

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a full page from Cruise.co.

Ready Steady Fun

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has launched its Ready Steady Fun sale, offering Aussie travellers the chance to save up to \$500 per twin cabin, plus \$49 per person deposit when booking before 27 Jun.

Bookings made before 30 May will also receive a free cabin upgrade within the booked category.

The deal is available on select cruises on board *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Splendor*, for travel between 09 May and 30 Dec.

For more information on the offer and what is included, [CLICK HERE](#).

Australia to welcome MedallionClass

PRINCESS Cruises is set to bring its MedallionClass holiday experience to Australia for the first time, with the cruise line announcing the expansion of the personalised technology to include six more ships in 2020.

The initiative will be rolled out on board *Ruby Princess* on 27 Jan 2020, and will be followed by *Grand Princess* on 29 Mar, *Enchanted Princess* on 15 Jun, *Emerald Princess* on 16 Aug, *Coral Princess* on 16 Oct, and *Island Princess* on 20 Dec.

Australian passengers will have the chance to experience the MedallionClass offering on voyages departing at the end of Jan until 04 Apr, during *Ruby Princess*' local homeporting season.

"We can't wait to introduce a holiday set to revolutionise the travel experience direct from our door step," said Princess Cruises



Senior Vice President Asia Pacific, Stuart Allison.

"Australian guests eager to experience MedallionClass before it reaches Australia can book fly-cruise itineraries to Alaska, the Baltic and the Caribbean on 10 other ships in the Princess fleet," he added.

The MedallionClass experience offers guests a range of easy to use personalised options, including express check-in, an on-

demand food, beverage and retail delivery service, a "Family and Friends" locator with the ability to chat with pax plus directional info to help navigate the ship.

The service also includes keyless stateroom entry, an interactive voyage timeline that shows the various scheduled events, as well interactive game play such as scavenger hunts and customisable avatars.

Pictured: *Ruby Princess*.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Wednesday 8th May 2019

Inside Splendor's spa life

Free at Sea Hawaii

AUSTRALIAN and NZ passengers who book one of Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America* Hawaiian voyages departing from Sep 2019 can access to the company's Free at Sea offer until 14 May.

The deal includes options such as free beverage or dining packages, \$US200 onboard credit and up to US\$250 in shore excursions - more [HERE](#).

Cruiseco Collections

CRUISECO is today promoting its Collections group of itineraries, which are available exclusively to its members.

The packages, which are designed to deliver "inspiring holiday experiences", include contemporary offerings as well as all-inclusive options.

The brand's Americas brochure is out soon - more on [page five](#).

Silversea speaks

SILVERSEA Cruises has released a comment on allegations that a former employee stole more than \$3.5 million from the cruise line between 2014 and 2018 (*CW* 06 May).

"Silversea Cruises takes this matter very seriously and we are taking all reasonable action to protect the business from Ms Abellanoza's fraudulent conduct and the conduct of her husband," the company said in a statement.

"We have fully cooperated and assisted the police with their investigations.

"Customers can be assured that the business will proceed as usual and that our systems are secure...we thank you in advance for your understanding."

The court case and proceedings remain ongoing.



CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Carnival Splendor* is gearing up for her Australian homeporting season in Dec with the introduction of the Cloud 9 Spa and accommodation options to local waters.

Spanning across two decks, the new spa offering features more than a dozen treatment rooms, exclusive spa staterooms, a thermal suite and a thalassotherapy pool.

A gym and fitness centre will also feature on the ship.

"Holidays are the perfect time to sit back, relax and pamper yourself, so we're very happy to be offering a broad range of wellbeing options for Aussie cruisers," said Jennifer



Vandekreeke, Vice President, Carnival Cruise Line Australia.

"If you're after a rejuvenating holiday you can stay in our Cloud 9 accommodation...and for those who just need some 'me time' after playing with the kids all day onboard, treat yourself to an indulgent massage or facial, a relaxing hour in the thermal suite or an invigorating fitness class."

Pictured: The Cloud 9 Thermal Suite, and **inset**, a Cloud 9 Suite.

For more information on the ship, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Subject to limited availability

goccl.com.au 13 31 94 [Carnival Fun Zone](#)

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Sing for your sailing

EUROPEAN Waterways has announced the return of its Opera Cruise as part of the cruise line's itinerary for the *La Bella Vita* hotel barge in Italy.

The special sailing commences 10 Aug in Venice and will see passengers transported to watch the *Arena Museo Opera* in Verona, before later being driven to the Roman amphitheatre of Arena di Verona, to enjoy Puccini's opera *Tosca*.

Viking Day bonus

TO MARK all the fun and games of International Viking Day today, Viking Cruises is rewarding agents who are part of its loyalty program with 100 bonus points.

Every agent who has an active Rewards by Viking account before midnight tonight will automatically receive 100 bonus points.

To register, **CLICK HERE**.

Odyssey of the Seas reaches milestone

ROYAL Caribbean International recently marked an important milestone in the development of *Odyssey of the Seas* as the cruise line celebrated the laying of the ship's keel at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany.

The vessel received its first block as the keel was officially lowered and put into place, signalling the start of the ship's construction.

Newly minted coins were also placed under the keel, which will stay in place until the end of construction, with *Odyssey of the Seas* scheduled to debut in 2020.

Royal Caribbean will release details of *Odyssey of the Seas*' itineraries later in the year.

Crystal celebrates with Nobu



EXECUTIVES from Crystal Cruises' North American headquarters and Australasian office this week gathered to welcome luxury travel advisors to a celebratory dinner to mark a 16-year partnership with Chef Nobu Matsuhisa.

The chef's only sea-going restaurants, then called Silk Road and The Sushi Bar, debuted aboard *Crystal Serenity* in 2003 and on *Crystal Symphony* in 2008.

The restaurants have since been rebranded as Umi Uma and Sushi Bar but continue to feature a fusion between Japanese and Peruvian cuisine.

Expanding the partnership even further was the announcement that Matsuhisa will bring his speciality restaurants on Crystal's purpose-built Polar Class ship,

Crystal Endeavor, which is due to set sail in 2020.

"Crystal and Nobu Matsuhisa have shared a wonderful 16 years of partnership, as he shares our passion for offering our guests the best experiences in the world, from Crystal's beautiful ships to his many globally acclaimed restaurants," said Crystal's SVP and MD, Australia & New Zealand Karen Christensen.

The travel advisor dinner was held at Nobu at Crown Melbourne where guests dined on a menu of Matsuhisa's signature cuisine including southern rock lobster tacos and hida wagyu tatakai.

Pictured: Crystal's SVP Marketing & Sales Carmen Roig, acclaimed Chef Nobu Matsuhisa and Karen Christensen.

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Find out all that's new on board Uniworld's S.S. *Bon Voyage* in the May issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Captain Cook solo

SOLO travellers looking to explore the Murray River can take advantage of Captain Cook Cruises' single surcharge of between 25%-30% when booking cruises of three-, four- and seven-nights.

Highlights include the three-night Discovery Cruise travelling between Walkers Flat and Murray Bridge, with single early booking saver fares starting from \$1,148.

For more info, visit murrayprincess.com.au.

Azamara completes Quest



AZAMARA Club Cruises has announced the completion of a range of refurbishments to *Azamara Quest* following her recent dry dock in Singapore.

The vessel now boasts a number of enhancements including the conversion of the casino into a new lounge area, a redesigned gift shop, new furniture for two of its specialty restaurants and an increased passenger capacity from 690 to 702.

The refurbishment has also resulted in *Quest* offering six new Ocean View staterooms on deck four, port side.

Azamara Quest is due to set sail on 25 May for one of its first visits to Alaska on the 10-night Alaska Intensive Voyage.

Highlights of the sailing will include exploring Icy Strait Point, as well as an array of activities such as native dance performances, brown bear viewings, whale watching, and explorations of Ketchikan, dubbed the "Salmon Capital of the World."

For 2019 voyages, **CLICK HERE**.

Pictured: *Azamara Quest* receiving her finishing touches in Singapore.

Galapagos' Theory of luxury cruising

GALAPAGOS Islands cruise specialist Ecoventura has expanded its fleet by adding the 20-passenger *MV Theory*.

The vessel features 10 premium cabins located on the same deck, a full-time concierge, fitness centre, a sundeck with loungers and daybeds, an open-bar, and a Jacuzzi.

Itineraries feature seven-night sailings including activities such as kayaking, snorkelling & stand-up paddle boarding - more **HERE**.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Cruise outlook strong

AFTER upbeat forecasts and double-digit growth through much of the past two decades, the latest data released by CLIA shows that the number of Australians taking an ocean cruise increased by only 0.9% in 2018 when compared to the previous year, thanks mainly to infrastructure constraints in Sydney which have prevented cruise lines from expanding their local deployments.

It's a scenario CLIA has long warned of and we're hopeful that further progress will soon be made on developing a third Sydney cruise terminal to alleviate the problem. But despite the low growth reported last week in CLIA's annual Ocean Source Market Report for 2018, there's still cause for optimism in the Australian cruise industry.

Numbers may remain flat this year, but from 2020 into 2021 we expect growth to increase again thanks to new developments including the planned Brisbane International Cruise Terminal which will allow expanded operations from Queensland, and other regional infrastructure projects announced. Newer, larger ships being deployed in our region will also help increase Australia's overall cruise capacity.

Australia's love of cruising is as passionate as ever, we just need to focus on how we best cater to it.



WHEN one thinks of the word "cruise" and The Church of Scientology, the typical association is that of a rather short man becoming overexcited on Oprah's couch.

But in the headlines this week is the organisation's dilemma with a different kind of cruise, with one of its privately owned cruise ships becoming quarantined over fears of a measles outbreak.

The ship is currently docked at the Caribbean island of Curacao as local health officials determine how many of the 318 Scientologists on board are infected by the disease.

Late last month, local authorities in the Caribbean learned that a female crew member on board the ship had been diagnosed with measles following a trip to Europe.

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WEEKLY

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Collections

CruiseCO Collections provide a destination focussed guide across multiple cruise brands to ease the process of selecting a perfect cruise holiday.



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