaks," Myrmell said.

CEO Port of Newcastle Geoff Crowe and *Pacific Aria* Capt Colm Ryan are **pictured** during the plaque exchange in Newcastle.

## NCL names refurb

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has dubbed its \$400 million renovation program The Norwegian Edge.

The refurbishment program, which began in Oct 2015 with a full refresh of *Norwegian Epic*, aims to bring nine of the fleet's ships to the same standard of the line's newest ships.

Norwegian Edge will see the ships undergo both guest-facing and technical enhancements.

With *Norwegian Gem* complete in Nov, next in line is *Pride of America* and *Norwegian Sun* in spring 2016; *Norwegian Dawn* in summer 2016; *Norwegian Spirit*, *Norwegian Sky* and *Norwegian Pearl* in winter 2017; and *Norwegian Jade* in spring 2017.

## Sea Cloud 2017 out

**GERMAN** sailing cruise operator Sea Cloud Cruises has opened bookings for its 2017 itineraries, with the "legendary windjammer" *Sea Cloud* to sail in the eastern and western Mediterranean and Adriatic.

*Sea Cloud II* will spend most of the northern summer in northern and western European waters.

For full details see the website at [www.seacloud.com](http://www.seacloud.com).



## CRUISE NEWS & VIEWS

with Brett Jardine  
CLIA Australasia

### CLIA Membership 2016

**SOME** exciting changes are being rolled-out for CLIA members with hundreds of agents already taking advantage of our expanded membership value.

Effective 01 Jan 2016, CLIA training is now available via our purpose built online learning academy. So no more excuses for those that don't hold CLIA Accreditation - you can access and complete all that is required from your desk or home computer 24/7, all INCLUDED as part of your annual CLIA membership.

Whilst training and industry accreditation are critical for your career, we haven't forgotten about your personal satisfaction!

What's in it for me? CLIA has partnered with an external supplier to deliver exclusive member discounts and added value to a wide range of everyday consumer brands.

This new member benefits package has the potential to save all CLIA members literally thousands of dollars a year just by shopping the same way you always have!

With three hungry teenage boys at my place, saving 5% on our grocery bill each week is already helping my bottom line! Then there are savings to be made with movie tickets, petrol purchases, hardware, books, clothing, restaurants, gift cards and much more.

With all of these savings your CLIA membership fees will be covered many times over!

Go to [www.cruising.org.au](http://www.cruising.org.au) to find out more.



**Cruise Weekly** is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication. An industry-focused PDF edition of Cruise Weekly is published every Tue and Thu, and there's also a consumer-facing email newsletter published each Wed - sign up free at [www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au).

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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

