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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 16 Jun 2016

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos plus a front cover wrap from **Royal Caribbean International**.

MSC Cruises 96hr sale

MSC Cruises' 96-hour online sale will kick off at midnight on 28 Jun, running through to 01 Jul and offering discounts of up to 50% for 2016-2017 sailings.

The sale is valid for select itineraries departing from Sep to Mar 2017, including a seven-night cruise departing from Miami and exploring San Juan, Grand Turks Island and Nassau from \$555pp.

Also available will be a seven-night departure from Genoa on *MSC Poesia*, visiting Naples, Messina, Valletta, Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona and Marseille from \$452 per person.

ms Joy godmothers

TAUCK has revealed three long-time employees will share duties as *ms Joy's* godmothers during its christening ceremony in Vienna on 21 Jun.

The three godmothers will be Jacque Moran, recruiting and training manager, Tauck director of operations; Mary Murrin, North America account manager, Tauck River Cruising and Kristin Robinson, Tauck director manager, Tauck River Cruising.



Aqua to build new ship

CONSTRUCTION of Aqua Expeditions' third vessel to sail on Peru's Amazon River will begin in Dec, the company's founder and chief executive, Francesco Galli Zugaro has revealed.

Mostly resembling Aqua's newest ship, *Aqua Mekong*, the new addition will be suite-only, with 29.7m² rooms, a spa, gym, pool and a fleet of four boats for daily explorations.

Slated for launch in early Dec 2017, the company says it is building the new vessel in response to "extraordinary demand demonstrated by our past guests and trade partners" and will be "an answer to a growing demand for luxury cruising experiences in the Peruvian Amazon".

It will take the title *Aqua Amazon* while the existing *Aqua Amazon* will be renamed *Aqualina* and operate as a wholesale charter-only vessel. *Aqua Amazon* will be a joint-

venture between Noor Designs of Vietnam and Jordi Puig of Peru.

"We are excited to be expanding our product in the Peruvian Amazon and maintaining our position of market maker," said Galli Zugaro.

The cruise line has promised the announcement of "exciting new destinations" this summer.

Ovation 6 mths away

THE countdown is on, with yesterday marking six months until *Ovation of the Seas* arrives in Sydney on 15 Dec for her maiden Aussie season.

Fresh off *Ovation* in Singapore, where it was revealed the vessel will homeport in the island-city state for one season in 2017, Adam Armstrong, md of RCI Australia & NZ described the ship as "simply incredible - and very well worth her US\$1b price tag.

"Inside and out, every inch and every feature is pristine, brand new and beautifully designed," Armstrong continued.

After calling into Fremantle, Adelaide and Hobart, *Ovation* will cruise into Sydney as the biggest cruise ship and first newbuild to call Australia home, with 6,400 guests and crew on board.

She will spend 15 Dec docked in Sydney before departing at 4pm on 16 Dec on her first local cruise, a 15-night New Zealand voyage.

Features include the iFly skydiving experience, the FlowRider, SeaPlex, a trapeze and the North Star glass viewing pod.

For pictures of *Ovation*, visit **Cruise Weekly's** Facebook, or for more details, see the **cover page**.

Viking md to leave

AFTER eight years at the helm, Viking Cruises' managing director Teresia Fors is leaving to join Volvo Group Australia as vp marketing and communication.

The recruitment process for a permanent replacement is underway but Ian Bennett will take the reigns as an interim replacement on 20 Jun.

Fors established the local sales & marketing office in 2008 which services the Australian and New Zealand travel markets and Bennett has been an external executive for almost two years.

New Celebs named

CELEBRITY Xperience and *Celebrity Xploration* will be the names of Celebrity's new Galapagos vessels.

The cruise line has promised more details "very, very soon". Both the ships are **pictured**.



Silversea Galápagos

TWO new seven-night Galápagos itineraries will be launched by Silversea on 25 Mar 2017 and operated alternatively on *Silver Galapagos*.

The new trips will see the addition of San Cristóbal as an arrival or departure port.

The new north central itinerary departs Baltra for San Cristóbal with a newly added circumnavigation of Isla Daphne Grande, exploring Bahía Darwin and El Barranco in Genovesa; Galapaguera Cerro Colorado and Punta Pitt in San Cristóbal; as well as Bahía Sullivan, Seymour Norte, Rábida, and Plazas Sur.

Departing from San Cristóbal for Baltra, the western itinerary has new additions of Cerro Dragón and Playa Las Bachas in Santa Cruz and a circumnavigation of Roca León Dormido.

The itinerary also includes Punta Vicente Roca, Caleta Tagus and Bahía Elizabeth in Isabela; Islote Champion and more.



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Aurora commission

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Aurora Expeditions are offering an additional 10% commission on select 2016 Antarctica expedition bookings by 31 Aug.
The increased commission may either be used towards a discount for clients, or agents can keep it for themselves.
Valid on the 18-day Photographer's First Light departure on 19 Nov, prices start at \$19,262pp for a cruise sailing from Stanley in the Falkland Islands to South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.
Passengers will receive complimentary photography workshops and lectures.
Also included is the fly/sail New Year in Antarctica adventure leaving 25 Dec and priced from \$11,753 per person.
The voyage has only one sea crossing and also features a South American Christmas Day dinner in Punta Arenas at the start of the expedition.

Star Cruises comms

COMMUNICATION services on board Star Cruises' fleet of six ships are set to be overhauled, with parent company Genting Corporate Services striking a deal with Harris CapRock Communications (HCC).
HCC will boost bandwidth by nearly 300% on *Superstar Virgo*, *Superstar Gemini*, *Superstar Libra*, *Superstar Aquarius*, *Star Pisces* and *The Taipan*.

EW cabin bookings

THREE of European Waterways' family-themed charter cruises around France are now bookable by cabin, with departures guaranteed when a minimum of three pax book up to two cabins.
A discount of \$380 is available for guests under the age of 18 on the sailings.
The three six-night family-themed cruises depart on 07, 14 and 21 Aug, with prices leading in at \$5,320 per person twin share.

AmaStella & AmaViola christened



APT and partner AmaWaterways had double the reason to party this week, christening both *MS AmaStella* and *MS AmaViola*, in Germany.
The *AmaStella* christening saw APT guests and the local Vilshofen community get involved, with a blessing performed by Priest Lothar Zever,

the traditional breaking of a bottle of Champagne against the ship's hull and traditional dancers and folk music.
Pictured are: Chris Hall, Managing Director APT Group; Carole Smethurst, godmother and owner of Perth's Bicton Travel and Robert McGeary, APT Group company director in Vilshofen.

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Cruise Critic raising awareness



CRUISE review site and online community *Cruise Critic* last night celebrated its one-year anniversary of having established a local presence with 40 trade partners including CLIA Australasia and major cruise lines.

Boston-based general manager Mike Ewing was in Sydney for the event, saying cruisecritic.com.au was enjoying exceptional traffic.

"It's so exciting for us to be part of the Australian cruise market.

"The level of adoption of cruise as a travel category in this region makes it an incredibly exciting place to be and to learn more from the region," Ewing said.

CruiseCritic.com.au is headed up by Australian editor Louise Goldsbury, who revealed the site would soon receive increased consumer exposure through a new column to appear in News Corp's *Weekend Australian*.

Goldsbury also announced *Cruise Critic* would launch a localised version of the long-running *Editors' Picks Award*, already well established in the

United States and UK, in Oct.

She said the *AU Editors' Picks Awards* was aimed at reaching a wider audience and boost traffic.

It recognises the best ships, the best cabins, the best shore excursions, based on *Cruise Critic's* team of Australian writers.

Goldsbury also indicated there were plans to introduce an Australia specific *Cruisers Choice Awards* from next year.

"We want to get travel agents using the site. *Cruise Critic* is such a comprehensive site offering a wealth of information. More information than you can possibly dream about," she told *CW*.

"If you want to know if there is a shower screen or a shower curtain or if the orange juice is fresh, you name it, from that nitty-gritty stuff right up to cabin categories and destination information, it's all there."

Pictured from left are *Cruise Critic's* sales managers Ela Barnett and Julien Coste, general manager Mike Ewing and Australia editor Louise Goldsbury.

Mighty Azamara

TUNE into Channel Seven's episode of *Mighty Ships* tonight at 8pm for a peek on board *Azamara Journey*.

The episode was filmed during a 15-day Asian sailing, exploring the jungles of Thailand, the cities of Vietnam, and other Southeast Asian treasures.

Astronaut on Serenity

TWO NASA astronauts will appear as lecturers on board *Crystal Serenity's* 26 Jun sailing, to share with guests their inspiring stories on life in space.

Captains Scott Kelly and Mark Kelly will join former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords for the lectures.

"It is a special honour for us to welcome these esteemed guests aboard our ship, and we are equally thrilled to share the privilege with our inquisitive and savvy guests," said Edie Rodriguez, ceo and president of *Crystal Cruises*.

American Queen

THE American Queen Steamboat Company has unveiled a collection of new nine-day holiday sailings beginning from Thanksgiving through to the New Year.

Cruising on board the *American Queen*, new itineraries will travel between New Orleans, LA to Memphis Tennessee.

Highlights include visits to the Christmas markets, carollers in St Francisville LA and on festive onboard entertainment.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Latitude 33 upgrade

LATITUDE 33 is offering a free upgrade to the Four Seasons Hotel George V in Paris on the 26-night Culinary Escape with Serge Dansereau for bookings made by 30 Jun.

The trip combines a 12-night cruise from Venice to Monte Carlo with a 12-night land program from Monte Carlo-Paris hosted by chef Serge Dansereau.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

AGENT
UPDATE

Thursday 16 Jun 2016

PORTHOLE

A SOUTH African real estate agent was left scratching his head after he came across a man fishing alone in a rubber tyre several kilometres off the Mozambique coast.

38-year-old Grant Campbell told *Stuff.co.nz*: "We could see this black dot on the horizon and thought we'd go and have a look at what it was...and there was this guy in a tube".

What Campbell discovered was a man clad in shorts and a T-shirt, wearing fluoro flippers, dangling a line over the side of his inflatable vessel.

"It was the weirdest thing ever, definitely not what we were expecting to see."

Campbell posted the bizarre meeting on Facebook (pictured), which has since been shared over 1,600 times.

"I had to give him some of our fishes for his hard work," he wrote on the album.

The area in which the mystery man was discovered is a known hotspot for shark activity.



Dark Mofo cruise buildup

STURE Myrmell, P&O Cruises president joined Leigh Carmichael, Dark Mofo creative director in Tasmania (pictured right), for the launch of P&O's inaugural Dark Mofo cruise.

The inaugural Dark Mofo cruise will depart Sydney on 13 June, 2017, on *Pacific Jewel*, featuring a three-day stay in Hobart where guests can indulge in the art, food, music, light, film and oddities featured in Tasmania's annual celebration of the dark.

The six-night cruise is priced from \$599 per person quad share



SeaLink free ferry

SEALINK are offering free ferry transfers to Kangaroo Island for two people booking their car and caravan or camper trailer on a Kangaroo Island SeaLink ferry and travelling before 15 Sep. See www.sealink.com.au.



CRUISE
NEWS &
VIEWS

with Brett Jardine
CLIA Australasia

Cruise 360 USA Review

Held from 01-05 Jun at the Vancouver Convention Centre (directly adjacent to the cruise ship berths at Canada Place), Cruise360 USA is hosted by CLIA and well supported by the North American trade.

I was fortunate to attend the event, where a 1,500+ audience learned that the global cruise sector was maintaining steady growth rate, exceeding projections that were set for 2015.

Excellent news for all of us that now have cruising firmly entrenched in our daily life and even better, was the news that passenger numbers for 2016 are on track to surpass this year's projections. From supplier's right through to retailers this will impact all of us in some way – hopefully positively for you!

The global industry reported a total of 23.2 million passengers on ocean cruises' globally in 2015, up from a projection of 23 million, and a 4% increase over 2014.

As a result of steady year-over-year increases, CLIA has modified 2016 expectations and is now predicting that 24.2 million travellers will set sail on ocean cruises around the world.

As reported in the recent CLIA Australasia source market report, much of the industry's growth can be attributed to emerging regions of the world – such as Australasia and Asia, so give yourself a pat on the back!



MTA member has a roar of a time



MTA – Mobile Travel Agents' Member and current Cruise Line Industry Association (CLIA) 'Consultant of the Year' Tracey Flower jumped on board the pre-inaugural cruise of *Harmony of the Seas* from Barcelona.

Flower met Alex the Lion from *Madagascar* on board (pictured) as part of the ship's featured DreamWorks experience.

Additional highlights include the opportunity to sample the vessel's ice skating, visiting 'Central Park' in the middle of the ship featuring real trees and plants, a 10-storey slide, two flow riders and Jamie Oliver's restaurant at sea.



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