

# CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 06 Sep 2016

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Imagination drydock

**NEW** food and beverage offerings are being added to *Carnival Imagination* during a three-week drydock which began on Sun and will be completed on 25 Sep.

Guy's Burger Joint will be fitted to the vessel, along with poolside Mexican eatery Blueguana Cantina, watering hole RedFrog Rum Bar and "cocktail-pharmacy"-themed lounge, Alchemy Bar.

Mexican outdoor bar, Blue Iguana Tequila Bar and lolly shop Cherry on Top will also be added.

Following the refurb, *Imagination* will resume her schedule of three- and four-day Baja cruises from the port of Long Beach in California.

## Aqua opens Aussie office

**AQUA** Expeditions has bulked up its commitment to the Australian market & opened a call centre within the Sydney-based offices of Travel the World Group.

Agents will no longer have to call or email Aqua Expeditions' Singapore office, with a new specialist Reservations unit appointed in Sydney, plus a dedicated sales team.

The expansion of operations into Australia is in response to the market's strong bookings for its Amazon and Mekong cruises.

The new Australian office and sales team are: Sharon Hando, national account manager; Rachel Javier, sales manager Vic/SA/Tas/NT; Jim Petrissis, sales manager NSW/ACT and Sussanah Teng, in the role of national marketing and sales coordinator.

Aqua Expeditions' ceo and founder, Francesco Galli

Zugaro said "everyone on our team is very excited about the opportunities we know there are for further growth in business from Australia.

"We are delighted to be opening an office in Australia to provide any assistance we can to our important industry partners and friends," Zugaro said.

Call the office on 1300 124 204.

## MSC Bellissima named

**MSC** Cruises' second STX France-built Meraviglia-generation mega cruise ship will be called *MSC Bellissima* and will come into service in spring 2019.

Gianni Onorato, MSC Cruises ceo said "*MSC Bellissima* is a name that embodies the beauty & the magnificence of this entire next generation of MSC Cruises ultramodern mega-ships, so rich with new features & amenities".

## Bentours GSA today

**BENTOURS** has officially taken on the GSA of Hurtigruten in Australia and New Zealand, effective today.

The specialist Hurtigruten team is now on deck to assist with bookings and can provide real time availability and pricing.

Contact them on 1800 487 844 or [hurtigruten@bentours.com.au](mailto:hurtigruten@bentours.com.au).

## RCL Asia discounts

**UP TO 30%** off selected Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Club Cruises voyages dep between Oct-Apr 2017 are available when booked by 30 Sep.

A seven-night Thailand and Vietnam sailing of *Mariner of the Seas* on 20 Jan is priced from \$799ppts, while a 12-night Indonesia and Malaysia voyage dep 27 Nov on *Celebrity Millennium* starts at \$1,119ppts.

For more information or to book, phone 1800 754 500.

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## Cruiseabout Bowls deal

**RETAIL** cruise brand Cruiseabout will operate bowls cruises and become the exclusive retail travel agency for Bowls Australia following a two-year partnership with the sport's governing body.

The pair up will be promoted on *The Bowls Show* on SBS and over the next four episodes, national coach Steve Glasson will front segments about the cruising experience and upcoming dedicated bowls sailings.

The seven-night Beaches, Bowls and the Barrier Reef is the first of the bowls departures, departing Brisbane on 24 Sep for Airlie Beach, Yorkeys Knob, Port Douglas and Willis Island aboard P&O's *Pacific Dawn*.

Bowls matches will be run throughout the cruise and return airfares and a visit by Australian Jackaroos captain Lynsey Clarke at Airlie Beach is included.

Next in line is a cruise to New

Zealand on board *Emerald Princess* to watch the Bowls Premier League in Feb 2017.

Bowls Australia ceo Neil Dalrymple said bowls members will reap the benefits of the pact.

"Throughout the past few years I have spoken to countless bowlers who thoroughly enjoy the experience of cruising, so this partnership is a great fit for our sport," Dalrymple said.

"From what we have already seen, Cruiseabout have already been extremely creative in their offerings to bowls members and we look forward to this continuing throughout the term of the relationship."

### Concordia final trip

**COSTA Concordia** has made her final trip to a dry dock in Italy for the last phase of the dismantling and recycling project, expected to be completed in early 2017.

## MSC Meraviglia float out



**MSC Meraviglia** was floated out from STX France's shipyards in Saint Nazaire on Sat.

The vessel is on track to start cruising in Jun 2017 and will feature a Carousel Lounge for guests to enjoy performances from Cirque du Soleil artists and a 96m-long Mediterranean-style promenade with an 80m LED Sky.

Demand for the inaugural season in the Western Mediterranean has been "extremely encouraging right from the release", says Gianni Onorato, MSC Cruises ceo.

**MSC Meraviglia's** summer 2017 season is open and prices lead in from \$879pp.

### SeaDream Engine fire

**TWO** voyages on *Seadream I* have been cancelled after a fire broke out in one of the vessel's engines on Fri and was quickly extinguished.

All guests and crew were unharmed and a 03 Sep and 10 Sep sailing was cancelled.

Passengers were disembarked to a high-speed ferry for transport to Naples, where they boarded a coach for transfer to Rome, their scheduled debarkation port.

Marine and technical staff are evaluating the ship and the cause is not currently available.

The company said it is in contact with affected agent partners.

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Confused about which river cruise cabin? We've taken the guess work out in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE** to read

## Antarctica air credit

**BOOKINGS** for Contours Travel's new Antarctica Express Air Cruise made by 15 Dec for travel Nov-Jan will receive a US\$3,400 air credit per couple.

The credit can be put towards the flights from Australia to Argentina, where the cruise departs from.

Priced from \$8,254pp, more information on the six-day cruise is at [www.contourstravel.com.au](http://www.contourstravel.com.au).

## Australis free child

**ONE** child under 18 per paying adult can cruise for free on six *Stella Australis* sailings in Dec.

The offer applies to bookings made by 31 Oct for a ticket covering one adult and one child sharing one cabin.

Visit [www.australis.com](http://www.australis.com).

## NCLH ceo buys shares

**PRESIDENT** and ceo of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd, Frank Del Rio has bought 83,498 shares of NCLH at an average of US\$35.93 a share.

The transaction, which took place on 31 Aug, is worth just under US\$3 million.

## Tas Sth West cruise

**FROM** Feb-May Tasmanian Boat Charters will introduce three-, five- or seven-day guided expeditions into Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour in Tasmania.

The cruises will be on board *Odalisque*, which accommodates up to ten guests.

All tours include flights to and from Hobart's Cambridge Aerodrome to Melaleuca's white quartzite airstrip.

## Costa new itineraries

**TWO** new routes in the Mediterranean have been added to Costa Cruises' 2017 season.

The first is a seven-day cruise on *Costa neoClassica* departing on Sat from Bari between 13 May-30 Sep and stopping by the Greek Islands of Corfu, Crete, Santorini and Mykonos.

Second is a seven-day cruise on *Costa neoRiviera* departing Savona every Sun between 04 Jun-24 Sep.

The cruise will call into Porto Torres, Balearic Islands, Minorca, Ibiza, Palma de Mallorca, Tarragona and Barcelona.

Both are open for bookings.

## CCC Grange cruise

**CAPTAIN** Cook Cruises has introduced the Platinum Penfolds Grange Dinner Cruise, to be held nightly on *MV Sydney 2000*.

The cruise includes a six course degustation menu and a selection of Penfolds' bin and vintage wines to complement each course.

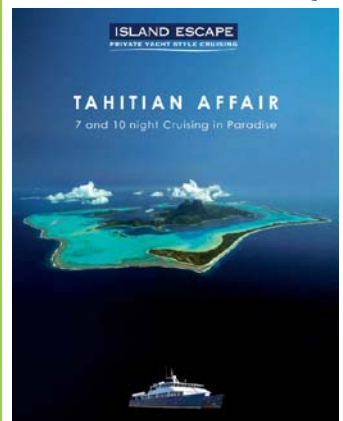
Captain Cook Cruises has also added a gold selection of Penfolds wines to their existing Gold Penfolds Dinner Cruise.

See [captaincook.com.au](http://captaincook.com.au).



## Brochure Spotlight

### Island Escape Cruises - Tahiti 2017



THE new 17-page Tahitian Affair brochure details seven-night voyages departing from Bora Bora and ten-night cruises from Papeete.

Also in the program is information about life on board, activities, dining offerings and the cabins & suites.

Prices lead in at NZ\$5,950pp for a Castaway cabin.



The French cruise line PONANT operates the youngest fleet of expedition small ships. As the World's leader in luxury expedition cruises, PONANT sails to the majestic glaciers of the Arctic and Antarctic and also offers relaxing itineraries in the Mediterranean or Caribbean and journeys of discovery in Asia, the Pacific & Russia.

## PART-TIME CRUISE CONSULTANT

We are seeking an experienced Cruise Consultant to join our Sydney based Contact Centre 3 days a week. Reporting to the Call Centre Manager, this role is accountable for delivering exceptional service to our trade partners and guests and offers an opportunity to make the move from wholesale or retail to own a brand. Strong sales and service background essential along with travel consulting experience in the expedition, luxury or cruise space.

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## They're Redy to cruise



**SYDNEY** Airport shuttle specialist Redy2Go is targeting the cruise sector for the upcoming wave season, saying it offers the "most convenient and cost effective way to get to either the Overseas Passenger Terminal or White Bay".

Redy2Go is the only licensed operator at Sydney Airport and offers a personalised welcome for clients, meaning they are "perfect for travel agents and wholesalers to work with," according to business development manager Kevin Millard, who's pictured getting lei'd with staff members Michael Millard and Elizabeth Anderson at one of the firm's four Sydney Airport travel desks.

The Redy2Go fleet of wi-fi-equipped air conditioned vehicles leave on a regular basis from SYD's domestic and international terminals - call 1300 246 669.

Cruise Calendar	
This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.	
SYDNEY	
Pacific Pearl	06 Sep
Pacific Jewel	06 Sep
Carnival Spirit	09 Sep
BRISBANE	
Pacific Aria	09 Sep
Pacific Dawn	10 Sep
Carnival Spirit	11 Sep
Sun Princess	12 Sep
CAIRNS	
Pacific Aria	10 Sep
GERALDTON	
Dawn Princess	11 Sep

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

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

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## Auckland's biggest cruise season

**AUCKLAND'S** NZ\$220 million cruise industry has smashed all existing records this year, with 2015/16 being the city's biggest cruise season yet.

Figures released in the latest Cruise New Zealand Economic Impact Summary Report revealed 105 ships visited Auckland in 2015/16, carrying a total of 230,800 passengers.

Cruise New Zealand predicts Auckland's cruise sector will be worth NZ\$470 million to the local economy by 2030 - however the increase relies on Auckland's ability to accommodate larger cruise ships by providing suitable infrastructure.

## Scenic Earlybirds

**SCENIC'S** Earlybird offers for Europe River Cruising and South America land tours in 2017 will only be available until 30 Sep.

Savings of up to \$6,900 per couple are available on 2017 Europe river cruises with return flights to Europe for \$995pp.

Prices for Scenic's 15-day Jewels of Europe River Cruise, start from \$6,995pp twin share with included flights to Europe.

## Cunard fashion week

**CUNARD** has kicked off the first ever 'Transatlantic Fashion Week' with a *Queen Mary 2* voyage departing Southampton last Fri featuring seven days of runway shows and exclusive unveilings.



**THERE** would have been plenty to talk about during the sailaway party on board Carnival Cruise Lines' massive *Carnival Vista* during a Mediterranean voyage last week.

The operator is reportedly under investigation by authorities in the Italian port of Messina, Sicily after an "incident" which saw a number of smaller boats in a marina swamped as the vessel left port.

Despite it being described as a "beautiful, sunny and calm day" the ship apparently came perilously close to a pier, with the thrust from its propeller creating aquatic turbulence which sunk the pleasure craft moored nearby.

One of the local newspapers reported the 'small tsunami' also damaged two concrete piers "under the astonished gaze of several citizens" with the damage bill amounting to as much as €250,000.

The chaos can be seen at [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).



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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, Magda Herdzik, Melanie Tchakmadjian  
[ads@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:ads@cruiseweekly.com.au)

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

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