



Deborah Hutton to host ICCA Awards

Tickets are still available for next month's Cruise Industry Awards, to be held in Sydney, which will feature a new emcee.

AUSTRALIAN media personality and former model Deborah Hutton has been revealed as the MC for the cruise industry's annual gala night.

A former model and television host, Hutton

has also held high-profile roles as a brand ambassador and spokesperson.

Her travel-related experience includes 12 years presenting the Qantas in-flight video guide and a stint as a guest reporter on 'Getaway'.

International Cruise Council Australasia general manager Brett Jardine said Hutton had also sailed on several cruises.

Tickets (\$180 each or \$2,160 for a table of 12) can be purchased for the black-tie event, to be held at the Hilton Sydney on Saturday 9 Feb.

The 2012 Cruise Industry Awards will see 15 awards presented

across seven different categories, including Agency Promotion of the Year in Australia and New Zealand and Network Promotion of the Year Australasia.

For details, see www.cruising.org.au.



CCL drops Belize port calls

PORT congestion is being blamed for Carnival Cruise Lines dumping ten of its scheduled calls in Belize City, Cayman Islands.

The move will affect a current Carnival Legend voyage and a Legend sailing in Dec, as well as eight Carnival Glory departures.

Instead of calling in Belize, the ships will now stop at Costa Maya.

In a letter penned to guests CCL said "Much to our regret, we are forced to cancel our call into Belize due to port congestion".

"Although we have a confirmed berth in Belize, local officials accepted calls for additional ships.

"Consequently, their tender capacity is not able to effectively handle the increased volume of guests without creating long delays and limiting your time ashore.

"Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to come to an acceptable agreement with Belize Port Authority regarding this situation," the letter added.

ALL THE CRUISE NEWS

Today's trade issue of **Cruise Weekly** features four pages jam packed with all the latest cruise news.

Rebranding Innersea

INNERSEA Discoveries/American Safari Cruises has rebranded itself under the company name Un-Cruise Adventures.

The company currently operates the boutique vessels *Safari Quest*, *Safari Explorer*, *Safari Endeavour*, *Safari Legacy*, *Wilderness Adventurer*, *Wilderness Discoverer*, and *Wilderness Explorer* in Alaska, Hawaii, the Sea of Cortes, and along the US Columbia and Snake rivers; as well as coastal Washington and British Columbia.

"What began as yacht cruising under the American Safari Cruises name has now expanded to include more styles of Un-Cruise Adventures, and this name change reflects that growth," said company ceo Dan Blanchard.

Cunard's new Insights

CUNARD has announced its prestigious list of 'Insights' program speakers for 2013, including businessman Lord Digby Jones, author Bill Bryson and Professor of Science and Society Lord Winston.

The trio will feature separately segments of *Queen Mary 2's* four month Round the World adventure, which already boasts speakers such as ex-Formula 1 driver Sir Jackie Stewart and journalist and war correspondent Martin Bell.



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Cruise News & Views



Brett Jardine - General Manager, ICCA

The Cruise Industry in 2013

2013 is certainly going to be another big year for our industry so for those of you already highly engaged with everything cruise we wish you every success.

Most exciting is the evolution of a global cruise industry association that was announced prior to Christmas.

For the ICCA this means joining forces with our sister associations from around the world as a unified body.

We will undergo a name change at some point this year once all regulatory requirements are finalised (change in constitution and approvals from various government entities) which will see us trading as Cruise Lines International Association or **CLIA Australasia**.

For our members this means you will now be part of a global entity which will ultimately lead to enhanced opportunities for information sharing, networking and training on a broader scale.

In addition to the increased reach that we will have around the world to assist our retail members, the goal of such a global body will be to ensure consistent positive messages are being communicated through all distribution channels with the end user in mind - the consumer, your customers.

Our global association model will benefit members directly through increased resources as well as indirectly in driving positive messages to your customers.

One Industry, One Voice - we look forward to your continued support.

Oceania celebrates 10th anniversary

This week kicks off a year of special events, designated sailings and social media initiatives by Oceania Cruises.

MARKING a decade of service on 6 Jan 2013, the line's founder, Frank Del Rio, recognised the contribution and loyalty of passengers, employees, crew and travel partners.

"Because of their support, the next 10 years, and beyond, are filled with just as much promise and opportunity to continue to evolve the Oceania Cruises experience and the modern cruise vacation for our guests," he said.

To celebrate, Del Rio and the three other founders, as well as the vice chairman of parent company Prestige Cruise Holdings, Kunal Kamlani, will each sail on one of four anniversary sailings in Europe and Alaska where they will host a cocktail reception, caviar brunch and gala dinner.

Marina's 14-day Scandinavian Serenade (11 June) sails from London to Stockholm, via St Petersburg.

Riviera's 10-day Italian Escapade (03 July) is from Rome to Venice, with visits to Corfu, Montenegro and Dubrovnik.

Regatta's Coastal Alaska (05 July) operates roundtrip from Seattle; and *Nautica's* Roman Legends (6 Sep) departs from Barcelona to Athens via France, Italy, Sicily and Turkey.

Oceania's Facebook page will also promote almost 100 crew members who have spent 10 years with the company.

The line's mission, back in 2013, was to deliver destination-rich itineraries, "best in class" cuisine, an inviting country club atmosphere, and luxurious accommodations at

"extraordinary value".

Del Rio said the addition of the elegant mid-size ships *Marina* and *Riviera* in the past two years had created "an entirely new segment" of the industry.

For details see www.oceaniacruises.com.au.

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Argentina Falklands fury

STAR Princess and *Seabourn Sojourn* became the targets of Argentinean protesters fury this month, as they docked in Buenos Aires after calling at the Falkland Islands.

Tensions over the Falkland Islands have been heating up again between Britain and Argentina over the last two years, with Argentinean protestors now turning their ire towards the cruise industry, demanding British flagged ships or cruise companies partly owned by English companies not visit the Falklands (**CW** 18 Dec).

Last year a number of ships, including *Sojourn*, faced difficulties whilst docked at Buenos Aires over the Falkland Islands, with *Sojourn* delayed for eight hours by an in port protest in Dec.

The naval issue relates to the Gaucho Rivero law, which bans the entry to any Argentinean port of a ship flying a British flag or which is partly owned by British companies and which is deemed to be "exploiting Argentina's natural resources".

According to protestors, this law should be applied to cruise ships in addition to commercial shipping vessels.

The latest incident saw protestors at Buenos Aires cruise terminal burning British flags and hurling abuse at *Sojourn* and *Star Princess* passengers, and effectively stopping them from getting off the ships.

Regent offers the blog-sphere

IN the current digital age it is not surprising that another cruise line, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, has created its own blog site, *Luxury Goes Exploring*.

"*Luxury Goes Exploring* is a place for you to discover more than you had imagined about your favorite destinations and your preferred way to travel- a place to learn the history and culture, the taste and traditions, the secrets and tips to making your vacation even more memorable," the blog site said.

"Discover the most decadent dessert of Rome, or what to order in a coffee shop in Istanbul when you Sail, Sip and Savor with Mara Papatheodorou, our Tastes and Traditions expert.

On the blog Papatheodorou will also provide guests with behind the scenes access to RSSC's ships and their respective galleys.

The blog will also feature More to Explore posts which focus on excursions and activities, as well as Insider posts for the latest RSSC news- see regentsevenseascruises.wordpress.com.

Norwegian offers up shares

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has announced the launch of its first public offering of 23,529,412 ordinary shares.

Under the offering NCL will grant the underwriters a 30-day option to purchase an aggregate of up to 3,529,412 additional ordinary shares.

As such, NCL intends to list the ordinary shares on the NASDAQ Global Select Market and, subject to official notice of issuance, the ordinary shares will trade under the symbol "NCLH."

Fireworks on every sailing

NORWEGIAN Breakaway will wow guests every cruise with a fireworks display.

Debuting in May in New York this year, Breakaway's fireworks will dazzle guests on the second to last night at sea each week as part of a grand finale of a decadent 1980s-themed deck party.

"We wanted one additional element that would really blow them away and this incredible fireworks show is going to take the cruise to a new level of excitement," said Kevin Sheehan, Norwegian Cruise Line's CEO.

The 1980's party will take place in the open-air Spice H2O venue at the aft of the ship, and will include a playlist with golden-oldies such "Come on Feel the Noise," by Quiet Riot; "Whip It," by Devo; "Cherish," by Madonna; "Final Countdown," by Europe; and "Purple Rain," by Prince.



PORTHOLE

TRAGEDY tourists brush close to catastrophe. A group of five German tourists who hired an inflatable boat to get a close look at the *Costa Concordia* wreckage have found themselves at the centre of a rescue mission. Interestingly the group were passengers onboard the *Costa Magica*, and decided to inspect the wreck during a port call to Civitavecchia, where they picked up transport to Santo Stefano, and then in turn hired the inflatable boat. It all went pear shaped for the group however when they neared Concordia and the waves started to get bigger and bigger and began to swamp their small craft. Fortunately the Italian Coast Guard managed to get to the hapless tourists in time before their boat sunk.

ASC gets itself a new COO

TED Sykes has been appointed as the new president and chief operating officer for American Steamboat Company.

Sykes comes to the role with over 20 years of industry experience, having previously held positions within Viking River Cruises, Vantage, Saga Shipping (UK) and Royal Cruise Line.

SILVERSEA®

Silversea owns & operates a fleet of seven 'boutique' cruise ships and is recognised as the market leader in the ultra-luxury sector. Two new positions are available in their Sydney CBD office.

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Variety in the Seychelles

THIS year Variety Cruises has added new itineraries to Cuba, the Seychelles, Costa Rica and Panama Canal.

Cuban itinerary highlights are set to include cruising around Vinales in Pinar del Rio Bahia de Corriene, and stops in Trinidad; whilst the Seychelles line up will include a series of four-, five- and eight-day voyages, with highlights including Vallee de Mai, Anse Lazi, and Curieuse.

Meanwhile the company's eight-day Costa Rica and the Panama Canal itineraries include visits to Corcovado, Drake Bay, the Granito de Oro & Coiba Islands, and San Blas Islands.

MSC sings farewell to Melody

MSC Cruises is set to retire its smallest ship, *MSC Melody*, in the near future after 18 years of service to the company.

"The decision to withdraw one of its first and most traditional cruise ships reaffirms MSC's focus on cutting-edge service and reflects the company's continued desire to offer travellers the highest standards in product innovation and the maximum in comfort, elegance and technology across the entire fleet," the company said in a statement.

Melody began life with MSC in 1995 from her previous incarnation as Starship Atlantic.

Following a refurbishment the 1000-guest ship has sailed itineraries for MSC all over the world, most recently the Mediterranean, Black Sea and South Africa.

Guests who have booked a previously scheduled voyage onboard *Melody* which departs after her retirement will be offered a "vast array of alternative choices".

According to the company over the next few days these passengers will all be contacted, either directly by the company or through partner travel agents, and informed about all possible options including an upgrade on board one of the other ships in the MSC fleet.

For more details visit www.msccruises.com.au or call 1300 028 502 (Australia) or 0508 4278 473 (New Zealand).

Onboard with NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has inked a contract with software company Onboard, for its Facilities Maintenance Management system.

As such, the Onboard software (which can be accessed from any onboard computer, will go fleetwide to manage facility maintenance tasks and guest requests.

The software will also provided a more streamlined automatic workflow solution which will in turn eliminate manual and paper processes, making the ships more environmentally friendly.

Royal Caribbean super sale

AUSTRALIAN cruisers are set to scoop up bargains as part of Royal Caribbean International's biggest ever Earlybird Sale.

The sale includes three offers, the first of which doubles savings for cruises in Australia, NZ and the South Pacific onboard *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Radiance of the Seas*, and *Voyager of the Seas*.

Over 40 voyages ranging between two- and 33-nights are on sale, departing from Sydney and Fremantle between Oct 2013 and Apr2014 to the South Pacific, around Australia and NZ.

Under the deal, current savings off brochure prices (up to \$500 per person) have now been doubled to up to \$1,000pp.

The deal is available for booking until 28 Feb.

The second offer provides guests with onboard credits of up to US\$200 per cabin (Oceanview cabins, US\$50 per cabin; Balcony Cabins, US\$100 per cabin; and Suites, US\$200 per cabin) for any 2013 Caribbean cruise of six nights or longer onboard *Oasis of the Seas* or *Allure of the Seas*.

This deal is available until 15 Feb.

Meanwhile, the third offer provides onboard credit of US\$100 per cabin for Oceanview Cabins, US\$200 per cabin for Balcony Cabins, and US\$400 per cabin for Suites booked onboard any 2013 Europe cruise of six nights or longer.

The third deal is available until 15 Feb.

See www.royalcaribbean.com.au.

Mein Schiff 3 eateries

THE newest vessel set to join German cruise line TUI Cruises in May 2014, *Mein Schiff 3*, will boast three restaurants catering to a variety of tastes with Eurasian, Mediterranean and Japanese cuisine.

The ship will include an Atlantic Restaurant which will serve up a Classical Mediterranean menu including homemade pastas, grilled fish and antipasti, as well as a selection of Eurasian dishes.

"The Atlantic restaurant we offer our guests on *Mein Schiff 3* an even greater culinary diversity," said Richard Vogel, ceo of TUI Cruises.

The ship will also boast a Japanese restaurant called Hamani which according to Vogel features "contemporary design meets extraordinary culinary delights".

Guests can eat at Hamani at an extra cost to their cruise fare.

"If you want to treat yourself to a special taste with exquisite sushi creations and other specialties of Japanese cuisine is, it is right here," he said.

Meanwhile, for guests who love their baked goods, *Mein Schiff 3*, will also feature a bakery offering delicious rolls, panini and cakes daily, free of charge.

The bakery will be located adjacent to the buffet restaurant Anckelmannsplatz and will provide a partially covered area so guests can eat outside if they chose.





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