

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 31 Mar 2016

APT Bordeaux Cruise

APT'S US partner AmaWaterways has debuted its inaugural 'Taste of Bordeaux' sailing aboard the *MS AmaDolce* - just prior to APT taking its own clients on board the vessel.

APT's new cruises start operating on the Garonne and Dordogne rivers from 22 Apr. *AmaDolce* offers French balconies, marble bathrooms, a fitness room, walking track, beauty services and nightly entertainment.

Seatrade Cruise Asia

INFLUENTIAL figures from the cruise community have been officially announced as speakers for the upcoming Seatrade Cruise Asia Conference.

Held in Busan, South Korea confirmed speakers include: Buhdy Bok, president, Costa Group Asia; Thatcher Brown, president, Dream Cruises; Roger Chen, chairman, Carnival China; Lorenzo Diamantini, vice president shore operations, Holland America Group & more.

Seatrade Cruise Asia will run from 12-13 May.

NCL unveils Joy features

NORWEGIAN Cruise Lines has overnight unveiled features for its new purpose-built luxury vessel set for China, *Norwegian Joy*.

With a capacity of 3,900 guests, the newbuild will feature 'The Haven by Norwegian', a luxury suite complex which is accessible only by personalised key card.

Encore sneak peek

LUXURY cruise line, Seabourn, has released a sneak peek of the Observation Bar on board it's new vessel, *Seabourn Encore*.

The Observation Bar (pictured) will be the highest indoor viewing point of the ship, showcasing a 270 degree forward-facing views for guests to enjoy at sea, whilst serving up a range of culinary and beverage services daily.



Within the Haven, guests are offered specialty dining options, access to an enclosed courtyard and a choice of 74 spacious "meticulously decorated" suites.

The cruise liner will also introduce a new accommodations category dubbed Concierge Level, which allows guests to enjoy an exclusive lounge with private bar and refreshments, services of a dedicated concierge, and a range of staterooms with a choice of either a balcony, virtual balcony or ocean views.

To entertain the masses, the ship's top deck will feature a racetrack, open-air laser tag, hover craft bumper cars & more.

Bow-to-stern wi-fi connectivity will also be made available, described by the cruise line as "the fastest in the Norwegian fleet", to allow guests to keep in touch with family and friends back on shore.

CLICK HERE to view the promo video for *Norwegian Joy*, or visit www.goncl.cn for more information on sailings.

RCI virtual tour video

ROYAL Caribbean has utilised a 3D virtual reality tool to allow viewers to tour its newbuild ship, *Harmony of the Seas* at the STX Shipyard in France.

The cruise line has also released a one-minute hyper-lapse video of the interiors of the ship.

MEANWHILE mega-vessel *Ovation of the Seas* will feature on Nine Network's *60 Minutes* on Sun on the at 8:15pm.

CLICK HERE for the 3D virtual tour and **HERE** for the time lapse.

Cruise Weekly today

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

New ship christened

STAR Clippers has decided to name its brand new ship the *Flying Clipper*, after its first vessel the *Star Flyer*.

The Flying Clipper debuts in 2017 and will carry 300 pax across Mediterranean waters.

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Pride of America refurbishment



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's US-flagged *Pride of America* has received an extensive upgrade, following a three and a half week dry dock.

Enhancements include: newly designed public spaces (**pictured** above), new venues and refreshed decor in all the staterooms.

"This is much more than just a fresh coat of paint and new drapes," commented NCL president and ceo, Andy Stuart. "*Pride of America* is now essentially a new ship, and the only one to offer this incredibly unique way to experience the Hawaiian Islands with 100 hours of time in port," he said.

The vessel's specialty restaurants East Meets West (**pictured** below), Cagneys Steakhouse and Jefferson's Bistro all received a refresh, now showcasing a modern look with new flooring, furniture, artwork, lighting fixtures & window treatments.



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Ensemble Travel Group open for biz

THE Ensemble Travel Group has today announced that it is ready to sign new members to its Australia and New Zealand travel network, beginning 31 Mar.

Launching at the Sydney Opera House last night, senior vice president and gm of Ensemble Trish Shepherd commented the group already "have an exceptional roster of preferred suppliers under contract and are ready to welcome members."

"We are thrilled to have the support of so many premium suppliers to launch in this region - airlines, hotels, cruise, tour and land operators all delivering extraordinary benefits to our members," she added.

Co-president Lindsay Pearlman said the group are "looking for members who are seeking a broader value proposition to achieve a higher level of success in their business".

See joinensemble.com.au.

TTC weekly deal

TRAVEL to Hawaii with Creative Cruising's 10-night Cruise to Paradise return package for just \$3,659 per person, when booked by 15 Apr.

The deal includes two nights pre-cruise and one night post cruise accommodation in Honolulu, a seven-night cruise on board *Pride of America*, shared transfers and more, with the cruise departing 24 Nov.

Windstar first female captain named



BELINDA Bennett has been promoted to Captain of the *Windstar* vessel.

Bennett is the first woman to hold the title of captain since Windstar Cruises inception in '84.

"Belinda's leadership qualities and hard work have made her an asset to our team and invaluable to her colleagues and crew," commented Windstar Cruises ceo, Hans Birkholz.

"She has earned her spot on the helm and I'm excited to see her in action, guiding the crew and our guests through some of the world's most incredible destinations for years to come," he said.

River Voyager debut

VANTAGE Deluxe World Travel officially inaugurated its latest ship, the 176 passenger *River Voyager*, which brings the touring company's total European fleet to seven vessels.

In attendance at the ceremony was Vantage ceo, Henry Lewis, godmother (and long-time employee) Maria Chaves and Captain Siegbert Schroeder who will command the *River Voyager* on her inaugural season.

The 443-foot long vessel showcases art deco styling & European influenced cuisine.

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ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO

Aussie cruise uptick

OUR recent visit to the USA was a huge success for the Australian Cruise Association.

Seatrade Cruise Global in Fort Lauderdale afforded us some exciting opportunities to showcase Australia as a destination full of varied experiences across a broad landscape.

The sales mission that followed allowed the team to drill down into the special areas of interest by state.

Based on feedback from the cruise lines, there is no doubt we will see continued growth across all our ports.

A good example of how this is working is in SA which has seen significant increases over the last few years, according to Leah Clarke at the SATC.

Kangaroo Island which had three cruise ship visits in the 12/13 season will have 19 ships call in to this "wild and welcoming" destination in the 16/17 season with a total capacity of nearly 38,000 passengers and crew coming to visit.

"This is pinned to the diversity of experiences on offer," said Clarke. "With an abundance of nature and wildlife and the outstanding local produce of the Island we are seeing more visitors enjoying their visit to this remote landscape."

In Adelaide, P&Os homeporting of the *Pacific Eden* followed by *Pacific Aria* next year has been a boon for the city.

Next season, South Australia is looking forward to 51 scheduled visits – up from 37 this year – including the QM2 to Kangaroo Island and the behemoth *Ovation of the Seas* into Adelaide.

Another great success story for the Australian cruise industry.

Island Escape Cruises

CRUISE Tahiti for seven nights with Island Escape Cruises on board *Island Passage* and save up to NZ\$2,000 per person (AU\$1796).

Valid for new bookings only, the special is available for departures on the 22 & 29 May as well as 05 & 26 Jun.

The deal covers all meals on board, beverages, shore excursions as per itinerary.

Prices range from NZ\$3,950 per person for a stateroom to bridge suites at NZ\$6,950.

Agent fares for the cruise begin at NZ\$5,950 for two.

Visit islandescapecruises.com.

Le Boat Europe trip

BOATING vacation company, Le Boat, has introduced a series of self-skipped boat cruises, exploring the canals of Holland and the South of France.

For more information or to book a trip visit, leboat.com.

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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)

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All aboard ms Noordam



HOLLAND America Line's *ms Noordam* welcomed aboard more than 100 members of the Australia-Dutch business community last week, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Dutch discovery of Australia by explorer Dirk Hartog.

Joined by chairman of Dutchlink, Bert Baradoel and Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Willem Cosijn, guests were treated to a delicious lunch at the Pinnacle Grill.

Shane Phillips from Tribal Warrior, discussed ways in which the not-for-profit supports indigenous and non-indigenous youth in Australia.

Over \$5,000 was raised for the initiative during the event.

Pictured (from left) are: Shane Phillips, ceo, Tribal Warrior; Ali McEvoy, consultant, Corporate Giving Holland America Line; Bert Baradoel, chairman, Dutchlink; Captain Henk Draper, *ms Noordam*; Anna Mansfield, account manager for Holland America Line, PEPR Publicity; Wilem Consijn, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Philip Engelberts, director, PEPR Publicity.



A ROOM with a very special view is up for grabs.

Airbnb has partnered with the Paris Aquarium to offer an underwater bedroom surrounded by 35 sharks.

The room will be available for three nights in Apr as part of a competition organised by Airbnb, with the underwater sleepover aiming to teach guests more about the often misunderstood species.

