

# CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 23 Feb 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## CLIA member mngr

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has appointed Marita Nasic as its new membership and events manager.

Nasic has almost 20 years' experience in the cruise industry and will be responsible for trade membership growth, developing events and CLIA's Executive Partner program.

She joins from Cruiseco and has held other roles at Carnival Cruise Line, P&O Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line.

CLIA Australasia managing director Joel Katz said Nasic's appointment would further support members as the cruise industry continued to expand in Australia and New Zealand.

## Carnival to build in China

**CARNIVAL** Corporation will accelerate its push into Asia after revealing plans to acquire the first cruise ships ever built in China.

The company yesterday signed a deal that would provide it with two Chinese-built ships and an option to order another four as part of its ambition to create a new cruise brand in China.

The first of the ships will be delivered in 2023 and be in addition to other ships acquired from Carnival's existing fleet.

The new-build ships will be designed especially for the China brand and to the tastes of Chinese travellers, the line said.

"We are proud to order the first China-built cruise ships and play a meaningful role in developing cruise shipbuilding capabilities for the first time in China," said the ceo of Carnival Corporation, Arnold Donald.

"This represents another

important milestone in building a sustainable and prosperous cruise industry, and demonstrates our commitment to contributing to China becoming a leading cruise market as part of its five-year economic development plan."

The ships will be built under a joint venture involving China's largest shipbuilder CSSC and Italian counterpart Fincantieri.

The parties yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding at a ceremony in Beijing, attended by Chinese president Xi Jinping and Italian president Sergio Mattarella.

The Chinese operations are planned as a joint venture between Carnival and CSSC, in which it holds a minority interest.

CSSC president Wu Qiang said the new ships would significantly advance "the rapid sustainable and healthy development of the Chinese cruise industry".

## Flight Centre cruising

**FLIGHT** Centre recorded strong growth in cruise in its FY17 half year results, along with a rise in sales from international and domestic flights, hotel room nights, foreign exchange, youth sector and online.

Despite record turnover during the six months to 31 Dec, the company's first half profit declined to \$109.2m.

Flight Centre has downgraded its full year profit expectations from \$320m-\$355m to \$300m-\$330m.

## Webjet's Republic

**ONLINE** agency Cruise Republic has been fully integrated into Webjet, along with its New Zealand parent Online Republic.

In its half-year results, Webjet said the recent acquisition was delivering strong earnings and that it was excited by its future growth opportunities.

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One of Hurtigruten's new ships

## Norwegian's big year

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line Holdings reeled in record earnings for Q4 & full year 2016.

In Q4 the company recorded a GAAP net income of \$72.2m, almost double the \$38.3m achieved in the prior year.

For the full year to 31 Dec, NCLH brought in a GAAP net income of \$633.1m, compared to \$427.1m in the year prior.

The company attributed the

gains primarily to the addition of *Norwegian Escape*, Oceania Cruises' *Sirena*, and Regent's *Seven Seas Explorer* to the fleet and improved pricing.

Revenue felt the benefits, increasing 12.2% to \$4.9b compared to \$4.3b in 2015.

"2016 marks another record year of earnings, continuing our track record of solid EPS growth, which has grown fivefold since 2013, the year of our initial public offering," said Frank Del Rio, president and chief executive officer of NCLH.

"This solid revenue and earnings trend is expected to continue in 2017 as we are now in the best booked position in our company's history with pricing slightly above the prior year," continued Del Rio.

**MEANWHILE**, Norwegian Cruise Line is throwing in three offers for passengers on select *Norwegian Jewel* sailings during her inaugural Australasian season, **CLICK HERE** for more.

## Carnival Journeys

**THERE** are 13 more Carnival Journeys enrichment cruises on offer from Carnival Cruise Line, for 2018 and 2019.

Departing from homeports along the East and West Coasts and the Gulf of Mexico, the new voyages zone in on topics including photography, cooking, arts and crafts and social media.

"Our Carnival Journeys cruises have proven enormously popular with guests who enjoy both unforgettable landside experiences and one-of-a-kind onboard enrichment activities that this unique program offers," said Christine Duffy, Carnival pres.

## AIDA's new ship is on its way



**A STEEL** cutting ceremony was held at building yard Meyer Werft in Papenburg this week, marking the start of construction for AIDA Cruises' new Helios Class ship.

The 2,500 cabin luxury vessel is slated to be delivered at the end of next year.

She will then embark on her maiden voyage to the Canaries from Dec 2018.

Pre-reservations for the inaugural trip are now on sale.

Felix Eichhorn, president of AIDA Cruises is **pictured** with Tim Meyer and Bernard Meyer, both ceos at Meyer Werft.

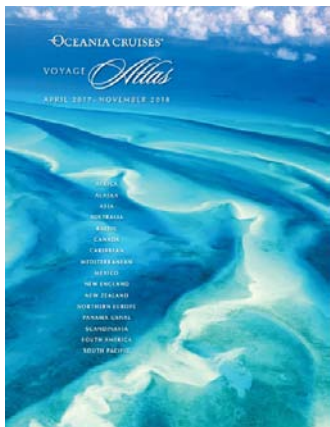
## Tourico Cruise Spike

**US TRAVEL** wholesaler Tourico Holidays has experienced a surge in demand for cruise bookings in 2016 with a 37% growth on the previous year.

The firm expects even greater demand throughout 2017 with Lori Sheller vp for cruise development saying "we're predicting more cruisers will hit the seas in 2017 than any previous year...aided by an influx of bookings from China as cruise companies shift their focus to the Asian market."



## Oceania Cruises - Voyage Atlas 2017/18



**OCEANIA** Cruises has released its Cruise Atlas for sailings between Apr 2017 and Nov 2018, showcasing 265 ports in Africa, Asia, the America's, Europe, Australasia and the South Pacific.

The line's six ships are featured along with previews of on board culinary offerings.



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## Ponant joins AECO

**PONANT** has joined the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO), in a move it says shows its commitment to supporting the Arctic zone & to operating cruises which are respectful of the environment & native populations.

## Two Princesses meet

**EMERALD Princess** and *Golden Princess* have passed each other on Derwent River in Hobart.

Guests on both ships and local residents were treated to this rare double sighting.

Carnival Australia Technical Superintendent Paul Rutherford was at the scene to capture the maritime moment (**pictured**).



## Oceania Cuba menus

**OCEANIA** Cruises will debut a new menu inspired by the flavours of Cuba.

The offering will roll out on *Marina's* inaugural voyage to Cuba on 07 Mar.

Frank Del Rio, founder of Oceania Cruises, said the menu featured generations-old recipes passed down to some of the line's Cuban team members.

## Sea Cloud music prog

**SEA** Cloud Cruises has introduced an all-new program of music for guests travelling on board its self-titled vessel.

Guests travelling on *Sea Cloud* from Malta to Valencia between 28 Oct to 06 Nov will enjoy two private concerts held at the Palazzo Gangi-Valguarnera and the Church of San Nicolas.

From 06 to 14 Nov on the Valencia to Casablanca sojourn, passengers will enjoy interludes played by pianist Joja Wendt.

## Dawn prepares for a revamp



**PACIFIC Dawn** has entered drydock in Singapore in preparation for a multi-million dollar transformation.

The vessel will be fitted with two waterslides on her top decks and its buffet will be replaced with The Pantry, an int'l market place of fresh food outlets.

Among its features will be a new seafood restaurant, Shell & Bones, and a Mediterranean offering, Nic and Toni's.

Several public spaces, including the atrium, Charlie's cafe, The Orient & the Promenade Bar will be redesigned to bring them in line with the rest of the fleet.

*Pacific Dawn* will sail from

Singapore on 02 Mar, arriving in Brisbane to debut her new look on 16 Mar.

*Pacific Dawn* is **pictured** entering drydock.

## SeaDream vino 2018

**UPSCALE** yachting firm SeaDream has unveiled nine cruises for 2018 across the Mediterranean and Caribbean dedicated to wine enthusiasts.

Ranging from five- to 10-day sailings, guests will explore wineries and vineyards in destinations including Monte Carlo, Positano, Barcelona and Gibraltar - see [seadream.com](http://seadream.com).



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## Amadeus Special

**AMADEUS** River Cruises is offering 10% off all 2017 cruises, including maiden voyages on *MS Amadeus Provence*.

Agents will earn \$200pp booked on select itineraries.

Book by 5:30pm on 28 Feb, for more, **CLICK HERE**.



**A TEAM** of river cruise enthusiasts in New Zealand spent five weeks constructing their own raft.

The high end float, constructed by Tim Riddell and his mates, was complete with a mezzanine, motor and picnic table to keep the munchies at bay, *Stuff* reports.

Snags were enjoyed on board the raft after the boys made a detour to get the all-essential tomato sauce.

The launch day saw 20 people jump aboard a day trip from Hamilton to Taupiri.

Riddell had done a test run prior to the sojourn and was confident it was float worthy.

Quirky rafts have floated on the Waikato River before, for the annual River Float in the featuring couches, barbecues and pot plants.

## Kangaroo Island Queen



**CUNARD'S** *Queen Mary 2* is now on its way to Sydney ahead of a "royal rendezvous" with sister *Queen Elizabeth* on Sat, having earlier this week become the biggest ship ever to visit South Australia's Kangaroo Island.

The newly remastered vessel is **pictured** during its maiden visit to the island gateway of Penneshaw.

## Sunsail to Balearics

**SUNSAIL'S** new Mallorca flotilla will be available from 01 Jul, offering sailors with some previous experience to discover sailing off the coast of Mallorca, Spain, with a pre-planned route.

Non-sailors can hire a skipper.

Running through to 23 Sep, prices start from \$3,873 for a one week Flotilla.

Visit [sunsail.com.au](http://sunsail.com.au) for more.

## Disney's new ports

**DISNEY** Cruise Line has unveiled its 2018 northern summer season, featuring new calls in Italy and Ireland.

New to 2018 are two seven-night sailings between Rome and Barcelona, featuring the line's inaugural call in Genoa and marking the first time Rome will be offered as a departure port.

A seven-night British Isle itinerary will make its debut in 2018, sailing on 02 Sep and stopping by Dublin, Ireland; Greenock, Scotland and Liverpool, England.

The refurbished *Disney Wonder* is scheduled to return to Alaska, offering five-, seven- and nine-night itineraries from Vancouver.

Bookings open 23 Feb, for more see [disneycruise.com](http://disneycruise.com).



Jill Abel - CEO



## Events drive cruise biz

**DESTINATIONS** around Australia have always relied on events to drive business but this is now spilling over into the cruise arena as well. In 2017, P&O is leading the charge with tailor made cruise itineraries under its Main Events catalogue. Pax can attend the Australian Open in Melbourne (Jan), the Melbourne Cup (Oct) or the State of Origin matches (May) for example. The cruises include tickets and transfers to the events and also promise themed activities and sometimes celebrities on board. This year for the first time, *Pacific Jewel* will offer a six-day roundtrip cruise from Sydney to Hobart so passengers can enjoy Dark MOFO. This will bring increased visitation to Tas outside of peak season & will potentially attract first time visitors. In Mar, *Pacific Eden* made its inaugural stop at Port Lincoln for the Tunarama festival illustrating how cruising to regional events can also help to make a strong economic impact on secondary destinations. It also helps these destinations cater for increased visitation using the ships as floating hotels and thus avoiding the problem of limited accom supply. Seasonal activities such as Australia Day and New Year's Eve are also proving popular, with *Crystal Symphony* cruising into Sydney on New Year's Eve last year.

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