

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 24 Mar 2016

## RCI Ovation line-up

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has released the entertainment line-up to for its new-build ship, *Ovation of the Seas*.

A multi-level entertainment room dubbed Two70 will debut on board, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that can be set into any scene.

Royal Caribbean's original production Spectra's Cabaret will also join the list of entertainment offerings on board, promising guests on board a "truly immersive experience".

Headlining the Royal Theatre are production shows *The Dream* and *Live.Love.Legs*, with guests also invited to the Music Hall to experience live music at sea.

*Ovation of the Seas* will officially launch in Apr, where she will depart Southampton, England for Tianjin, China on a 52-day Global Odyssey voyage before heading off on a 15-night Singapore to Sydney journey on 30 Nov.

## Norovirus hits Golden Princess

**HUNDREDS** of passengers travelling on board the *Golden Princess* out of Melbourne are believed to have been effected by an outbreak of gastro this week.

It's the second Princess Cruises outbreak in the last two months (*CW* 04 Feb), with the ship returning on Tue to Melbourne after a 14-day cruise of the South Pacific.

Princess Cruises issued a

statement confirming the incident, stating "the ship's medical team and crew effectively managed and contained a gastrointestinal illness caused by Norovirus.

"Passengers praised the crew for their efforts," it read, claiming that "most passengers were unaffected by the illness."

About 300 pax became ill on the 2600-guest *Golden Princess*, the largest vessel to ever homeport out of Melbourne.

## TTC weekly deals

**CREATIVE** Cruising is highlighting a \$250 on board credit per interior or ocean-view stateroom for bookings of a combined 20-night Indonesia-Explorer Cruise & Cairns AAT Kings holiday.

There's also a \$1,600 per couple sailing on a Uniworld 15-day Timeless Wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia and Mekong luxury river cruise - 1300 362 599.

## Viking skips Brussels

**VIKING** River Cruises has altered two itineraries heading to Brussels in light of this week's terror attacks in the region.

The 27 and 30 Mar Rhineland Discovery sailings aboard *Viking Kara* and *Viking Kvasir* will now skip Brussels and travel to the Netherlands instead for a two-night stay at the Grand Hotel.

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Genting Dream livery

**DREAM** Cruises has unveiled the artwork set to debut on its new-build ship, *Genting Dream*.

The art piece is titled "Voyage of a Lover's Dream" and tells a romantic story between a mermaid and an astronaut.

It was envisaged by pop artist Jacky Tsai who said the new livery represents the theme of "mutual inclusiveness and understanding".

The huge art installation wraps around both the port and starboard sides of *Genting Dream* and measures at 335m in length.



**NCL NORWEGIAN**  
CRUISE LINE®

## 4 ISLANDS. 7 DAYS.

Capture the spirit and soul of Hawai'i aboard the recently refurbished *Pride of America* ship. More dining options, great shore excursions and diverse range of accommodations, mean your guests have more freedom and flexibility.

- The most time in port – nearly 100 hours on shore
- Year-round sailings, departing every Saturday
- Best Hawai'i Itinerary, *Porthole Cruise Magazine*



CALL OUR NEW SYDNEY CONTACT CENTRE ON **1300 255 200**  
FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO **BOOK** A CRUISE



# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 24 Mar 2016

## NTIA cruise category

THE Vienna Tourist Board has been announced as the sponsor of the Best River Cruise Operator category in the 2016 National Travel Industry Awards.

Vienna is a popular destination for passengers aboard Danube river cruise itineraries, with spokesperson Astrid Mulholland-Licht saying she was "excited to be associated with an NTIA category that provides such a meaningful connection between the sponsor and the nominees".

**Thanks**  
for your  
continued support

**We have been nominated for**  
Best Cruise Operator  
Domestic Deployment

We'd love to take home the  
**CROWN**

VOTE NOW



## OOE Arctic increase

**SMALL** ship cruise operator, One Ocean Expeditions (OOE), says it has observed an uptick in multi-generational travel to the Canadian Arctic and Atlantic coast with the introduction of new youth pricing and shorter cruises.

Hands-on educational activities suitable for a wide range of age groups are planned on board, with younger guests receiving binoculars and journals to document their voyages.

OOE has introduced a new pricing structure to make the cruise experience affordable and within the family budget - **CLICK HERE** to view.

## Caribbean cancellation

**ROYAL** Caribbean has cancelled six departures of its *Empress of the Seas*, which is currently undergoing a major renovation.

Built in 1990, the ship has been sailing with RCI's Spanish sister line Pullmantur for the last 8 years and was scheduled to rejoin the Royal Caribbean fleet next week.

However the work on the 2,020 passenger ship is taking longer than expected with the first sailing now not until late Apr.

## HAL boosts Mexico

**HOLLAND** America Line has announced a significant expansion of its cruise offering on the Mexican Riviera, with the deployment of the Vista-class *ms Westerdam* during the 2016/17 northern winter season.

Between Oct 2016 and Feb 2017 the 1,916-passenger ship will sail 13 week-long cruises roundtrip from San Diego, taking in Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta along with three sea days.

## Camp Quality kids on Legend



**ROYAL** Caribbean welcomed 15 children and their families from Camp Quality on board *Legend of the Seas*, whilst it was docked in Brisbane recently.

Guests were treated to activities organised by Royal Caribbean's Adventure Ocean kids club team, which included science and balls games as well as art class.

Lunch was later served in the Romeo and Juliet Dining room.

**Pictured** above are the Camp Quality Kids having a blast on board.

## Whale watching offer

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises is offering a special on whale watching tours when booked with a travel agent before 01 Jul.

For just \$59 per adult the open-water cruise will take passengers past the Sydney Opera House, Fort Denison and the bays of Sydney Harbour to the open waters where it is possible to observe whales during their annual migration.

Visit [www.captaincook.com.au](http://www.captaincook.com.au).

## Uniworld PressReader

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruise Collection is offering free access to PressReader for all guests on-board its European fleet.

A catalogue of media - including *Cruise Weekly* and *travelBulletin* - will now be made available for viewing on their personal devices.

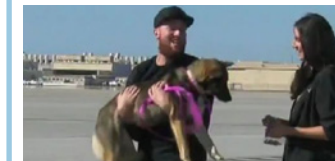


**A GERMAN** shepherd who accidentally went overboard on a fishing boat has been found alive - five weeks after the incident occurred.

One-year-old Luna was presumed dead after falling off the boat nearly two miles from San Clemente Island in California, but was later discovered by Navy staff wandering the island.

It appeared that Luna had managed to swim the whole way back, surviving by drinking rain puddles.

Luna was reunited with her owner in Colorado who called her a "warrior" saying he was "beyond stoked to have her back".



**THE** man behind the naming of a research ship *RRS Boaty McBoat Face* (*CW* 22 Mar) has pulled away from the campaign and apologised.

He admitted to media he would no longer be backing his entry, and has in fact voted to name it the *RRS David Attenborough* instead.

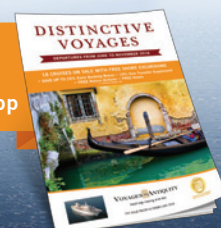
**VOYAGES ANTIQUITY**

**18 DISTINCTIVE VOYAGES ON SALE NOW!**

FARES FROM  
**\$3,895\*** pp

**CLICK HERE** FOR OUR GREAT INCLUSIONS, SAVINGS AND FLY FREE OFFERS!

\*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY.





## RCL Harmony video

ROYAL Caribbean has yesterday released a brand new video depicting the progress of its newest ship *Harmony of the Seas* as it's being built at STX Shipyard in France.

**CLICK HERE** to view the video.

## Viking Sky float out

VIKING Ocean Cruises has announced the successful float-out of its third ship, the 930-passenger *Viking Sky*.

The float-out marks a major milestone in construction, with founder and chairman of Viking Cruises, Tostein Hagen, commenting that "it is a special day when a new ship meets water for the first time".

"It is indeed a proud moment for our entire Viking family."

The traditional float-out ceremony took place this week at Fincantieri's Ancona shipyard.

*Viking Sky* is scheduled for deliver in early 2017.



## Cruise Ambassador

AS CRUISING grows in both Australia and New Zealand, our online training programs have gained popularity as has interest to attain a higher level of accreditation.

With three levels of Cruise Industry Accreditation available to CLIA Members (Accredited, Ambassador, Masters), the Ambassador level of accreditation is designed to reward agents who continue to improve their cruise knowledge after becoming an Accredited Cruise Consultant.

This mid-level tie delivers extra recognition for agents who continue to undertake training and will also make it even easier for customers to know when they are dealing with a true cruise specialist. Once accredited, consultants are required to undertake further CLIA training to reach the Ambassador level and increase their overall accreditation points to 200.

Ambassador status is not just about accruing points, it's awarded to those that have gone the extra mile to expand their cruise knowledge with additional CLIA training and cruise experience.

Obtaining any level of accreditation is something to be very proud of as it is a valuable asset that can differentiate you from competitors and enhance your reputation.

To find out more, head to the CLIA website and click on the Accreditation tab and start the journey to more cruise sales!



## Europe resilient - Armstrong

NEWLY appointed Royal Caribbean Cruises managing director for Australasia, Adam Armstrong, says he believes despite yesterday's Brussels atrocity Aussies will continue to cruise in Europe.

Speaking at his first official event since taking the reins of the business a week ago, Armstrong said it was important that the industry continue to promote Europe, which is reliant on tourism as a US\$450b industry.

This season the company will have a whopping 14 ships in the region - nine Royal Caribbean, five Celebrity and two Azamara Club Cruises vessels.

Armstrong revealed that when his predecessor Gavin Smith opened RCCL's Australian office eight years ago the company was seeing about 5,000 Australasian clients cruise in Europe.

That has grown fivefold, with 25,000 Australians and New Zealanders taking an ocean cruise in Europe on Royal Caribbean last year - about 25% of the 100,000 strong total Australasian ocean cruise market to Europe in 2015.

Interestingly, river cruising isn't far behind, with 70,000 Aussies and Kiwis taking a European river



cruise last year.

Armstrong detailed a number of trends including strong demand for lesser visited destinations - such as a seven night *Vision of the Seas* itinerary between Slovenia and Croatia which has seen more local bookings than on the massive *Harmony of the Seas* which makes her global debut in Europe this year.

Northern Europe is also very popular, along with perennial favourites such as itineraries between Venice and Barcelona.

He also said many Australians were taking advantage of the exceptional value available on flights to Europe, with cruising providing a highly cost-effective inclusive holiday isolating clients from currency fluctuations.

### CreativeCruising

## Simply the best

with Trafalgar and Princess Cruises

Click here >

- \$150\* onboard credit
- Reduced cruise deposit

- Trafalgar Earlybird discount\*
- Wholesale airfare

**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).

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia  
 Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia  
 P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

**Cruise Weekly** is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

Editor: Bruce Piper [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:ads@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Business Manager: Jenny Piper [accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.



WE'RE NOMINATED FOR  
BEST RIVER CRUISE  
OPERATOR

CLICK HERE  
TO VOTE

YOU'RE THE BEST!  
THANK YOU SO MUCH  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT