

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 10 Nov 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

Uniworld best deal

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has launched its new Our Best Offer Ever promotion with "unprecedented" savings on select 2017 departures in Europe and Russia.

From now until 31 Dec, guests can save up to 20% off select, all-inclusive 2017 voyages plus a further 10% off for River Heritage Club members.

Valid sailings include the new 10-day Paris and Impressions of the Seine itinerary, the 10-day Rhine-Main Discovery and Munich voyage and the 13-day Imperial Waterways of Russia.

CLICK HERE for a quote or for further information on the Best Offer Ever deals.

Evergreen "revisited" brox

ANTICIPATING a groundswell in late season river cruise bookings from the repeat travel market, Evergreen Tours has launched a brochure highlighting its product range in Europe beyond the core Amsterdam to Budapest program.

Out now, the 66-page 2017 European Waterways Revisited brochure is, according to general manager Angus Crichton, the first of its kind in the market.

At less than half the size of its primary cruise program, the guide aims to make it easier for cruisers who have already sailed on arguably the most popular itinerary in Europe, to consider Evergreen's newer options on the Douro, Saône and Rhône.

Crichton said sales in the regions have been "extremely satisfying", with numerous departures sold out, but added agents were after a standalone selling tool for the program as the product was

perceived as being "engulfed and buried" within the main brochure.

Speaking with **CW**, Crichton reiterated remarks by Evergreen's parent company Scenic (**CW** Tue), that Southern France demand was building up again following terrorist attacks earlier this year.

By May, Evergreen will have three newbuild ships in operation in Portugal and Southern France - *Emerald Radiance* and *Emerald Liberté* - along with new capacity on the Danube and Main when *Emerald Destiny* joins the fleet.

Evergreen's seven-day Douro & Saône voyages are unique in that they enable "seamless" back-to-back options for guests, he said.

Amsterdam to Budapest cruises haven't totally been excluded from the brochure, featuring in the Christmas market offering.

A 'Spring in Summer' campaign will support the program - view the brochure by **CLICKING HERE**.

SA's bumper season

THE arrival of the *Sun Princess* into Adelaide yesterday marked the start of what is anticipated to be a record cruise season.

The 2016/17 season will welcome a record number of cruise ships to South Australian ports, hosting an all-time-high capacity of 112,192 pax and crew.

"This season there are 52 cruise ship visits scheduled to South Australian ports, 15 ships more than last season," said SA Acting Minister for Tourism Ian Hunter.

Oceania NYC home

OCEANIA Cruises' *Insignia* will homeport in New York in 2017, offering round-trip voyages to New England, Canada, Bermuda, Greenland and Iceland.

The company said it will be the only upscale line to homeport in the Big Apple & has more than 20 planned voyages beginning 2017.

The season goes on sale 16 Nov.

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DEPARTING VANCOUVER ON 3 OCTOBER 2017, Norwegian Jewel will embark on an incredible 39-night combination cruise to Sydney, signalling the start of her inaugural Australian season.



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Get an update on all the latest cruise news in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**

New Shanghai cruise visa

CRUISE tour groups sailing into Shanghai can now take advantage of a 15-day visa-free policy, provided they arrive and exit on the same ship.

Passengers do not have to stay in Shanghai under the new visa, but can also travel to Beijing and other coastal provinces with the ship, including Liaoning, Hebei, Tianjin, Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan.

Total duration of time in China must not exceed 15 days and to qualify a group of two or more must be received by a Chinese travel agency at Shanghai Port Int'l Cruise Terminal or Wusong Passenger Transport Center.

When tourists arrive, they need to present their passport at the immigration counter.

No entry or exit card is needed and no entry or exit record will be stamped in their passport.

Crown DMC China said under the requirements of the visa, "tourists should book a tour with a local Chinese travel agency at least 24hrs before their arrival".

The policy aims to boost cruise tourism in China, a senior officer said in a statement from Crown DMC China

"In the past year, over 1.6 million tourists entered and exited Shanghai by cruise ships; however, among them there were only 69,000 foreign visitors.

"We realised that the strict visa policy might push some visitors to give up the tour [component] in China," the statement said.

NCLH Q3 results out

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) expects to achieve record earnings for the full year 2016, despite "headwinds from geopolitical events earlier in the year".

The company's Q3 results indicated a GAAP net income of US\$342.4m was generated for the period, up from US\$251.8m the year prior.

Total revenue in Q3 increased 15.6% to US\$1.5 billion and gross yield increased 1.5% on the PCP.

Creative Cruising deal

CREATIVE Cruising is throwing in an unlimited beverage package for bookings made by 22 Nov on its 14-night Gems of Southeast Asia Cruise.

Departing 05 Jan, the deal includes Economy class flights and is priced from \$2,839 per person, call 1300 362 599.

Seabourn Encore's final touches



SEABOURN Encore has completed her final round of sea trials off the coast of Italy.

The vessel spent three days at sea, where officers and engineers tested the ship's technical and mechanical systems and has since returned to the Fincantieri shipyard in Marghera.

Staff and workers are currently

putting the final touches on *Seabourn Encore* before the 600-pax ship is delivered on 30 Nov.

She will embark on her first sailing from Athens on 04 Dec and will arrive in Australia on 22 Jan, making nine calls to Australian ports through to 17 Mar.

Seabourn Encore is **pictured** above at the Marghera shipyard.

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10% off Tempo cruises

A **10%** discount is being offered by Tempo Holidays on its entire range of Europe river cruises when booked by 31 Dec for sailings departing next year.

A 15-day Amsterdam to Budapest cruise departing 13 Jun is priced at \$3,123pp twin share including the discount.

For further details, **CLICK HERE**.

explore4

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Holland America Line

Fourth Royal on the way



THE steel cutting ceremony for the fourth Royal Class ship for Princess Cruises was held last week at Fincantieri shipyard in Castellammare di Stabia, Italy. Design of the ship follows that of sister ships *Royal*, *Regal*, and *Majestic Princess*, and the vessel is scheduled for delivery in 2019. "Today's steel cutting of Hull

6268 signals the continuation of a 16 year partnership," Keith Taylor, Princess exec vp of fleet ops said. **Pictured** at the event are: Firouz Mal, newbuild project manager; Keith Taylor, executive vp of fleet operations; Elio Autiero, gm of human resources and Carlo Febbraro, director of shipboard technical personnel.

Carnival, INTERPOL pact

CARNIVAL Corporation has become the first maritime company to partner with Interpol in an agreement which will see security screening stepped up across its global operations.

The Carnival Corporation global check-in process will be integrated with INTERPOL's I-Checkit system, allowing the company to review before and during the boarding process if any of the passenger documents used across its 10 brands have been reported lost or stolen.

A three-month I-Checkit pilot program has been undertaken on four of Carnival Corporation's Princess Cruises ships.

The trial saw 34,000 travel documents checked against the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database.

Approval came from Tue's annual meeting of 190 member countries that comprise the international police organisation.

Carnival and Interpol can now work together in a phased roll out of the system in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

"One of our top priorities at Carnival Corporation is the safety and security of our guests, our crew and our ships," said Bill Burke, chief maritime officer for Carnival Corporation and retired vice admiral of the US Navy.

"Partnering with INTERPOL enables us to seamlessly enhance security across our global fleet while also maintaining our commitment to providing our guests with a great vacation experience."

Women-only cruises

TWO new women-only cruises will be operated by Aqua Expeditions in 2017.

A three-night cruise on the *Aqua Mekong* will sail from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 17 Jan and a four-night trip on *Aria Amazon* from Iquitos, Peru, on 20 Mar.

Book by 30 Nov to have the single supplement waived and a free 60-min massage included.

Cunard two-for-one

CUNARD is running a Veterans Day Sale offering two-for-one savings on launch fares and up to \$250 on board credit for active and retired military veterans.

The deal is available on select Transatlantic Crossings, Caribbean, South America, South Pacific, Australia & Asia and Panama Canal voyages.

Book by 14 Nov, for more see www.cunardline.com.au.



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Serenity returns

CRYSTAL Cruises was welcomed back to Port Everglades with a plaque exchange ceremony this week after a 10-year absence.

The arrival of the renovated *Crystal Serenity* on Tue was her only visit to the port for the 2016/17 season, but she will return in Oct 2017 with sister ship, *Crystal Symphony* for a full season of sailings from the Floridan port.

MEANWHILE, on Fri Port Everglades began rolling out the new US Customs and Border Protection approved Mobile Passport Control program for cruise ship travel, making it the first seaport in the US to use the new technology.

Harmony's big US send-off



ROYAL Caribbean's shiny new ship *Harmony of the Seas* has received a fitting sailaway party on her maiden voyage from her permanent homeport of Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale.

A team of 16 jetboard and jetpack riders from Aquafly Hydroflight Sports Performance

Team saw the vessel out to sea, performing a show of stunts.

Harmony joins sister ships *Oasis of the Seas* and *Allure of the Seas* on the east coast of Florida, homeported in Port Canaveral and Port Everglades respectively.

Harmony's grand send-off is pictured above.



WHAT is being billed as the first Comic Con Cruise will take place on a four-night Caribbean Cruise on Royal Caribbean's *Brilliance of the Seas*.

Sailing out of Tampa and operating 19-23 Jan, the Fan2Sea Comic Con Cruise will feature panels with the creators and talent behind *Stranger Things*, *Frank Miller*, *The Dark Knight III*, *The Walking Dead*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Marvel* and *DC Comics*.

There will also be workshops and master classes, a costume contest with a \$1,500 grand prize, live entertainment, parties, music, movie marathons and gaming and trivia contests.

Fantasy Mobile HP

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has returned to Mobile, Alabama, kicking off a program of year-round four- and five-day cruises to Mexico.

Carnival Fantasy's arrival was marked with an event featuring a traditional maritime plaque exchange between cruise line and port officials and a competition for charity.

"We are pleased and excited to welcome Carnival Cruise Lines back to the City of Mobile," said Mayor Sandy Stimpson.

"It represents a win for our city, a win for Carnival and most of all a win for the thousands of people who can once again enjoy a great cruise out of one of America's greatest cities."

Trans-Canada deal

WORLD Wide Cruise Centre has limited space remaining on a Trans-Pacific, Trans-Canada cruise-land-fly combo itinerary from Sydney to Toronto, priced from \$9,899ppts.

The package includes Holland America's *Noordam* cruise from Sydney to Vancouver on 08 Apr - for full details, [CLICK HERE](#).

South Sea appoints

CARL Amos will take up the newly created role of marketing services manager at The South Sea Cruises Group on Mon.

Amos will be based in Auckland and has previously worked for Starwood Hotels and Resorts, and Air New Zealand.

ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO



High tide for regional ports

THE growth in regional port visits and the associated economic impact is driving exciting success stories for our members.

Kangaroo Island will double its cruise ship visits from 10 to 19 this year with a mix of domestic and international passengers.

Leah Clarke, SATC observes "We are a great 'one day Island' where visitors can see amazing wildlife & enjoy our fabulous local produce."

She also cited the recent infrastructure developments.

"The double tender berth was custom designed for cruise ships - it is in sheltered waters, close to shore and is wheelchair friendly."

Touring and infrastructure are also driving growth at Port Arthur which will increase its cruise ship visitation from 10 ships last year to an astounding 22 ships in FY16/17 and 32 next year.

Within one hour of the port, visitors can find wineries, whisky distilleries, lavender farms, a Tasmanian Devil Park, heritage tours and geological formations.

Over in WA, the Port of Busselton, gateway to the beautiful Margaret River region is thriving with a phenomenal spike in ship visits from zero to 18 in just two years.

Christine Cole, Tourism WA reports that not only are the visitors coming but according to recent research with passengers on *Diamond Princess* and *Dawn Princess*, 100% reported a positive overall experience.

It is clear regional destinations are punching above their weight for the cruise industry.

At ACA we look forward to working with them to continue that growth.

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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