

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 10 Mar 2016

EUROPA 2 art2sea

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises' *EUROPA 2* art2sea specialty cruise will return in 2017, following a sell-out season for the Sep Montreal to New York voyage.

The cruise, which was launched in partnership with *Weltkunst* art and lifestyle magazine, features inspirational talks by leaders in the art world such as Axel Ruger, director of the Van Gogh Museum and art historian Thole Rotermund.

Art2sea 2017 itineraries are on sale for the 13-day voyages departing Hamburg to Lisbon & via Greenwich, St Peter Port, St Malo, Bilbao, Vilagarcia and Leixoes, priced from €5,990.

Resco tech solutions

RESCOMPANY will present a series of new tech systems to the cruise industry at the Seatrade Cruise Global cruise convention in Fort Lauderdale on 15-17 Mar.

RCI axes two Bali calls

HEIGHTENED security concerns in Indonesia have prompted Royal Caribbean International to cancel yet another port of call in Bali, this afternoon confirming the withdrawal of *Radiance of the Seas*' scheduled stop on 17 Mar.

The suspension follows Mon's bypass of Benoa (Bali) by sister company Celebrity Cruises' megaliners *Celebrity Solstice* which arrived earlier than planned into Darwin on its 17-day voyage from Fremantle to Sydney.

According to a trade update obtained by *CW*, *Radiance of the Seas*' departure on 12 Mar, also from Perth to Sydney, will now spend an extra day at sea.

Royal Caribbean said in the memo the "decision was made in an abundance of caution, and we apologise for this development and its impact on your client's schedule itinerary."

"However, we couldn't in good

conscience take our guests to a port where we could not guarantee their safety."

Earlier this week, pax on board *Celebrity Solstice* were handed a letter signed by the ship's master, Captain Yannis Berdos, announcing the Bali bypass.

It cited the Balinese New Year, which past advisories by Government authorities have named as one that could be potentially targeted by terrorists, as one of the reasons the cruise-liner had chosen to skip the port of call.

It is understood that passengers who had booked tours in Bali would receive a refund.

MEANWHILE, a spokesperson for Celebrity Cruises confirmed to *CW* that a technical stop to Willis Island (an external territory of Australia) will be made during her current sailing to achieve requirements as an int'l voyage.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos plus a full page of jobs from **AA Appointments**.

Prized mixologist



CARNIVAL

Cruise Line mixologist, Miroslav Kljajic, has been named "Bartender of the

Year" at the 2016 Bacardi Legacy Cruise Competition.

Kljajic, who launched Alchemy Bar on the *Carnival Spirit* last year, took home top honours for his creation 'Elixir Fizz'.

The win has qualified his entry into the competition finals, which will be held in San Francisco later this year.

This is the third time in the past five years that a Carnival mixologist has won the award.

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A&K cruise tour focus

ABERCROMBIE & Kent is responding to the rising demand for cruises by offering exclusive land content in conjunction with several voyages operated by Ponant and Seabourn.

Speaking at an event in Sydney yesterday, A&K managing director Sujata Raman said the new concept in cruising (**TD** 29 Feb) offered a range of advantages including upgraded cabins, flight inclusive deals and authentic local encounters and experiences.

The program has launched with three departures in 2017 - Costa Rica, Manaus and the Caribbean with *Seabourn Quest*, an Italy and Croatia cruise aboard Ponant's *Le Lyrial* and a Norwegian Fjords and Iceland with *Le Soleal*.

Interestingly in some of the destinations A&K also provides ground tours on behalf of the ship owners, meaning it has had to clearly differentiate its own offering with exclusive options.

Raman said other areas of growth for A&K are small group journeys, which she said were opening up a new demographic for the bespoke operator.

She said business was going well despite the low Aussie dollar, which was conversely also driving "enormous" domestic growth.

Dawn Gladstone start

P&O Cruises' *Pacific Dawn* has made history becoming the first ship to call at Gladstone on the Queensland coast today.

The 70,000 tonne superliner and sister ships *Pacific Jewel* and *Pacific Eden* are scheduled to call there seven times this year as well as on six occasions in 2017.

P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell commented Gladstone has "so much to offer as a cruise destination", with the next visit by *Pacific Jewel* due to arrive on 20 Mar.

RCL chef challenge

ROYAL Caribbean chefs on board the *Anthem of the Seas* participated in the 'Chopped Open Your Basket Challenge', a one minute promotional spot which airs on the Food Network.

Chefs on board vied for the top spot by creating unique dishes, complete with "Caribbean flair" from their basket of mystery ingredients.

To see what went on behind the scenes, **CLICK HERE**.

Travel Corp deals

THE Travel Corporation has launched deals on voyages to New Zealand and a luxury boutique river cruise exploring the Rhine River Valley.

AAT Kings' 14-night Cruise & Guided Holiday package is available from \$4,629 per person cruising Melbourne to Auckland.

Book on Uniworld's Legendary Rhine & Moselle trip before 31 Mar to save \$3,600 per person for the 28 Jul departure.

Celebrity Cruises adds Europe trips

CELEBRITY Cruises has added a collection of destination experiences to its European sailings for the 2016 season.

Tours of Greece curated by Celebrity's own Greek officers have been added to the line-up, which will take holiday-makers to local hot-spots to experience the "real Greece".

Guests will also be able to explore local food markets and sample delicacies when participating in the Chef's Market Discoveries excursion.

The Uniquely Celebrity tour will include overnight stays in Athens, Greece and visiting the Organic Winery of Assimomitis to learn about wine production in Mykonos; a soft-rafting adventure along the Tiber River as well as a swim, cycle or kayak trip on an active journey in Croatia.

For more information on Celebrity's newest excursions, visit celebritycruises.com.au.



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Murray River Loxton

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has released the dates for its Mannum to Loxton trips, travelling on board small ship paddle-wheeler, *Murray Princess*.

Mannum to Loxton will depart 25 Nov, whilst the Loxton to Mannum commences 02 Dec.

"We are excited to be operating this incredible cruise again this year," commented SeaLink South Australia gm, Donna Gauci.

"Both cruises are very popular with guests who want to explore Australia's outback history from Loxton to Mannum and it is also part of Australia not many have seen or experienced," she explained.

The voyages will make visits to Katarapko, Cobdogla Creek, Overland Corner, Old Distillery, Morgan, Sunnydale and Piggy Flat for overnight stops, with shore excursions planned.

Encore float out vid

SEABOURN has released a video documenting its new build, *Seabourn Encore*, touching water for the first time last week (CW 05 Mar).

Watch the clip on the CW FB page by **CLICKING HERE**.

SuperStar Virgo adds new Japan ports

STAR Cruises has announced *SuperStar Virgo* has expanded its itinerary to include a seven-night voyage to Japan departing Hong Kong from 16 Apr to 24 Sep.

The new cruise will travel from Hong Kong to the Pearl River Delta, Guangzhou (Nangsha), Naha and Miyakojima.

The new ports, Naha and Miyako-Jima, allow guests to experience some of the smaller islands of the country, visiting world heritage sites such as the UNESCO listed Shurijo Castle.

For more information visit www.starcruires.com.

\$1000 cash incentive

IN CELEBRATION of Coral Expeditions first itineraries exploring the coastlines of South East Asia, travel trade partners are being offered a \$1,000 cash back for each booking confirmed between 08 Mar and 08 Apr.

The offer is valid across Coral Expeditions' seven itineraries during the 2016-17 Asia season, exploring Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia - **CLICK HERE** for more.



Queen Victoria illuminated

PICTURED above: Cunard's Queen Victoria vessel was illuminated in purple this week in celebration of International Womens Day (CW 07 Mar).

HAL doubles credits

HOLLAND America Line has offered to double the onboard spending credit by up to \$400 per person, when guests make a new booking with a future cruise consultant whilst on board.

Vice president of North America sales, Eva Jenner, commented "new bookings made on our ships with a future cruise consultant are very important to Holland America Line and should be a goal for all travel professionals."

She added "a booking automatically applies to the travel professional of record...this cruise deposit also generates a booking confirmation notice to them so they are aware of the new booking even before the guests return home."

Agents will continue to earn full commission and receive full revenue credit for all bookings made during a cruise.

Onboard spending credits can also be earned by purchasing a Future Cruise Deposit from the consultant during the cruise, which will allow guests to decide on an itinerary for a later date.

Call 1300 987 321 for more.

KISS on the high seas

AMERICAN glam metal band, KISS, will hit the high seas on 'The KISS Cruise VI: Creatures of the Deep' voyage.

Departing 04 Nov, the hard rock-themed cruise will feature performances from KISS, kitted in vintage costumes worn from their 1982 Creatures Tour.

The cruise will set sail from Miami on board the *Norwegian Pearl* with port calls to Cozumel, Mexico and the Grand Cayman.

Guests will be given the chance to participate in activities with Starchild, Demon, Catman & Spaceman, as well as snap a few pictures with them.

For more - thekisscruise.com.



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Mozart shore event

CRYSTAL River Cruises has planned a new shore event visiting Vienna's Belvedere Palace for every 2016 and 2017 itinerary sailing aboard the *Crystal Mozart*. The complimentary event will be available for booking in Apr.

Star Clippers' Indonesian debut

TALL ship specialists, Star Clippers, will depart on its inaugural voyage to Indonesia next year, offering 19 departures between 06 May and 14 Oct. Itineraries span 7-, 10-, 11- and 14 nights cruising Bali and Singapore, plus round trips. Highlights will include komodo dragon experiences and an optional excursion to Mount Bromo, an active volcano located in East Java. Pricing for the new itineraries on board *Star Clipper* starts from \$3,815 per person.

Maritime family tree runs deep



WHILST in the midst of helping to plan a recent Cunard event, Carnival Australia's PR and events assistant Emily Taylor discovered an ancestral link to Sir Arthur Henry Rostron, a former Commodore of the Cunard fleet - and captain of *Carpathia*, the vessel which rescued hundreds of *Titanic* survivors in 1912.

Maritime connections run deep in the Taylor family, with her father a former Royal Australian Navy submarine captain, and her mother having formerly worked at Carnival Australia as executive assistant to chair, Ann Sherry.

"I always knew that we were related to the Captain of *Carpathia* but I didn't know he was the Commodore of the Cunard fleet or that he had been such a hero," commented Taylor of the discovery.

"My grandfather always said that his great grandfather had something to with the *Titanic* but I didn't know the details," she continued.

Rostron, Taylor's great great grandfather, steered *Carpathia* full-speed to the *Titanic's* aid, rescuing around 710 survivors from the sinking ship.



AN ABANDONED floating McDonalds restaurant which was bought by developer, Howard Stern, is set to relaunch this year as an undisclosed attraction.

"We're under a non-disclosure agreement," Stern told the *Vancouver Sun* when quizzed on what the new project entailed.

"But it fits in with the 30th anniversary of the Exposition... it will happen in 2016 and we expect that it's going to take probably most of the year to do the work," he continued.

Dubbed the McBarge, the floating fast-food concept was built in 1986 at an estimated cost of \$8 million, and has since been left empty, docked in a creek on the west coast of Canada.

The planned location relaunch remains a secret for now.

Urban explorers have flocked to the site, posting pictures of the eery abandoned building, to view more, [CLICK HERE](#).



Cruise Agent Outlook

CLIA has recently undertaken a survey with North American travel agents and results show that 'notable growth' is expected in the number of cruises people take in 2016 as well as an increase in passenger spending.

CLIA Member Cruise Lines are expecting another very good year around the world with 24 million passengers expected to take a cruise in 2016, up from 23 million in 2015.

The CLIA survey showed that USA based Travel Agents agree with this positive outlook, as 83% expect their sales volume to increase in the coming year.

The report also showed cruises are experiencing the greatest increase in booking in both ocean and river cruising when compared to other segments of travel.

Of note, Travel Agents shared that more multigenerational families are embarking on cruises - a trend that benefits the cruise industry long term as the cruise habit will become ingrained in younger consumers.

Whilst this is all great news for the (very) mature North American market we are also seeing very positive vibes from around Australia and New Zealand. The interest that retail agents have in securing their share of the booming cruise market continues to surge.

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.

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