

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 31 May 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

Avis Scholarship open

THIS year's search for the annual Avis Travel Agent Scholarship recipient is officially underway.

Agents have until 29 Aug to submit an application for this coveted award with finalists to be announced on 26 Sep.

The Scholarship is open to any Australian leisure or corporate travel agent who can demonstrate they understand the value of exceptional customer service.

This year's winner will receive an educational and travel-related prize package valued at more than \$40,000, which includes two return Qantas Business class tickets to New York, accommodation in Manhattan with car hire together with a scholarship to study at Southern Cross University.

To apply, agents should head to www.avisscholarship.com.

Celebrity gratuities

THE daily gratuity charge will rise on all Celebrity cruises beginning on or after 01 Jul, *Cruise Critic* is reporting.

Standard staterooms will increase to US\$13.50 from US\$12.95 per day, the rate for Concierge-class and AquaClass cabins will go from US\$13.45 to US\$14 per day and those staying in Suite-class rooms will pay US\$17 from US\$16.45pp, per day.

Aussie cruise momentum

THE Australian cruise industry has experienced its thirteenth consecutive year of double digit growth, according to the latest industry figures released by CLIA Australasia.

Carnival Australia executive chairman Ann Sherry said the data highlights the growing maturity of the Australian market. "We often refer to the multiplier effect of cruise tourism and now see more evidence of its national momentum as more ports and regional destinations become cruise hubs in their own right," Sherry said.

"The benefits of cruising are no longer limited to one or two major cities."

Sherry used the opportunity to push for investment in port facilities, particularly in Sydney, with Carnival Australia continuing to seek the certainty of long term

access to berths east of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The report also revealed the number of Aussies taking an ocean cruise in Asia has more than doubled in the last two years, increasing by 71%.

Hong Kong Tourism Board regional director Australia, Andre Clark said the jump in passengers to Asia is extremely positive.

"The cruise segment is a huge opportunity for Hong Kong and we will continue to maintain a focus on bolstering this market through our trade and marketing channels," Clark said.

APT Chinese Charters

APT Group have made inroads into the Asian market appointing an APT agency in China to sell three dedicated charters for the Mandarin speaking market departing in Jul and Aug.

Group channel strategy manager Damian Borg told *Cruise Weekly* at the recent Select Travel group conference, that the three charters will cruise between Budapest and Amsterdam with a Mandarin speaking cruise director and support staff, Mandarin speaking local guides and a choice of Western or Chinese meals aboard each ship.

Shore excursions and other inclusions remain unchanged and Borg confirmed at this stage there are no plans in place to market lower-cost sister brand Travelmarvel to the Chinese speaking market.

Fly free deals and marketing collateral printed in Mandarin are available.

Genting submersibles

FURTHER details have surfaced on the features of Dream Cruises' inaugural ship, *Genting Dream*.

Two submersibles will be on board the vessel, each designed to carry one pilot and four passengers, allowing guests to venture deep under the ocean.

The design concept for the submersibles is **pictured** below.



Empress returns

ROYAL Caribbean's *Empress of the Seas* left for its first sailing with the line this week, around two months later than originally scheduled (**CW** 22 Dec 15).

The vessel will now homeport at Miami following a \$50m revamp adding a new rock-climbing wall, pools, hot tubs, a solarium and a signature Chops Grille.

The renovations took longer than planned, causing 13 trips to be axed.



Brochure Spotlight

Scenic Europe mini-brochures

FOUR

new mini-brochures showcasing river cruising products plus Europe land touring



have been released by Scenic as part of its 2017 portfolio.

New for 2017 are The Enchanting Wonders of Portugal & The Grand Wonders of Europe, which join The Captivating Wonders of France and The Imperial Wonders of Russia.

The brochures focus on the key highlights of each destination and are designed to be used as a selling tool by travel agents and complement the main brochure.

2017 Ex UK Back to Back Combination Cruises Brochure OUT!

Magellan



From London(Tilbury)

Columbus



From London(Tilbury), Liverpool, Newcastle

Joins CMV Fleet in June 2017

Marco Polo



From Bristol Avonmouth, Hull, Rosyth and Liverpool



CRUISE & MARITIME VOYAGES

- Choice of 87 sailings and 132 cruise
- Overall UK programme capacity of 95,000 passengers

VIEW ONLINE

CRUISE

WEEKLY

AGENT
UPDATE

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PONANT wine cruise

A **CRUISE** designed to impress the grape expectations of wine lovers has been added to PONANT's repertoire.

The nine-night "Vineyards & Grands Crus" voyage sails on *Le Soleal* from Lisbon on 15 Apr, visiting Porto, Bordeaux, Saint Malo, Portsmouth & more.

To view an electronic brochure for the cruise, **CLICK HERE**.

Hamish & Andy afloat

COMEDY duo Hamish and Andy are jumping on board *Carnival Spirit* with a "ship load" of their listeners for a five-day live show.

About 110 fans will join what is dubbed "the people's cruise" as the vessel sails from Sydney to Vanuatu next month.

Listeners who answer their phone and act as if the call has woken them up will be awarded a spot on the cruise - "because if you're snoozin', you're cruisin'". Register **HERE**.

Hapag itineraries

TEN itineraries exploring Antarctica, the Arctic, Amazon River, South Seas and South and Central America are inside Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' newly launched *HANSEATIC Expedition Cruises'* brochure.

The only five-star expedition ship, *HANSEATIC* will cruise in both cold and warm waters between Nov 2016 and Feb 2018.

Highlights include the 16-day Source of Life in a Green Paradise from Iquitos/Peru to Belem/Brazil and the 15-day Expedition Antarctica; a world of ice.

CCC Fiji discount

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji is running a 'Take a Friend Half Price' sale on three-, four-, seven- or eleven-night Fiji island cruises.

Solo travellers haven't been forgotten with a 25% discount.

Book by 30 Jun, for travel until 31 Mar 2017.

See captaincookcruisesfiji.com.

Agents get into the Spirit



THE shiny new *Scenic Spirit* showed off the mighty Mekong River to 32 agents on an eight-day famil recently.

Starting out in Vietnam, participants had a selection of Scenic Freechoice activities including visiting the Cai Be floating markets; Dong Ha Hiep Island; Evergreen Island and the local Cai Dai Temple.

Sailing further north, the group stopped by Phnom Penh to take in the city's highlights by tuk tuk.

Many chose to experience the very moving Killing Fields and tour Tuol Sleng, the former school which was converted to the main prison by the Khmer Rouge.

Also included were two Scenic Enrich experiences in Cambodia – high tea with an exclusive private shadow puppet show at the luxury Raffles, Hotel Le Royal, and a blessing from a Buddhist monk in the pagoda in Oudong.

The group is **pictured** at the Silver Pagoda in the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh.

MEANWHILE, Scenic is urging agents to register for its Ever Wondered sessions which kick off next week.

Between 07-30 Jun, the luxury cruise & tour operator will hold eight events across Brisbane, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra & Adelaide, more **HERE**.



SEABOURN®

Europe NOW Event

Seabourn is pleased to announce our *Europe NOW Event* through June 30, 2016.

From the cobblestone streets of Venice to Norway's majestic fjords, there's never been a better time to discover Europe.

Take advantage of exceptional offers including:

• 50% reduced deposits*

• Complimentary Veranda Suite upgrades on select sailings*

• \$1,000USD per suite shipboard credit for Penthouse and Premium Suites*

• \$600AUD per person round-trip air credit on select sailings*

WIN A CRUISE

Book your clients on a 2016 Europe voyage and win a 7-day cruise on Seabourn Encore! For details, visit www.seabourn.com/travel-agentcenter/Collateral.action

*Restrictions apply - visit Seabourn.com for full terms and conditions.

Aqua's charity p'ship

ROOM to Read has partnered with Aqua Expeditions to invite guests to donate children's books provided by the charity to a child in need when the *Aqua Mekong* guides take them into local communities.

Cunard's fine wine

QUEEN Mary 2 has taken the claim for the finest wine cellar at sea, with 450 fine wines available on board.

The Cunard Wine Academy has debuted on the vessel, offering food and wine pairings, tastings and producer master classes.

Also new is the Coravin pouring system, which extracts the desired quantity using a needle - find out more **HERE**.

Tempo early booking

EARLYBIRD bonuses are being offered by Tempo Holidays on a range of Lüefthner 2017 Europe Cruises.

When booked and deposited before 31 Aug, the second traveller can sail for 50% off and solo travellers can save up to 30% with no single supplement.

Two people travelling together can save up to AU\$1,783.

Visit tempoholidays.com.au.



Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	01 Jun
<i>Sun Princess</i>	01 Jun
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	02 Jun
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	03 Jun
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	03 Jun
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	06 Jun
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Expeditions 1</i>	02 Jun
BRISBANE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	01 Jun
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	04 Jun
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	05 Jun
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	06 Jun
BUSSELTON	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	03 Jun

Magellan gets sailing



MAGELLAN Travel Group agents got a chance to explore the *American Queen* on a recent educational hosted by Air New Zealand and the American Queen Steamboat Company.

Pictured on board are: Roger

Koller, Gregor & Lewis; Sonia Beagley, Travel Practice; Sharon Leeson, East Burwood Travel; Craig Andrew Reid, The Village Travel; Craig Owens, Cruise Office; Greg Loton, Alpha Travel; Diane Rawlings, Where2Travel; Jacqui Nelson, Albury Travel; Gail Perry, Cooper Travel and Marilyn Heslop, Spencer Travel.

G Adventures adds

THREE new itineraries in Norway have been launched by G Adventures, to sail on board *G Expedition* in May 2017.

The new additions are the eight-day Cruise the Norwegian Fjords - Tromsø to Bergen, 14-day Scottish Highlands and Norwegian Fjords and 15-day Norwegian Fjords and Polar Bears of Spitsbergen.

An 15% earlybird discount is available on the new sailings for reservations made by 30 Jun.

Uniworld Rhine deal

SAVINGS of \$2,475pp are available on Uniworld's Boutique River Cruise's eight-day Castles Along the Rhine departure on 12 Oct when booked by 30 Jun.

A seven-night river cruise on *River Empress* is included in the price, along with transfers, meals and six days of excursions.

Prices lead in at \$3,669ppts.



THESE purrfect Russian sailors have become an internet sensation around the world.

The decks of tourist boat *Nikolay Chernyshevsky* are manned by Sailor, an exotic short-hair cat and his apprentice, a Scottish Fold, Boatswain.

Sailing from Moscow to St. Petersburg, the pair spend their days patrolling the decks and sleeping on the job.

The human-captain of the vessel, Vladimir Kotin has been tasked with watching over the cats while they're on the job, taking care of important duties such as removing lint from Sailor's jacket and making sure his hat has been correctly placed on his head.

Sailor is pictured below.




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Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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