



www.cruiseweekly.com.au Wednesday 14th November 2018

Cruise Weekly today

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

Viking goes digital

VIKING Cruises has released the first issue of its new digital magazine, Viking Explorer Society News.

The 51-page publication, which is distributed to Viking's past guests via email, takes a detailed look at the company's latest cruise itineraries, also offering up a series of destination features, recipes, and special offers curated especially for Viking Explorer Society members.

"This digital magazine is a great way for us to keep our valued guests up-to-date with what's happening," said Michelle Black, MD, Aus/NZ.

Scenic Eclipse delayed once again

A FURTHER seven departures of Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours' highly anticipated Scenic Eclipse have been cancelled due to issues at the Croatian shipyard where the groundbreaking vessel is being constructed.

Late yesterday Scenic confirmed that the first sailing date for Eclipse had been amended to 13 Apr 2019 "due to the continuing financial issues at Uljanik shipyard and the resultant strike by specialist engine and systems commissioning workers".

Although progress on the ship's interiors and other areas of the final build stage is proceeding apace, six weeks of time has been lost and "it will not be possible to catch up," Scenic said.

Affected guests will receive a full refund of the cost of their Scenic Eclipse cruise and "consideration of any other reasonable associated costs incurred with



their travel plans".

Any who rebook an Eclipse voyage by 31 Mar 2019 will also receive a future cruise credit to the value of 25% of the cost of the rebooked cruise.

It's the second time the ship has been delayed (CW 05 Jul 2018), with the inaugural voyage initially planned for late Aug pushed back until the end of Jan 2019.

This latest issue means the ship

is anticipated to set sail nine months later than expected.

"Scenic acknowledges the regrettable impact this has on guests and understands their disappointment at this change in sailing date," the company said.

Scenic said it had begun reaching out to impacted guests and their travel agents to provide details on refunding and rebooking processes.



*Further terms and conditions apply, see rssc.com



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Legend to Melb

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's Carnival Legend returned to her home port in Melbourne yesterday, with the upcoming season featuring sailings to Tasmania, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

Last minute space is still available, with a 72 Hour Sale currently in place offering reduced fares on twin and quad cabins.

For example an 11 day Carnival Legend cruise to New Caledonia departing on 16 Feb 2019 is on offer from just \$1,049pp in a twin share interior cabin - but bookings must be confirmed by midnight tonight.

Legend emerged from a dry dock in Portland, Oregon earlier this year with new features including the Alchemy Bar, Guy's Burger Joint and the Bluelguana Cantina.

Azamara 2021 out

AZAMARA Club Cruises will return to Japan in the summer of 2021, with the official launch of its programs also confirming the previously announced Australasian debut of the line's newest ship, Azamara Pursuit (CW 23 Oct).

Itineraries between Jan and Mar 2021 include 50 late nights and 37 overnight stays in a range of destinations.

The Japanese departures include 15- and 16-night voyages visiting up to 13 ports including Tokyo, Aomori, Hakodate and Kobe.

Pursuit's Down Under program will see the newly refurbished vessel visit 18 ports in total including Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Napier and Akaroa, while Azamara Quest will sail in South America and Azamara Journey will visit South Africa.

HAL debuts Club Orange



HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has announced plans for a new customer loyalty program that offers travellers a range of exclusive benefits and amenities that "elevate their cruise experience".

Club Orange, which will kick off for US and Canadian guests on board Koningsdam and Nieuw Statendam in Dec 2018, will offer extra privileges such as the option for private venue dining, priority services and a dedicated concierge hotline.

The program will be made available to Australian and New Zealand cruisers in early 2019.

"Club Orange allows guests to add extra premium benefits and luxury amenities to their cruise for a great value," said Orlando Ashford, President of Holland America Line.

"One of the reasons people choose Holland America Line is because of the quality of what we offer... and Club Orange is another way for guests to enhance their cruise experience," he added.

The name Club Orange is a nod to the cruise line's Dutch heritage, with orange the colour of the Royal Family.

Pictured: Nieuw Statendam.



W E E K L Y

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Choose Well.

CMV reveals 2019/20 itineraries



CRUISE & Maritime Voyages has revealed its 2019/20 range of journeys, with the spotlight firmly set on South Australia as it becomes the first cruise line in the world to call in at the port of Wallaroo.

Guests travelling on board the brand's newest ship, Vasco da Gama (pictured), will have the chance to explore a range of new ports, including Kuri Bay in Western Australia, Portland and Philip Island in Victoria, and Sandakan in Borneo, with the new itineraries expected to carry an additional 5,900 guests compared with the company's previous Australasian seasons.

Vasco da Gama will homeport out of Adelaide and Fremantle for the season, with itinerary highlights including three visits to Wallaroo, the gateway to the Yorke Peninsula; a Broome and Treasures 10-night cruise to Kuri Bay and its surrounds; a round-trip cruise from Indonesia to Fremantle, plus a range of cruises around the Coral Coast.

"As the global cruise industry continues to grow, we are excited to see cruise lines such as CMV expand into new destinations and extend their itineraries," said Jill Abel, CEO of the Australian Cruise Association.

"This benefits passengers who get to enjoy a range of inspiring on-shore experiences throughout Australia," she said.

Bookings open tomorrow for next year's down under cruises departing from 01 Dec 2019.

Frontliners afloat!

HELLOWORLD Travel has confirmed that its 2019 Frontliners Forum will take place aboard Royal Caribbean's *Ovation of the Seas*.

The destination for next year was unveiled in Fiji last weekend during the 2018 Frontliners event, with the company's Group General Manager of Retail and Commercial, John Constable, saying the 2019 Forum would depart from Sydney aboard the mega-ship on 10 Nov as part of a three-night "sampler cruise".

MEANWHILE Helloworld Travel has also continued its Platinum Partnership with News Corporation, with HLO named as the launch partner of a new "delicious.Travel" online destination portal.

Editor-at-large of the new initiative is "chef and intrepid traveller" George Calombaris.

50 Degrees cruise

SCANDINAVIAN travel specialist, 50 Degrees North has partnered with cruise line Hurtigruten in a bid to "transform travel for the better".

The new joint venture sees the addition of the "Beautiful Norway and Hurtigruten" tour, which takes travellers away from the more touristy areas and into Norway's fjord country, before embarking on a six-night cruise along the country's coastline.

Save 10% with EW

EUROPEAN Waterways is offering savings of 10% on a range of its nature and wildlife cruises on bookings made by 07 Jan.

The deal is valid on select cruises in Apr and May - for more info **CLICK HERE**.









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Ponant releases new 2019/20 brochure

PONANT has revealed its new 180 page brochure featuring over 100 small ship cruises and luxury expeditions, developed in conjunction with National Geographic.

The program features itineraries from seven nights to Grand Voyages of up to 73 nights, with highlights such as Greece to Egypt and the Red Sea; Discover the Levant, including Jerusalem and Masada; and New Zealand's fiordlands.

The brochure also includes 25 polar voyages, scuba diving in Micronesia's Chuuk lagoon, and the chance to witness the Rolex 75th Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Download the e-brochure HERE.

RSSC expands on-board dining options

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled two new guest experiences designed to reflect emerging luxury cruise trends.

Guests travelling on all four of the brand's ships can now enjoy an "alternative casual dinner experience" with the addition of the new At The Pool Grill restaurant option.

The dining venue offers grilled-to-order steaks, burgers, seafood and sandwiches in an open-air environment designed to give guests the chance to "relax and enjoy the finest cuisine...while watching the sunset from the pool deck", said RSSC CEO Jason Montague.

Also, effective 01 May 2019, shipboard credit will also be able to be spent prior to departure on shore excursions, tours and kitchen classes - call 1300 455 200 to find out more.

Victory for American Queen



THE American Queen Steamboat Company has announced is has signed an agreement to acquire the Victory I and Victory II ships from Sunstone Ships Inc, as well as the whole Victory brand.

The identical 202-passenger ships will join the American Steamboat fleet under the Victory Cruise name, with details of the ship's operations said to be announced in coming months.

"We are pleased to purchase the Victory I and Victory II which will fuel the continued success and growth of American Queen Steamboat Company," said American Queen Steamboat Company Chairman and CEO John Waggoner.

"These vessels enable us to provide guests with more diverse cruising options particularly in the Great Lakes, a region that our customers have been requesting for years."

Pictured: *Victory 1*, and **inset**, *Victory II*.



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A new publication for travel and cruise lovers



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WITH unique land excursions becoming increasingly popular with cruise passengers, we thought we would share a few strange coastal sightings to keep your eyes peeled for on your next trip (or perhaps even avoid).

The below image was taken on a French beach and shows an abundance of strange yellow waxy clumps which marine experts theorise are a by-product of grease from boat exhaust best to swim between the flags!



In 2013 people on the coast of Lake Michigan started noticing these giant ice balls pictured below washing up on shore and weighing up to 23 kilograms.

Thankfully the locals were guick-witted and decided to create the world's largest glass of Scotch so take advantage.



Aussies know all too well the horrors of a blue bottle sting but this sudden deluge of Portuguese man o' war in California makes one think there was a major shortage of urine and vinegar shortly thereafter.



MSC treats agents to Fantasia

THIS group of lucky Aussie travel agents recently cruised from Barcelona to Genoa aboard MSC Fantasia.

The group included some first time cruisers and some who had never been to Europe, with the mind-blowing experience including an

encounter with Sofia Loren's personal butler in the upmarket MSC Yacht Club enclave.

Ports visited on the 31 Oct-04 Nov trip included Ajaccio (Corsica), Civitavecchia (Rome) and La Spezia, with the group also able to tour MSC Sinfonia and MSC Seaview on arrival in Genoa.

Pictured above from left are:



Asef Bayani, Bayani Air Travels; Francesco Varacalli, Frank's Travel International; Cathy Schahinger, DB Travel; Afton Bockelberg, Port Lincoln Travel & Cruise; Kamal Singh, Travel Care; Paul Dugar, Air Tickets; Louise Hirschbichler, Travel Extra; Tara Hogg, Helloworld Port Augusta; and Craig McLaurin, MSC Cruises.

SunStone orders 2

CRUISE ship developer SunStone has confirmed the construction of two more of its "Infinity-class" vessels, lifting the overall order book to five.

The vessels feature the unique X-BOW design, and are being built at China Merchants Heavy Industries with SunStone CEO Niels-Erik Lund saying negotiations are also under way for a further five of the polar-capable ships.

SunStone clients include Aurora Expeditions, with one of the new ships designated as the Greg Mortimer and Aurora MD Robert Halfpenny recently confirming a second new ship for the firm (CW 25 Oct).

Other Infinity vessels will go to Victory Cruise Lines and Albatros Expeditions, while the long-term charterers for some ships have not been named.

Serenity now!

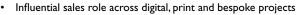
CRYSTAL Cruises has a sparkling new star, after the emergence of Crystal Serenity from a four week makeover in Bremerhaven, Germany.

The ship now features the same upgrades as sister vessel Crystal Symphony which was refurbished a year ago, including new eateries, openseating dining, Seabreeze Penthouse staterooms, redesigned lounge and entertainment venues and new technological amenities.

Crystal CEO Tom Wolber said the changes were a "beautiful reaffirmation of Crystal's timeless style and luxury".

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