

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 04 Aug 2015

## Viking Star stranded

**VIKING** Ocean Cruises has suffered its first mechanical issue, with the burgeoning line forced to cancel a 14-day cruise midway through due to a misfiring engine.

The line's only ship currently in service - *Viking Star* - is stranded in port in Tallinn, Estonia after losing power to one of its propulsion systems last weekend.

It is an embarrassing setback for Viking and its brand new ship, less than three months since it was christened in Bergen.

After being stuck for three days, the decision was taken to cancel the remainder of the voyage, with pax given the option of continuing on land to Bergen or travel home at Viking's expense.

The ship's next departure is set for 08 Aug, with the line yet to make a call on future sailings.

## Norwegian confirms Aus

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line will return to Australasian waters for the first time in 15 years during the 2016/17 wave season, with the line today confirming a pair of visits by *Norwegian Star* to Australia (**CW** breaking news).

Revealed as part of the line's latest schedule release, the global deployment marks the first time an NCL ship has cruised Australia since the now-retired *Norwegian Wind* sailed three Trans-Tasman departures from Sydney during the 2001/02 wave season.

Australia will first feature at the end of a one-way voyage from Hong Kong to Sydney as part of its Asia deployment, departing on 16 Jan 2017 and arriving the NSW harbour city on 06 Feb.

On its way to Australia, *Star* will stop in Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia before arriving in Darwin and cruising the east coast to Cairns, Airlie Beach & Brisbane before Sydney.

The ship will then operate two one-way voyages in the form of a 12-day sailing from Sydney to Auckland also visiting Melbourne, Burnie before crossing the Tasman to Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, Napier, Tauranga and Auckland.

Sydney will feature once more as part of *Norwegian Star's* 19-day return departure to Malaysia departing on 18 Feb, embarking in Auckland and visiting Bay of Islands, Sydney, Brisbane, Airlie Beach, Cairns, Darwin and Bali.

Norwegian Cruise Line regional

vice-president sales & marketing Australia and New Zealand Nicole Costantin told **Cruise Weekly** the deployment was exciting news.

"Our Freestyle Cruising concept is perfect for Australians so to bring a ship down here makes perfect sense. It will be great for Australian cruisers.

"It fits the Australian way of life. Do whatever you want whenever you want to do it. As a holiday concept, it fits the Australian psyche perfectly," Costantin said.

Norwegian Cruise Line last month confirmed it was opening a dedicated sales and marketing office in Sydney, under the watch of former Silversea executive Steve Odell (**CW** 02 Jul).

Cruises on *Norwegian Star* will go on sale from later this month.

## Coast jettisons cruise

**PLANS** for a cruise terminal on the Gold Coast have formally been axed in a new development agreement confirmed today between ASF Consortium and the Queensland Government.

Today's announcement breathes new life into the Gold Coast Integrated Resort Development, with Wave Break Island also nixed as a potential development site.

Instead, a five-hectare site near Sea World has been selected for the integrated resort, which will also become home to the Gold Coast's second casino.

More info in **Travel Daily** today.

## Today's issue of CW

**Cruise Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news and photos, plus a full page on the new **CW** app.

## HLO cruise training

**HELLOWORLD** travel agents now have a dedicated platform to grow their knowledge of the cruise industry, with the company launching a new training scheme aimed at its frontline agent army.

The program has been dubbed the 'helloworld ScholarSHIP' and has been devised in partnership with CLIA Australasia.

Aimed at agents unfamiliar with the cruise sector, or those "new to cruise", the modular syllabus is designed for completion over a period of six months to provide a working knowledge of the sector.

The new training was unveiled at the retail group's Frontliners conference held in Cairns last weekend by Helloworld head of associate networks David Padman.

More information on the program in **Cruise Weekly** on Thu.

## O'Sullivan still in chair

**CRUISE** New Zealand has returned Kevin O'Sullivan to the position of chairman at its annual conference in Auckland last week.

O'Sullivan serves as the regional harbourmaster and maritime mgr for Environment Southland.

Matters canvassed at the conference included the potential impact of New Zealand's coming border tax on cruise ship arrivals.



## Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	08 Aug
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Aug
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	06 Aug
<i>National</i>	06 Aug
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	09 Aug
PORT DOUGLAS	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	06 Aug
YORKEYS KNOB	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	05 Aug

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## Mississippi markets

**CHRISTMAS** Market cruises are coming to the US, with American Queen Steamboat Company announcing its Mississippi River holiday cruises will include stops at a range of riverside markets.

The 436-pax *American Queen* paddlewheeler will offer guests the chance to disembark at the markets, organised by the line alongside local tourist offices.

Vendors will sell seasonal and locally produced arts and crafts.

## Hawaii seeking cruise reps

**HAWAII** Tourism Authority (HTA) has issued a new Request for Proposal for Cruise Development Consultation Services to further grow the island's cruise visitation.

It comes four days after a similar Request for Proposal was issued for destination marketing services in several major markets including the Oceania region.

HTA has admitted its inbound passenger market from cruising is

relatively small compared to air, however said it "continues to be a very important one that provides visitors with an alternate way to experience the Hawaiian Islands".

The contractor selected for the duties will represent HTA at cruise line meetings to lobby for new business and a greater presence, attend annual CLIA events around the world, assist with itinerary planning and present regularly on progress to HTA management.

Hawaii is popular with cruise ships based on the US West Coast as well as those relocating from Australasia on seasonal rotations, however only Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America* is based permanently in the island chain.

Proposals are required to be submitted by 24 Aug.

## Kung Fu Panda eatery

**ROYAL** Caribbean has expanded its association with DreamWorks Animation by opening a new family dining outlet themed on the *Kung Fu Panda* movie series.

Debuting onboard *Quantum of the Seas*, which is currently based in Shanghai, the Kung Fu Panda Noodle Shop offers a range of Chinese dishes and desserts along with visits from movie characters.

## New style for Pacific Pearl



**P&O CRUISES** ship *Pacific Pearl* will boast a brand new look when she emerges from dry dock in Sydney on 15 Aug.

She will undergo a multi-million dollar major refurbishment and will feature a P&OEdge Adventure Park, complete with activities including a surfboard simulator, bungee tramp and flying fox.

The ship's décor will take on a stylish new look, with a fresh colour palette and contemporary furniture, wallpaper, artwork

and carpet creating a modern Australian feel for the Orient, Mix bar, Connexions, the Atrium and Luna restaurant.

The Plantation buffet (pictured above) will be redesigned to offer a trendy café vibe.

The refurbishment will also see a general refresh of guest cabins and other public spaces including the Dome, spa and Waterfront restaurant, with a total of 17,000sqm of carpet being fitted on the ship.

## Another line to Cuba

**CANADIAN** Great Lakes cruise line Pearl Seas Cruises has joined Carnival Cruise Line, MSC Cruises, fathom, Haimark and Celestyal Cruises in announcing plans to operate voyages to and in Cuba.

Taking advantage of the people-to-people market allowing it to operate between the US & Cuba, the line will operate voyages from Florida to Cuba from next year.

Sailings of 7-10 nights will be operated by the 210-passenger *Pearl Mist*, with itineraries to both the northern and southern coasts of Cuba in development.

The line is now working on obtaining approval from both the US and Cuba for the operation.



**IF EVER** there was a party ship to be on, this would be it.

Clearly still keen to celebrate his Super Bowl win from a year prior (unless the team goes back-to-back), New England Patriots tight-end Rob Gronkowski has chartered the *Norwegian Pearl* for a three-day bender at sea.

Dubbed "Gronk's Party Ship", the sailing is being co-organised by festival organisers Sixthman and will set sail from Miami from 19-22 Feb next year.

Joining Gronk onboard will be family, friends and fans of the NFL star, cruising the Caribbean with days at sea bookending a huge party at "Gronk's Island", also known as Great Stirrup Cay, Norwegian's private island.

Five stages across the ship will offer entertainment from DJ's, bands and comedians while to and from the island.

Cabins are selling fast, with more information and pricing at [www.gronkspartyship.com](http://www.gronkspartyship.com).

## 7-NIGHT AUCKLAND TO BAY OF ISLANDS CRUISE PACKAGE

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## Brochure Spotlight

**VOYAGES of Discovery** has released its 2016/17 brochure, which introduces 13 new cruises.

The season will see *Voyager* leave its Mediterranean homeland in the autumn of 2016 to relocate to the waters of South East Asia.

*Voyager* will then sail Myanmar before heading to the Maldives, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa.

Once complete in Asia, she then returns to the UK via Namibia and the remote islands off the west coast of Africa, arriving in time for the European 2017 spring season.

## Panama for Un-Cruise

**SMALL-SHIP** line Un-Cruise Adventures has unveiled a new addition to its destination range, with Panama set to join in 2017.

The Central American nation appears as part of the line's new Nov 2015 - Apr 2017 brochure, which was released this week.

Highlights of the seven-night voyage onboard the 64-pax *Safari Voyager* include a transit of the Panama Canal & visits to a series of remote Panamanian islands.

The line's new brochure offers over 100 pages of voyages on the US West, Mexico, Alaska & more.

## Gifford adds to GIFFT

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line celebrity spokesperson and brand partner Kathie Lee Gifford has launched a new addition to her GIFFT wine label available across the fleet.

The GIFFT Pinot Noir Rosé will be part of the fleet's Red range.

## WLCL representin' at Frontliners



**CRUISE** was well represented this past weekend at Helloworld's annual Frontliners Forum in Cairns, with suppliers across both river and ocean cruising turning out with their Helloworld agents.

Reps from all of the World's Leading Cruise Lines brands were in attendance, spruiking seven individual styles of sea holiday suited to all budget levels.

The WLCL contingent were among 505 delegates attending the event, which included plenary sessions, presentations, business updates and supplier sessions.

Frontliners concluded with all delegates donning their finest for the Gala Awards Dinner, which recognises the network's top performers and rising stars.

Departing ceo Elizabeth Gaines praised the efforts of the group's top sellers, recognising the calibre of competition in the market.

"In just 12 months from launch

our brand awareness has more than tripled amongst our target audience with more than 1 in 3 knowing who we are and what we stand for and much of that is due to the work of our frontline consultants in successfully showcasing the helloworld advantage," Gaines commented.

The World's Leading Cruise Lines stars are **pictured** above.

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## ACL up to Columbia

**AMERICAN** Cruise Lines has announced an inventory increase on the Columbia & Snake Rivers in the Pacific Northwest as part of a shuffle of available capacity.

The line's new 185-pax ship, dubbed *America*, will be deployed to the Mississippi early next year.

In turn, the three-year-old *Queen of the Mississippi* will be sent to the Pacific Northwest alongside the *Queen of the West*.

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