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Debussy godmother

CRYSTAL River Cruises has chosen American singer and actor Rachel York to be the godmother of its newest vessel, *Crystal Debussy*, ahead of its launch next month in the Netherlands.

York is known for stage roles in productions including *Les Misérables*, *City of Angels* and *Victor/Victoria*, and has been part of the *Crystal* on Broadway program in which performers and producers of Broadway shows take part in special performances and presentations on board.

She will christen the 106-guest *Crystal Debussy* on 28 May in a ceremony at the Port of Amsterdam, and will next perform as part of the *Crystal* on Broadway program on *Crystal Mahler* during a cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest next month.

Oceania unveils Tropics & Exotics

OCEANIA Cruises has released its 2019-20 Tropics and Exotics Collection, detailing itineraries visiting Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Mexico and South America.

A total of 56 out of the 76 itineraries in the program are new and voyages range from seven to 31 days in length.

New ports of call in the collection include Albany in WA, Phillip Island in Vic, Dutch Harbor in Alaska, Mare in New Caledonia and Santa Barbara in California.

The program offers three country-immersive voyages which focus on Japan and the cruise line will make maiden calls in Japan at Aomori, Hakodate, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Oarai and Osaka.

In 2019-20, *Marina* (pictured) will head to South America to sail seven cruises which focus on Brazilian coastal villages, the



fjords of Chile & the Amazon.

Sirena will chart a series of roundtrip wine-country cruises sailing from Los Angeles & calling on San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Barbara and Catalina.

Regatta, *Insignia*, and *Sirena* are scheduled to sail a total of six Panama Canal voyages.

Passengers looking to tick Cuba off their bucket list can choose from six dedicated cruises to Cuba as well as another six

Caribbean and Panama Canal voyages that call on Havana.

Oceania Cruises is offering a range of early booking deals, for more see the **cover page**.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Oceania Cruises**.

Regent

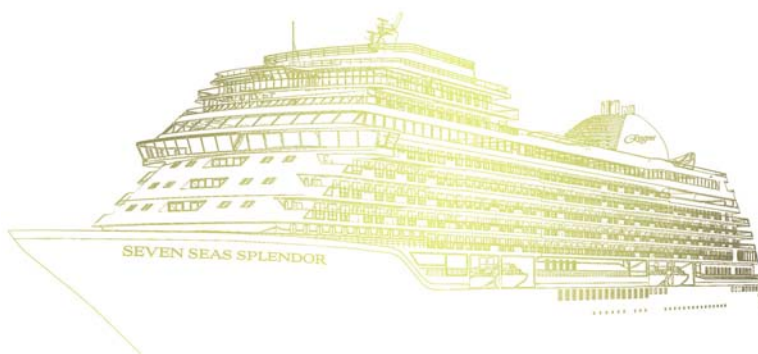
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European Waterways new itineraries

HOTEL barge operator European Waterways has added a series of exclusive and one-of-a-kind experiences to its 2018 program.

They include a private tour of the Chateau de Commarin in Burgundy (pictured) hosted by Count Bertrand de Vogue, for guests on the 12-passenger *L'Impressionniste*.

On the 12-guest *La Belle Epoque*, European Waterways is offering a private tasting at the Alexandre Bonnet Champagne House in Les Riceys, France.



Carnival & PBPL defend



PLANS to develop a new cruise terminal in Brisbane would not go ahead without the level of commitment proposed by Carnival Australia, the Port of Brisbane (PBPL) has said.

In a joint submission to the ACCC, the port and cruise company have defended a proposed deal in which Carnival would pay an annual fee for 100 Foundation Berthing Days at the planned terminal.

PBPL said Carnival's level of commitment was the minimum needed to reduce the commercial risk of the development and that without it, its board would not approve the investment.

The document reiterated that the 100 Foundation Berthing Days were proportionate to the company's financial commitment.

It stated that the number of berthing days reflected its operational needs and were "not designed for the purpose of

excluding potential entrants from the New Cruise Facility".

The submission responded to the ACCC's concern regarding Carnival being able to nominate up to four Foundation Berthing Days per week by stating it was necessary "to provide it certainty and flexibility for current and future operations".

Another concern raised by the ACCC in its draft determination was the prospect of Carnival being granted a right of first refusal over a possible future second berth at the terminal.

Carnival agreed it would not seek a first right of refusal over the second berth and the applicants instead proposed a term whereby Carnival would share the benefit of any lower costs for the second berth.

The pair said the alternative would "prevent free riding".

The ACCC's final determination is due by 11 May (CW 12 Apr).

Carnival advisory

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced members of its 2018 Executive Partner Advisory Board in the United States, including two new consortia partners, Signature Travel Network and Ensemble Travel Group.

The board is tasked with providing feedback and input on the line's trade initiatives.

Signature Travel Network pres Alex Sharpe & Ensemble Travel Group co-pres Libbie Rice have joined the board.

Super-yacht cruise

PRIVATE super-yacht operator EYOS Expeditions is allowing guests to purchase individual cabins on scheduled sailings in Antarctica.

Its first departure is a week-long itinerary aboard the 77m *Legend* from 06 Jan, offered with flights across the Drake Passage between Punta Arenas and Antarctica.

Previously EYOS had required full-yacht charters - for details email legend@eyos.com.

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CRUISE



Thursday 19th April 2018

U's first cruise on *The A*



THE second ship for U by Uniworld, *The A*, debuted over the weekend, setting sail on its maiden voyage along the Rhine on Sat.

The 120-pax vessel cruises on the Rhine, Maine and Danube rivers and offers four suites, 26 Balcony Bedrooms & two Studio Bedrooms with triple occupancy. "We're thrilled that our second U by Uniworld ship has officially set sail on the Rhine today," said Fiona Dalton, managing director

U by Uniworld Australia.

"U continues to bring adventurous and curious travellers a completely new river cruise experience, with longer stays in destinations to allow guests the chance to truly immerse themselves in the local culture," she said.

U by Uniworld has released a selection of images of the ship, see a gallery on **FACEBOOK**.

The A's sundeck is **above** and a Balcony Bedroom is **below**.



Discover Silversea's splitting of *Silver Spirit* in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

FACE-2-FACE: Martine Nunes

OCEANIA Cruises business development manager



1. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

Besides Sydney Ports, consultants and businesses not planning for future growth & neglecting to offer new options or services for their clients.

Clients' habits can change.

2. Advice for up-and-comers?

Find your niche/sales strength, connect with suppliers and ensure this is in your sales focus & strategy to form solid reciprocated business relationships.

3. What motivates you in your career?

Travel is an escape, experience or way of life and everyone wants to holiday and cruise.

I get a kick out of showcasing unique itineraries and fulfilling holiday wishes.

4. Celebrity you'd like to cruise with?

The Today Show team, they always have fun/smile.

5. Favourite cruise destination?

Mediterranean, new cultures and landscapes each day.

6. Favourite thing to do while in port?

Combination - If a shore excursion means skipping a

queue, I'm in, otherwise, I love a mix of self-touring/sampling local cuisine or getting a shopaholic fix.

7. What was your best fam trip?

I had the privilege of attending the christening of the *MSC Poesia* and being seated only meters from Andre Bocelli performing, with screen siren Sophia Loren christening the ship.

8. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

Busy with family and two little kids!

9. Most common assumption people make about your job?

That travel and events is just all fun.

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes preparation to ensure success; it's like our own business.

10. My next cruise will be...

Let me ask the boss?



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Countess awareness



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has released a video to promote its cruise product offered in Venice, the 130-passenger *River Countess*.

CEO Ellen Bettridge suggested to *Cruise Weekly* that *River Countess* could use a greater push, with the 97-sec clip providing a snapshot.

Bettridge, who herself sailed on the ship last year around Venice, said the itinerary was "not your traditional river cruise".

"It's a little bit of Italy that she does so well. It's immersive Venice," Bettridge remarked.

"We have to get the message out about what that is."

"If agents know Italy at all they would love the *River Countess* because you sail around the lagoon & explore different areas of Venice, because it's such a big city."

"Guests are able to explore each section while they are on the ship - it becomes their own floating hotel around Venice for a week," Bettridge explained.

Countess' offering is inspired by Venice, with rooms featuring Italian marble-lined bathrooms, and Italian cuisine dished up to guests, prepared by chefs using locally sourced ingredients

CLICK HERE to view the video showcasing *River Countess*.

NCL extends deal

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has extended its latest special, offering up to US\$1,000 onboard spend for bookings made on select sailings between today and 30 Apr.

The deal applies to certain departures between 13 Dec 2018-13 Feb 2019.

One Ocean golf

CRUISING and golf enthusiasts can indulge both passions in two new itineraries in One Ocean Expeditions' northern summer season.

The first voyage, Fiddles & Sticks, will sail to Canada's East Coast in Jul and the second, Scotland & Ireland Golf Expedition, will travel to British waters in 2019.

Marella refurb

THE latest addition to the Marella Cruises fleet, *Marella Explorer*, has docked in Spain ahead of a multi-million dollar refurbishment.

The refreshed ship will depart Majorca on 19 May.

Marella Explorer was formerly called *Golden Era* and has joined Marella from SkySea Cruise Line, a joint venture between Royal Caribbean Cruises and Ctrip which will be wound up in the northern autumn this year (*CW* 22 Mar).

HAL 145th birthday

HOLLAND America Line yesterday celebrated 145 years of operation.

The company started as a shipping and passenger line, Netherlands-American Steamship Company, in 1873 & now takes guests to more than 400 ports around the world.

HAL offered its first vacation cruise in 1895 and today it operates 14 ships sailing to all seven continents.



STUDENTS taking part in a beach clean-up in Scotland made an intriguing discovery recently when they stumbled across a message in a bottle, reports *UPI.com*.

The letter inside, dated 2007, suggested the sender was "floating out to sea", interestingly claimed they could see both polar bears & penguins, and that the recipient would be "rewarded with some of my treasure...if you send help".

The letter also contained coordinates to the sender's location, which appears to be tongue-in-cheek, and was signed by an "Andrew Meers".

The phantom letter-writer is currently under investigation by the excited children.

Princess Encounters w/ Discovery at SEA 2018

THE line-up of celebrities and notables for Princess Cruises' 2018 Encounters with Discovery at SEA speaking series aboard its ships has been unveiled this week.

Presenters span the fields of astronomy, sports & entertainment and are aimed to educate, inspire and entertain guests at sea.

Click **HERE** to view the line-up of speakers on *Sapphire Princess* in Europe this year, and **HERE** for the contingent who will join *Ruby Princess*, *Star Princess* & *Grand Princess* along the Californian Coast.

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WEEKLY

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Cunard pax meet QE2



GUESTS on board *Queen Mary 2* were some of the first to experience the recently opened *Queen Elizabeth 2* floating hotel in Dubai.

The arrival of *QM2* coincided with the opening of the repurposed former Cunard ship.

The unveiling took place on yesterday, with guests joining local media and other select VIPs in touring the hotel's restaurants and suites.

Josh Leibowitz, senior vp Cunard North America said it was a once in a lifetime experience for many of the passengers.

"On behalf of Cunard, we are so excited for our guests sailing on

Queen Mary 2 to be one of the first to board the *QE2* Hotel in Dubai," he said.

"*QE2* holds a very special place in Cunard's history, & we hope the ship will continue to be enjoyed by many guests to come."

The *QE2* was launched by the *Queen* in 1967 as Cunard's flagship liner, until *Queen Mary 2* took over in 2004.

The ship crossed the Atlantic more than 800 times and carried more than 2.5 million passengers.

Future guests on board *Queen Mary 2* will also have the chance to visit the new hotel when *QM2* returns to Dubai in Jan and Apr 2019 on her World Voyage.

Ponant turns 30

PONANT is celebrating 30 years since its formation by a group of 14 enthusiastic French merchant seaman.

The "Compagnie des Iles du Ponant" began with its first yacht, *Le Ponant*, and by 2021 will have a fleet of 12 ships sailing the globe.

With an expanded fleet, the company plans to offer 460 departures spanning the Antarctic to the Arctic, including in Alaska, the Amazon and Orinoco rivers, the Scattered Islands, Australia's Kimberley and Papua New Guinea.

To mark its 30th anniversary, the line's guests will be able to purchase limited edition clothing and travel accessories, while a book tracing Ponant's history and a documentary film will be released later in the year.

Drug sentence

CANADIAN woman Melina Roberge has been sentenced to eight years' jail after attempting to smuggle 24kg of cocaine into Sydney aboard a cruise ship.

She was arrested on 28 Aug after Australian Border Force officers boarded *Sea Princess* while it was docked in Sydney and discovered the cocaine packed in suitcases.

The 24-year-old may be eligible for parole in 2021.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

New CLIA cruise lines

AS THE world's largest cruise association, CLIA represents the interests of the global cruise industry. From ocean to river to speciality cruise ships, CLIA lines represent more than 95% of global cruise capacity. CLIA Australasia warmly welcome our latest regional cruise lines:

The Pandaw experience is all about exploring remote and often hard-to-navigate rivers and coasts in specially-designed luxury small ships. Each ship, hand-crafted in brass and teak, is an object of beauty in itself. A Pandaw adventure is very different. The ships are small scale, & the atmosphere is informal, and very friendly.

Australian-owned and founded by renowned mountaineer and explorer, Greg Mortimer, Aurora Expeditions focuses on exploration of remote destinations, adventurous activities & close wildlife encounters. Setting sail by Nov 2019, their first purpose-built, state-of-the-art expedition vessel will push the boundaries even further.

Coral Expeditions has more than 30 years' experience of small ship adventures in Australasia, taking guests to some of the most beautiful yet undiscovered regions. Its fleet of small Australian-flagged and crewed ships are specifically built for unique and remote destinations. In Apr 2019 Coral Expeditions will welcome the fourth ship to the fleet – *Coral Adventurer*, accommodating 120 passengers.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.



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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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