

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 20 Sep 2016

Cruise Weekly today

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

NCLH leadership rejig

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings has modified the structure of its leadership team, promoting Bob Binder to president and ceo of Oceania Cruises, in addition to his current role as vice chairman of Oceania and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

In addition, Andy Stuart, president of Norwegian Cruise Line, and Jason Montague, president of Regent Seven Seas Cruises, will add the title of ceo to their roles with their respective brands, effective immediately.

AIDAperla details

TWIN ship to *AIDAprima*, *AIDAperla* will begin sailing in the Mediterranean on 01 Sep.

From Mar 2018 the new vessels will homeport in Hamburg, operating seven-day round trips before relocating to the Western Mediterranean in early 2018, sailing seven-day cruises.

Solstice \$11m makeover

CELEBRITY *Solstice* will be fitted with an outdoor cinema, new Lawn Club cabanas, a Japanese sushi restaurant and a digital photo gallery as part of a \$11.25 million revitalisation.

She will enter dry-dock in Singapore on 22 Oct and emerge nine days later before sailing into her Sydney homeport on 14 Nov.

Adam Armstrong, md of Celebrity Cruises in Australia and New Zealand said the reno will enhance the Lawn Club "by adding an outdoor movie screen, beautiful cabanas, and introducing "A Taste of Film" experience, which pairs classic films with culinary delights - an industry first".

Celebrity Solstice will be the first of the *Solstice* class ships to offer the experience.

Alcove-style cabanas will be added beside the real grass lawn (**pictured**), with the option to either face out to sea or towards the movie screen.

Sushi on Five will replace Bistro on Five and offer an a la carte



menu from which guests can choose hand-rolled sushi, fresh wasabi, house-made soy sauce, Asian-inspired cocktails, Japanese beers and premium sakes.

The vessel's photo gallery will remove the panel display of printed photos and introduce 25 touch screen kiosks, allowing guests to download their purchased professional photos to their mobile device.

An Art Gallery will emerge from where the Photo Gallery currently stands, featuring an auction location and contemporary art.

Suites will also be enhanced with new patio furniture to be added to balconies.

Following her arrival in Sydney, *Celebrity Solstice* will operate itineraries calling into New Zealand, Indonesia & local ports.

RCI subs Lifou calls

ROYAL Caribbean Int'l has cancelled 26 calls into Lifou, New Caledonia this summer due to the tender pier being unable to safely receive the larger ships, *Explorer of the Seas* & *Voyager of the Seas*.

"We're definitely partnering with the Lifou authorities to develop and invest in the infrastructure, unfortunately that is taking a little bit longer for that to be completed," Marc Miller, director itinerary planning RCI said at last week's Cruise360 Australasia conference.

On 20 of the affected sailings, Lifou will be replaced with an alternative South Pacific island port such as Mare, Isle of Pines or Noumea and two cruises will replace Lifou with a call to Port Kembla in Wollongong.

The remaining four cruises will have an additional day at sea, with guests receiving on board credit as there is no availability at other South Pacific ports.

The big ships plan to return the following season, while cruises on smaller ships *Radiance* and *Legend* and *Celebrity Cruises' Solstice* remain unchanged.

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CLIA river report

CLIA Australasia is set to release a river cruise specific report in coming weeks, Brett Jardine, commercial director at Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia told **CW**.

In May, CLIA opted to remove river cruising from its annual cruise industry statistics to enable them to be comparable across regions worldwide (**CW** 26 May).

MEANWHILE, president and ceo of CLIA global, Cindy D'Aoust said there's "nothing currently in the works" for Viking Cruises to return to CLIA.

"Viking Cruises is obviously very reputable river cruise line, we'd love to have them part of our community, but it is down to their choice," she said.

Galápagos last min

CONTOURS Travel are offering 35% off cruises to the Galápagos Islands for travel from now until the end of the year.

Visit contourstravel.com.au.

Carnival Corp on TV

CARNIVAL Corporation will showcase its ten brands to US viewers with plans to air three TV series on US networks ABC, NBC and The CW over the next year.

P&O Cruises Australia has secured a guest role on the programs, which aim to expand the cruise market by showing "why cruising is such a great vacation," Carnival Corp president and ceo Arnold Donald said.

Ocean Treks with Jeff Corwin will air on ABC as part of *Weekend Adventure* on ABC and the *The Voyager with Josh Garcia* on NBC will follow Garcia as he meets port locals.

On The CW, *Vacation Creation* will be hosted by comedian Tommy Davidson and YouTube celebrity Andrea Feczko as they personalise holidays for couples, individuals and families who are facing hardship.

MEANWHILE, this week *the Ellen Degeneres Show* is giving away a Carnival cruise to five viewers in the US - **CLICK HERE**.



ON HER first visit down under, for the Cruise360 Australasia conference on Fri, Cindy D'Aoust, CLIA Global ceo & president laid down her three areas of focus.

The first is to create a "glocal" organisation, which has global infrastructure to share learnings, products and tools but executes on a local level, based on the priorities of the local market.

Second, D'Aoust wants to unify the industry - noting that CLIA would love to work more closely with ACA and thirdly, "to continue to enhance the value that we deliver to our members".

MEANWHILE, next year CLIA will take a "very different approach" to Cruise360.

"It's so important that we get the right speakers," D'Aoust said.

"Rather than just pick a date and hope that we get the right people," CLIA plans to choose a time when key leaders and speakers are going to be in the area and then lock in the period so people know when to expect the conference to be held.

Pictured above are: Steve Odell, chairman CLIA Australasia; Cindy D'Aoust, president and ceo CLIA Global; Ross Greenwood, journalist and master of ceremonies; Jonathan O'Dea, Parliamentary Secretary for Trade, Tourism & Major Events and Joel Katz, managing director CLIA Australasia.

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The entire trip includes a five-night Hurtigruten voyage, an overnight ferry from Stockholm to Helsinki and 16-nights accom.

Prices start from \$7,790 per person twin share, for bookings, contact res@tempoholidays.com.

Dream lights up

IMAGES of *Genting Dream's* light show have been previewed (pictured) whilst docked outside the Meyer Werft shipyard.

The vessel debuts on 12 Nov.



Chief for SSC Group

SOUTH Sea Cruises has appointed Brad Rutherford as ceo, taking over from current chief Peter Duncan on 06 Dec.

Rutherford, who is currently gm at ATS Pacific & Tourist Transport Fiji said "already residing in Fiji and having an ample understanding and knowledge of the industry and country will put me in a strong position to settle into the role quickly".

South Sea Cruises Group encompasses South Sea Cruises, Blue Lagoon Cruises, Awesome Adventures Fiji and Vinaka Fiji.

Carnival 72 hour sale

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is running a 72-hour sale on select *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Legend* departures from Sydney between Jan and Feb 2017.

Deals include an eight-night cruise to New Caledonia from only \$569 per person twin share, just \$72 per person per day.

Sale ends 11.59pm AEST Sep 22.

Aqua makes a splash



IN SYDNEY this week, the exec team from Aqua Expeditions updated media at a function last night on the plans for the brand within the market.

Francesco Zugaro, ceo of Aqua Expeditions told **CW** the timing was right for a more aggressive play within the market having recently appointed Travel The World as GSA (**CW** 06 Sep) to head up sales, marketing, reservations and training.

Conceding a better job would need to be done educating agents on the differences the brand offers, Zugaro said that "to come in at the top end of the market we need a point of difference, we are the only operator to offer a

1:10 guide to guest ratio, we can customise shore excursions on the spot as we are not obliged to stop where other operators do under contractual obligations".

As to the future, expansion is part of the plan but unlikely to be the Irrawaddy River in Burma.

"We're looking to get back to our roots with coastal cruising driven largely by the demand from our repeat customers", with Zugaro also hinting at the possibility of cruises within Africa.

Pictured are: David Thompson, consulting chef Aqua Expeditions; Francesco Zugaro, ceo Aqua Expeditions and Milly Haimberger, director of sales and marketing Aqua Expeditions.

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Further savings of up to 50% are also available on other sailings including the Falklands, the South Georgia and Antarctica trip; email info@wildearth-travel.com.

Spotted: RCI at biz exchange



THE crew from Royal Caribbean crossed the ditch to New Zealand last Fri to showcase their product offerings to delegates attending the Magellan Travel Group conference in Auckland.

Pictured at the Magellan

supplier business exchange are RCI's: Tony Soden, key account manager; Jessica Jones, direct sales manager and Peter McCormack, head of sales.

Serenity arrives in NY

CRYSTAL Cruises' *Crystal Serenity* has completed its 32-day voyage through the Northwest Passage, arriving in New York City on Fri morning.

The cruise line will sail the route again in 2017.

MEANWHILE, Crystal's President's Cruise will be held for the first time on a river ship in Nov, on board *Crystal Mozart*.

SeaDream discount

SEADREAM is offering a deal on its 03 Jan sailing from Bridgetown to Barbados.

The price of the roundtrip four-day cruise has been cut from US\$4,624 per person twin share to US\$2,223ppts.

For further details, or to book phone (02) 9958 4444.



WE'RE wondering whose head rolled at Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines over a signage blunder at last week's Cruise360 Australasia conference in Sydney.

The event included a trade show where CLIA member cruise lines proudly showcased their wares - but we couldn't help noticing that the RCI sign had two "R"s and only one "B".



MEANWHILE next door was the Norwegian Cruise Line stand which featured an array of delightful cupcakes, tastefully decorated with edible gemstones to celebrate the debut of *Norwegian Jewel*.

NCL sales chief Nicole

Costantin confirmed the team had been very busy baking in the lead-up to the show.



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

SYDNEY
Pacific Jewel 20 Sep
Carnival Spirit 25 Sep

BRISBANE
Pacific Aria 23 Sep
Pacific Dawn 24 Sep
Dawn Princess 25 Sep

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