

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 14 October 2014

## Rhapsody agent rates

**ROYAL** Caribbean International is offering significantly discounted last-minute fares on two coming departures this month, inviting agents to experience the ship.

A limited number of interior cabins on a seven-night South Pacific itinerary, visiting Noumea and Isle of Pines, New Caledonia are priced at \$575ppts inclusive of taxes, port charges & gratuities.

Alternatively, an 11-night cruise along the Queensland Coast to Cairns, Airlie Beach, Brisbane and more is priced from \$919ppts.

To take advantage of the offers, **CLICK HERE** and send a request form to [insidesales@rclclapac.com](mailto:insidesales@rclclapac.com).

## Aus to see celebration

**CUNARD** says Australia will see a major celebration in 2015 to mark the line's 175th birthday next year but is remaining tight-lipped on the details for now.

The line's three Queens will all visit Australia during their world voyages before arriving back in London in May for a series of parties marking the anniversary.

*Queen Mary 2* & *Queen Victoria* are both scheduled to be in Sydney Harbour on 12 Mar 2015.

"For the two ships coming into Sydney, there will be something but I can't say what it is," Cunard int'l development director David Rousham said.

Rousham added he recognised the kind of "traffic stopper" two Cunard ships in Sydney could be and hoped residents again came out to witness the festivities.

## CLIA boosts online training

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has expanded its cruise accreditation training program, releasing all compulsory modules online for the first time.

The move means that all mandatory modules required to attain the minimum accreditation level can now be taken online.

Described as a "landmark" move, the initiative reflects the benefits of CLIA Australasia - formerly the International Cruise Council - joining forces with its international peers, with the new program developed in conjunction with CLIA UK.

"This is a major step which will make it far easier for travel consultants to enhance their cruise knowledge, add to their confidence and grow their cruise sales without even leaving their desk," said CLIA Australasia general manager Brett Jardine.

He added that training modules will continue to be available both on desktop and tablet computers.

Consultants can use the online courses to undertake all of the requirements to achieve cruise industry accreditation as part of their annual CLIA membership.

Jardine confirmed that access to the online accreditation training will be included in members'

annual fees, with each consultant provided with a password-protected personal profile so they can track their achievements.

Classroom training will continue to be provided for elective modules across Australia and NZ, "for consultants who aspire to a higher level of accreditation".

CLIA will continue to charge a \$110 fee for these additional training modules.

## Air quality at home

**CARNIVAL** Australia is set to follow its US parent in setting a defined timeline for introducing new air quality technology on its locally based fleets.

The five-year plan aims to see current environmental standards exceeded by 2020 through low sulphur emissions from exhaust cleaning technology both on ships based in Australia year-round and on vessels visiting seasonally.

"We have already introduced exhaust gas cleaning technology in the Australian market with the recent arrival of our ship *Carnival Legend*, which is fitted with the technology," Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry said.

One of the two new P&O ships due to arrive late next year has also been fitted with the systems.

The scrubbing technology will be added to other ships as part of existing dry dock work schedules.

Sherry added that the target can only be met with strong quantities of low sulphur fuel.

### Today's issue of CW

*Cruise Weekly* today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news & photos.

## MSC open Divina sale

**SEVEN** night Caribbean cruises aboard *MSC Divina* today go on sale for 96 hours for select dates from Nov until Mar 2015.

Fares start from \$729 for the first passenger, with only port charges of \$149 payable for the second pax - phone 1300 028 502.



### Cruise Calendar

The *Cruise Weekly* cruise calendar details upcoming port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	16 Oct
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	16 Oct
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	17 Oct
<i>Volendam</i>	19 Oct
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	20 Oct
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	20 Oct
MELBOURNE	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	20 Oct
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	18 Oct
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	18 Oct
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	16 Oct
AUCKLAND	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	17 Oct
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	19 Oct
TAURANGA	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	18 Oct
NAPIER	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	19 Oct
WELLINGTON	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	20 Oct

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### Thomas Cook UK cruise retail concept

**BRITISH** travel agency group Thomas Cook has opened 11 new "Cruise Concept" specialty stores.

Six of the new outlets are being operated in partnership with Royal Caribbean Cruises, while the other five are working with Carnival UK, with each featuring customised branding to reflect the cruise lines' participation.

Specialist team members have been trained in cruising to provide expert advice, with the new stores located in towns where there is already more than one Thomas Cook branch.

"These new dedicated cruise stores will play an important role in opening up the wonderful world of cruising to even more UK holidaymakers," said Carnival UK chief commercial officer Gerard Tempest, while Royal Caribbean International sales director UK & Ireland Ben Bouldin said the company had "jumped at the chance to be involved".

### Long road ahead for Geelong

**CARNIVAL** Australia ceo Ann Sherry says developing a cruise industry at the Victorian port of Geelong is not currently an attractive investment prospect but that the organisation is willing to have a frank discussion with the city about its port capabilities.

Earlier this year, Geelong was readying for a series of visits from European cruise ship *MV Funchal*, operated by Portuscale Cruise Lines, prior to the line pulling the

#### Century's final kickoff

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruise Lines vessels are now arriving in droves for the Australian 2015/16 wave season, with *Celebrity Century* arriving in Sydney late last week.

Arriving from San Francisco, *Century* will operate 11 cruises from Australia over a three month period - the second *Celebrity* ship sailing in local waters this season.

The ship will then reposition to Singapore to retire from service.

plug on its entire season only five months ahead (**CW** 04 Sep).

The city's colourful Mayor Darryn Lyons then went on the offensive in the days afterward, campaigning for investment in more appealing port facilities to try and lure more frequent visits.

Sherry acknowledged Geelong's enthusiasm toward developing its cruise industry identity but said the city was "a pretty hard sell".

"It's not a long enough wharf and it is close to Melbourne so my view at the moment is that if there was money to be spent, you would invest it in Melbourne."

Sherry added the government investment pie was only so big and it was unwise to distribute funds and end up with "multiple sub-optimal solutions".

"We want to talk to them directly about what they think they've got versus what they've actually got.

"But don't waste money, there's not enough to go around."

### Jewel back in Houston

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line has set sail on its first departure from Houston in seven years, with the *Norwegian Jewel* leaving the Texan port over the weekend.

The departure marks the start of the Autumn cruise season, with *Jewel* to operate 27 Western Caribbean cruises until 11 Apr.

**MEANWHILE**, the line has also named Drew Madsen as its new president and coo, with Madsen joining to oversee the successful acquisition and integration of Prestige Cruises Int'l (**CW** 02 Sep).

### HL retains Berlitz star

**HAPAG-LLOYD** Cruises' ships *MS Europa* and *MS Europa 2* have retained their five-star rating in the 2015 Berlitz Cruise Guide.

The two vessels were ranked as the only five-star cruise ships worldwide, with fleet-mate *MS Hanseatic* rated by Berlitz as the only five-star expedition ship.

*MS Bremen* also received a four-star distinction for this year.

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**WELL-HEELED** cruisers wanting the ultimate in on-board indulgence should consider splashing some cash on *Triple Deuce* - a new mega-ship which is said to be the "most expensive, largest private yacht ever built".

The massive vessel, costing more than US\$1 billion, is 222 metres long, and those on board will be pampered by a crew of up to 100.

The seven deck ship will include a 275 square metre owner's suite - naturally with private access to a helipad as well as a personal gym, office and study and butler's cabin.

There will also be four 90 square metre VIP suites plus 12 more relatively cramped guest suites at 60 square metres each.

Powered by triple gas turbine engines, *Triple Deuce* will have a top speed of more than 30 knots and onboard facilities include two pools, multiple jacuzzis, a full-time masseuse, hair stylist and "all the water toys the yacht can carry".

The ship is being marketed so-called UHNWI (Ultra High Net Worth Individuals) with the promise that it will send other big yachts such as *Azzam* (180m), *Eclipse* (163.5m) and *Dubai* (162m) "into obscurity".

## An alluring group of agents



**THIS** group of Australian travel agents recently enjoyed the delights of *Allure of the Seas* courtesy of Creating Cruising and Royal Caribbean International.

After flying to Fort Lauderdale they stayed the night at the Hotel Bahia Mar before boarding the mega-ship for a seven night eastern Caribbean itinerary.

Port calls included the Bahamas where they visited the stunning Atlantis hotel, as well as St Thomas where they snorkelled with turtles and dolphins.

While on board they dined at many of the vessel's specialty restaurants including the up market 150 Central Park where they are pictured, back row from left: Jeffery Riley, Escape Travel Burnside; Leon Hill, Creative Holidays; Sky Gander and Lara Burgermeister, Tewantr Travel; Katrina Johnson, Flight Centre Rouse Hill; Robert Shaw, Royal

Caribbean; Kristie Martin, Travelscene Padstow; Ashleigh Judd, Flight Centre Figtree.

Front row: Elaine Johnson Dearnaley, Helloworld Geelong West; Kerrie Fellows, Maria Fellowes & Turner Associates; Santo Scidone, Helloworld Armadale; Nikkik Sharpley, FLight Centre Rozelle; and Joseph Dadd, Royal Caribbean.

## Carnival set to pump up the onboard jam

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Lines has announced a new partnership with Miami's iconic A-list disc spinner DJ Irie, which will see the launch of a new "Spin U" onboard music academy.

It's part of the Club O2 program for teenagers aged 15-17, with participants taught how to operate mixing equipment as well as "how to read a crowd," create a "memorable DJ persona" and select music to suit an audience's specific mood.

Introductory sessions will be free with a \$20 charge for a follow-up class and more advanced training also available.

Spin U is being trialled on board *Carnival Freedom* in the Caribbean, with CCL saying it plans to roll it out fleetwide - presumably including *Carnival Spirit* and *Carnival Legend* in Australia - by the end of 2015.

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