

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Thursday 19 January 2017

Cruise Weekly today

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

Seabourn Ovation '18

THE maiden season for Seabourn Ovation in spring 2018 is now on sale.

Ovation's inaugural voyage will be an 11-day cruise from Venice to Barcelona on 05 May, stopping by towns and cities in Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Malta, Italy, France and Spain.

The vessel will then spend the majority of its maiden season in Northern Europe, operating a series of seven-day cruises between Copenhagen and Stockholm, including a three-day stay in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Seabourn Ovation will also sail on longer 14-day voyages to the Norwegian fjords and Britain.

For details, see seabourn.com.

NCLH ramps up presence

NORWEGIAN Jewel will return to Australia in Nov 2018 for a second season homeporting out of Sydney, Cruise Weekly can exclusively reveal.

Jewel's arrival in Sydney in Nov this year will mark the first time Norwegian Cruise Line has homeported from the city, and Steve Odell, svp and md Asia Pacific of NCLH said he hopes to bring more NCL ships to Australia.

"We would absolutely love to put another ship in Sydney but there's no room left at the Overseas Passenger Terminal to fit the big ships," he told CW.

Regent Seven Seas' program through to 2019, set to be released in coming weeks, is promised to feature more Australia and New Zealand.

"It's easier for the smaller ships, for the Oceania ships and the Regent ships, because they're small enough to go under [the

Sydney Harbour Bridge] and into White Bay and there's much more capacity there and we will be doing more of that."

Odell said NCLH was not averse to the plan to turn two ships around at the Overseas Passenger Terminal in one day, provided it was not a substitute for building another berth.

"We could do it on a practical basis, it's just the cost," he said.

Backing the potential of the Australian cruise industry, Odell said his stance of a potential rush in capacity out of Sydney was "build it and they will come."

"I think we've proven already there may from time to time be pressure on price but if you put volume in the market, people will come and book it."

Odell also confirmed ms Nautica would return to Sydney in Feb 2019 and in Mar 2020 as part of its annual world cruise.

Silversea fly free

FOR the first time Silversea Cruises is offering free flights to Europe for Australians on select voyages in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.

The packages are available on a range of seven- to 17-day Mediterranean and Northern Europe voyages departing between Apr-Nov 2017 and can be booked through Silversky.

Flights are with Emirates or a Silversea partner airline.

CCL's seafood catch

SEAFOOD Corner, a new option for poolside snacks or a casual dinner has opened on Carnival Cruise Line's locally based ships.

Serving fish'n'chips, seafood platters and lobster rolls daily from 4pm on Carnival Spirit and Carnival Legend, the eatery is located on Deck 9.

Seafood Corner menu items are at an additional cost.

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Captain Cook Cruises' new ships



SEALINK Travel Group yesterday unveiled two passenger catamarans *MV Blackwattle Bay* and *MV Cockle Bay* to join the Captain Cook Cruises Sydney Harbour fleet.

The 60-pax vessels will open new inner city routes, operate services for Captain Cook's Hop On Hop Off, White Bay ferry

service and act as a regular transport service for conference delegates to the International Convention Centre Sydney.

Pictured in front of one of the new additions are: Jeff Ellison, ceo Sealink; Lyn Lewis-Smith, chief exec Business Events Sydney and Anthony Haworth, managing director, Captain Cook Cruises.

Radiance OPT/WBT shift

THE shuffling of access to the Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT) in Sydney by Royal Caribbean for a number of upcoming sailings on *Radiance of the Seas* has revived public demand for Australia's most popular cruise port to improve its infrastructure.

On Tue, Royal Caribbean notified customers due to arrive back into Sydney on *Radiance* on 28 Jan that their vessel would now drop anchor offshore at Athol Buoy instead of the OPT, and they will be ferried across the harbour to White Bay terminal to a pop-up marquee for processing.

Guests embarking on the round-trip cruise to Tasmania the same day, as well as those setting sail on *Radiance* on the 09 Feb Round Australia voyage, also face the same predicament.

The port adjustment is the result of Royal Caribbean's decision last year to extend the season of the massive *Ovation of the Seas* for the Aussie summer season for four extra cruises (**CW** 25 May).

"Because she is too large to berth anywhere else in Sydney, it was necessary to accommodate *Ovation of the Seas* at the OPT on these two dates," Royal Caribbean told **Cruise Weekly**.

"We have successfully conducted turnarounds at Athol

Buoy in the past with *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Celebrity Millennium*, both of which are a similar size to *Radiance of the Seas*," RCI said in a statement.

"We understand these changes may impact on travel plans and we want to thank our guests for their understanding.

"The decision to alter the voyages to a tender embarkation and disembarkation was not taken lightly, but ensures our guests can cruise from Sydney, per the published itinerary."

A spokesperson for the line told **Cruise Weekly** it was imperative that passengers on the affected departures arrive at White Bay at their previously assigned times to ensure a smooth embarkation.

The move has seen fans on RCI's Facebook page vent their anger towards the Government.

Comments have included: "The NSW Government must update cruise facilities at Circular Quay and White Bay. The cruising industry brings in millions of dollars each year and tax payers demand better facilities. Now!"; from Laurie Gordon.

"Sydney really needs [a] better system at the Quay area. White Bay is just too far away for travellers," Sue Patton remarked.

For full details, **CLICK HERE**.




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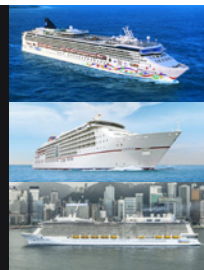
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Bentours new cruises

TWO new cruises in Iceland have been scheduled by Bentours and a 10% discount is available on the additions for bookings made by 28 Feb.

The eight-day Boutique Iceland Cruise sails from Akureyri to Reykjavik, stopping by six ports along the way and the other addition is the reverse itinerary, titled Boutique Iceland Cruise.

Prices start from \$2790ppts for select Jun-Sep departures.

MEANWHILE, Bentours is running a consumer promo, with a perk for the winner's agent.

One Hurtigruten pax who posts on the line's Facebook page the best photo of the Northern Lights taken on their trip between 01 Jan-31 Mar will win a digital SLR camera, while their agent will receive a \$200 gift card.

Cunard & P&O's Big Bash



CUNARD and P&O Australia treated 30 agents on Mon to the Big Bash League match between Adelaide Strikers and Melbourne Renegades at Adelaide Oval.

The agents are **pictured** holding special double-sided cards which were made for the event, featuring Cunard and P&O's current offers in the market.

NCLH's eye on trade

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings more than doubled the number of trade partners transacting with the company in APAC during 2016.

Steve Odell, svp and md Asia Pacific of NCLH told **Cruise Weekly** the company "is totally trade-focussed".

"Our whole mantra for the last year has been about increasing trade partnerships, increasing distribution and working alongside travel agents and not trying to undercut them by doing direct business and that is firmly our policy," he stated.

Windstar appoints

WINDSTAR Cruises has appointed Peter Tobler as director of marine hotel operations, effective immediately.

Tobler has previously been vice president of culinary/food and beverage for Princess Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line.

Pearl Mist in Havana

PEARL Seas Cruises arrived for the first time in Havana yesterday.

Pearl Mist's inaugural Cuban Cultural Voyage is a 10-night itinerary which will circumnavigate the island and spend two days in Havana, before continuing to Isla se la Juventud, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santiago de Cuba and more.

"With an 11-day cruise focused only on Cuba, Pearl Seas' itinerary will visit more places than other cruise lines to provide a truly unique experience," Timothy Beebe, spokesperson for Pearl Seas Cruises said.

Pearl Mist has 11 sailings to Cuba planned during the northern Spring and Pearl Sea Cruises said it has more Cuba trips planned for 2017 than any other cruise line.

Orion's engine issues

LINDBLAD'S *National Geographic Orion* is out of action until Apr after the main engine suffered a technical problem as it was leaving the Antarctic Peninsula on 27 Dec.

The ship's Safe Return to Port feature was switched on and it arrived in Ushuaia two days late, on 29 Dec.

A scheduled 27 Dec departure was cancelled, along with all Jan and Feb sailings (a total of five).

Guests will be reimbursed for any costs due to their late arrival into Ushuaia and will receive a \$1,000 future travel credit.

Those who had already travelled to Santiago for the cancelled 27 Dec departure will be refunded for the voyage and their airfares and receive a full credit for the amount they paid for the cruise.

Guests booked on the Jan cancelled sailings will receive a refund for their voyage and air along with 20% off their next expedition if they rebook immediately or a \$2,000 travel credit toward a future voyage.

Crystal earlybirds

EARLY booking discounts are available on all 2018 Crystal River Cruises' and Crystal Yacht Expedition Cruises' voyages.

Book by 31 Mar to access savings of up to US\$2,000 per suite on Crystal Yacht Expedition Cruises and up to US\$1,000 per suite on Crystal River Cruises.

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Scotland hotel barge

EUROPEAN Waterways will debut a new hotel barge, the *Spirit of Scotland* in Jun.

Accommodating up to 12 passengers, the vessel will join the eight-passenger *Scottish Highlander* already in the region.

"This cruise indeed encompasses the 'spirit' of Scotland - whisky, ancient castles and cruising an historic canal and the lochs of Lochy, Oich, Ness and Dochfour," said Derek Banks, md of European Waterways.

More info at gobarging.com.



BIRTHDAY suits are encouraged on Desire's latest cruise offering.

The adult hospitality group has launched a "couples-only, clothing-optional adventure" cruise from Barcelona to Rome this Apr.

The sexy sailing is being described as a "sensual sanctuary at sea" where couples can "rejoice in exotic destinations on a journey of fantasy".

Racy on board fun includes private indoor and outdoor playrooms, adult entertainment, a jacuzzi lounge and 'sensual staterooms'.

Risqué activities range from provocative theme nights to daytime workshops letting passengers get in touch with their romantic side.

Even the dining options are described as "casually playful to erotically elegant".

MSC breaks ground



MSC Cruises has begun construction of an exclusive destination for its guests south of Bimini in The Bahamas, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

Expected to open in Nov 2018, the former industrial sand extraction site will be cleared of industrial infrastructure and returned to a marine reserve.

"Bearing testament to our ability to innovate, unlike other

Caribbean cruise resorts, a purpose-built berth and pier will allow our cruise ships to dock directly at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve," said Pierfrancesco Vago, exec chairman of MSC Cruises.

The exclusive reserve is 105km east of Miami, Florida.

"The island has some of the finest aragonite sands in the world and once the work is completed, its surrounding waters will be home again to beautiful corals and rich aquatic life," added Gianluca Suprani, head of global port development and shore side activities.

A rendering of the future aerial view of Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve is **pictured**.

Emerald's new ships

EMERALD Waterways will nearly double its fleet with the debut of three river cruisers in Apr-May.

Emerald Destiny will be the line's fifth "Star Ship" when it debuts in Apr and be identical to *Sky, Star, Sun and Dawn*.

Also making an entrance in Apr, *Emerald Liberte* will accommodate 138 passengers and sail in southern France.

Rounding out the new additions, *Emerald Radiance's* inaugural sailing will be in May.

The 112-passenger vessel will sail the eight-day Secrets of the Douro itinerary.

Sth Korea Cruise fund

SOUTH Korea plans to set up a \$113m fund to offer financial help to the cruise industry in a bid to lure more foreign tourists, *The Korea Herald* is reporting.

The fund would be used to help Korea Cruise Line, a cruise ship operator which launched in 2015 but has since faced financial trouble, to buy a new vessel.



Cruise Industry Awards

ON SAT 11 Feb, CLIA will host the 16th annual cruise industry awards. There really is nothing like an awards night where achievements from the previous year are recognised.

With the cruise industry awards, the night is all about the cruise lines recognising support from the retail trade and media.

There are a number of categories acknowledged that include the best cruise promotion by an agency, the best cruise promotion by a network, the cruise industry's rising star, consultant of the year and agency of the year, presented as a Gold, Silver and Bronze winners.

Also recognised are the media who play their part in promoting the cruise segment through the many articles that are published week after week in newspapers and magazines throughout Australia and New Zealand.

And finally there is always one individual who over the years has made a significant contribution to cruising that is inducted into the CLIA Hall of Fame. This award aims to recognise an outstanding contribution to the cruise industry by an individual.

This year's event will see 500 guests dressed in their finest and those who are lucky enough to be in possession of a ticket are going to be treated to a surprise performance from one of Australia's most talented artists.

Jump online now to secure one of the last remaining tickets. Good luck to all the finalists!



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