

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 17 Mar 2016

CLIA ceo confirmed

CRUISE Lines Association International has confirmed the permanent appointment of Cindy D'Aoust as its global ceo.

D'Aoust has been acting in the role for the last seven months, stepping up after the resignation of Tom Ostebo in early Aug 2015 after just a few weeks in the job.

CLIA chair Adam Goldstein said D'Aoust was an "extremely valuable and knowledgeable member of our executive team".



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Ponant to add four ships

PONANT has penned a letter of intent to construct four new luxury expedition ships - effectively doubling the size of its fleet (CW breaking news Wed).

Norwegian shipbuilders, VARD, have been selected to undertake the task, with the first ship due to be delivered in 2018.

The new ships will be intimately sized, measuring at 128 metres in length with 92 staterooms and a crew of 110.

PONANT's new ships will be Ice Class ranked, fitted with state-of-the-art technology, with its interiors designed by French designer Jean-Philippe Nuel.

Whilst still maintaining its niche in polar region itineraries, PONANT will introduce Blue and Green Expeditions.

Blue Expeditions will take passengers on an exploration of Oceania, its lagoons and secret

islands; while Green Expeditions will traverse South America's best preserved sites including Orinoco River in Amazonia and Costa Rica, as well as Papua New Guinea and the Indian Ocean.

The company said "the result will be a host of unusual itineraries to get as close as it is impossible to local cultures, rare and exceptional flora and fauna".

PONANT's new vessels will join its "emblematic" sailing yacht *Le Ponant* as well as the four yachts built by Fincantieri between 2010 and 2015, *Le Boreal*, *L'Austral*, *Le Soleal* and *Le Lyrial*.

The additions are the first step in a project to expand the company's fleet since PONANT was bought by the Pinault family's Artemis last year.

PONANT says it intends to "strengthen its position as the reference of a new style of luxury cruising under the French flag".

NCLH adding new Belize port call

NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines has today revealed Harvest Caye, Belize as its latest port of call, with the new destination set to welcome cruise passengers starting from Nov this year.

The resort-style port call will be the only port in Belize that features a cruise-ship pier, with passengers on board able to "step into paradise" immediately upon disembarking the vessel.

Harvest Caye will be offered on all of Norwegian's western Caribbean itineraries as well as on select sailings of sister brands Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises.

Cruise Weekly today

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

ACC cruise initiative

FIVE Asian cruise destinations: Hainan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Taiwan and Xiamen, have this week announced the launch of the Asia Cruise Cooperation - an alliance aiming to grow cruise tourism in Asia.

Directors of the five destination tourism boards all expressed excitement for the new ACC platform, which rides on the success of the Asia Cruise Fund first founded in 2014.

Cruise lines have expressed their enthusiasm to tap into the Asian cruise market, with Princess Cruises' president Jan Swartz saying "we are very proud of our close working relationship with the ACC and we look forward to continuing to work with them to grow cruise tourism in Asia."

NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

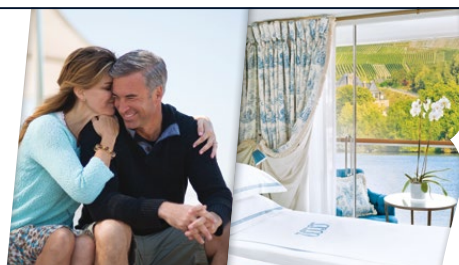
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CLIA reschedules Cruise360

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has pushed the Cruise360 Australasia conference back four months

Originally scheduled for 06 May, the conference will now be held on 16 Sep, but still at the same venue, Sydney's Star Event Centre.

CLIA commercial director Brett Jardine said the move will align the event with the start of Australia and New Zealand's biggest ever cruise season.

Existing tickets will be moved to the new date, but CLIA will also provide full refunds to affected delegates if required.

Jardine told **CW** the change is a reflection of the "continued alignment and coordination of

CLIA worldwide" which will help the organisation deliver more industry leaders and global perspectives at the regional Cruise360 event.

He said the rescheduling would better coincide with cruise line activity in Australia, and also help coordinate with CLIA's international partners including the UK organisation which is also planning a major conference in the middle of May.

Jardine said bookings for the original date were on track, and most people had already transferred to the new Cruise360.

"We are looking forward to delivering our strongest program yet," he said.

Uniworld partnership

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection today announced a new partnership with Butterfield & Robinson, "the world's premier active tour operator".

The alliance will debut this year on selected Enchanting Danube Uniworld departures, offering passengers who want a more active exploration of the region to join an exclusive biking excursion along the Danube River bike path between Germany and Bratislava.

"Partnering with Butterfield & Robinson aligns with our core values, emphasising attention to detail, excellence in service, unparalleled gastronomy and most importantly providing our guests with unforgettable and unique experiences," said Uniworld president Guy Young.

The new option will be on offer on select Sep 2016 departures aboard *River Beatrice*, as well as select sailing between May and Sep 2017 aboard the *Maria Theresa*.

Eclipse technology

SCENIC has unveiled a video showcasing the advanced technology on its new *Scenic Eclipse* megayacht, which will feature the latest version of the Azipod propulsion system which will help the vessel go to places previously thought inaccessible.

CLICK HERE for the video.

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Hapag-Lloyd stats

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises has revealed a significant increase in its English-speaking passenger numbers last year, with international guest numbers more than doubling in 2015.

It's part of a concerted strategy to attract more English-speaking passengers, with Hapag-Lloyd having also added new toll-free phone numbers for bookings from the UK, USA and Canada.

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MSC Yamaguchi pact

MSC Cruises has inked a partnership with celebrity chef, Roy Yamaguchi to bring his renowned Asian fusion cuisine to the all-new *MSC Seaside*.

This latest partnership with Yamaguchi will add to MSC's existing partnerships with award-winning chefs Carlo Cracco and Jean-Phillipe Maury.

"The top chefs whom we currently work with were selected as leading global experts in their respective cuisines and each one brings world-class fine dining expertise, elevating the dining experience for our guests to a new level," commented Gianna Onorato, MSC Cruises chief executive officer.

Yamaguchi will have a dedicated presence and specialty restaurant on board the *MSC Seaside*, and will be immersed in conceptualising and designing all elements of the new restaurant.

MSC Seaside will sail year-round from Miami to the Caribbean from Dec next year.

HK Fly-Cruise funding

THE Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) is looking to strengthen the city's position as "Asia's Cruise Hub", this week announcing new funding for cruise lines to develop a fly-cruise program to HK.

Proposed funding will be targeted towards cruises that are home-porting or with turnaround calls in Hong Kong, tapping into potential source markets to take advantage of the experiences and infrastructure HK has to offer.

"The new cruise funding support, together with the strategic alliance Asia Cruise Cooperation (pg 1), will take cruise tourism in Hong Kong to new heights," said Anthony Lau, executive director of HKTB.

Swipe-to-like app

PRINCESS Cruises has launched a new mobile app called Places to Sea to help travellers find the right cruise for them.

Designed for both Android & iOS, the new app can be found by **CLICKING HERE**.

APT directors ready to sail



Seabourn: The Grill

LUXURY cruise operator Seabourn, has announced the addition of new fine dining establishment 'The Grill by Thomas Keller', set to debut May this year on *Seabourn Quest*.

"We are delighted Chef Keller has partnered with us to produce such a standout dining experience for guests to enjoy as they travel the world with Seabourn," commented group president, Richard Meadows.

The signature restaurant will be added to each Seabourn vessel including new ship *Seabourn Encore* as well as *Seabourn Sojourn* and *Seabourn Odyssey*.

APT's team of cruise and tour directors have completed their pre-season training and are ready for the 2016 European river cruising and touring program.

The 59-strong team, comprising 32 cruise directors and 27 tour directors (pictured above) were aboard APT's *MS AmaVenita* in Arnhem, Netherlands, preparing for their biggest season yet.

The first cruise of the season will set sail aboard APT's latest ship, *MS AmaStella*, which will debut this year (CW Tue) along with sister ship *MS AmaViola*.

The *AmaStella* will operate APT's Royal Collection itineraries, while the *AmaViola* will operate APT's 'Voyages' itineraries.

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ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO

Destination Training

STATE Tourism Organisation representatives who form part of the strong Australian Cruise Association delegation to Seatrade this week have a busy schedule after they depart Fort Lauderdale.

Their whistle-stop tour through North America will see them visit some of the key cruise lines including Holland America and Princess to train the reservations teams and sales staff.

Their presentation will cover berthing information for Australia's major capital city and regional ports and in-depth destination overviews.

NT will discuss their rich indigenous cultural excursions to Kakadu and Uluru, Queensland will highlight their 12 ports of call including new anchorages at Gladstone and Fraser Coast. NSW will showcase iconic Sydney sights, Newcastle and Eden tours.

Tasmania will discuss wilderness, farm-gate produce, craft beer and whisky tours, and the amazing history of Port Arthur. In SA, excursion opportunities will focus on the amazing wineries as well as wildlife viewing at Kangaroo Island.

Victoria will highlight their coastal attributes – Phillip Island and the Great Ocean Road. And WA will present "Ten Gateways to Extraordinary" highlighting the state's diversity.

The tour concludes with a webinar held in the Tourism Australia LA offices where cruise line staff can dial in for the presentation and a Q&A with the Australian team if they were unable to meet in person.

The visits are designed to increase destination knowledge for the teams which will help them be better informed for their customers and also assist them in driving international passenger growth.

Star's "Life Journey"

STAR Cruises will this month kick off a new *SuperStar Virgo* passenger enrichment initiative titled "Life Journey".

The sessions will see leaders from all walks of life share their stories of success.

Presenters will include Guo Chuan, the first and only professional offshore sailor in China, as well as Hong Kong cyclist and backpacker Lee Ming Hay who undertook a 7 month solo bicycle journey from Berlin to Hong Kong.

Other experts on "Life Journey" will include British Vogue stylist Noni Ware as well as Liggy Webb, an international consultant in behavioural skills.

Fly free with Deborah

AVALON Waterways has this week announced a Fly Free offer for its upcoming Wellness Cruise which will be hosted in France by TV presenter and Avalon ambassador Deborah Hutton.

The 11 day cruise departs on 18 Aug 2016 and voyages between Paris and the Cote d'Azur, with Hutton joined by wellness life coach Lyndall Mitchell and wine writer Nick Stock to offer exclusive experiences.

Sylvania travel & cruise function



SYLVANIA Travel & Cruise hosted an educational client function at the Royal Motor Yacht Club in Port Hacking this week.

Attendees enjoyed a delightful lunch followed by talks on APT's broad range of small ship cruise offerings.

Pictured above at the event are Aaron Christian, APT; Yvette Gray, Sylvania Travel & Cruise; Rowena Fallon, APT and Sally Burton, Sylvania Travel & Cruise.

Carnival Magic BBQ

CARNIVAL Magic is set to receive a brand new barbecue restaurant by chef and restaurateur Guy Fieri.

Named Guy's Pig & Anchor Bar-B-Que Smokehouse, the new addition will feature smoked on-board pork, beef, chicken and sausage accompanied by Fieri's own creation of sauces.

Visit carnival.com/guysbbq.



BONY-eared assfish, it might sound like an insult, but that's the name scientists have given to a new deep sea discovery. The wriggly, translucent alien-like fish (pictured below) is described as being a cross between a tadpole and an eel.

Curator of vertebrate zoology at the Royal BC Museum in British Columbia Gavin Hanke said he likes the fish so much because it is so ugly.

"It's got a big bulbous head and a tapering body and flabby skin," he explains.

The bony-eared assfish was caught off the coast of British Columbia and is now on display at the local museum.

Apparently the kids are loving it, along with the liberty it gives them to say "assfish" aloud without getting a scolding from their parents.

And if its name wasn't insulting enough it also holds the record for having the smallest brain-to-body ratio of all vertebrates.



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P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Editor: Bruce Piper info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Nathalie Craig, Bonnie Tai, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik ads@cruiseweekly.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

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