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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 19 May 2015

Win an Apple Watch!

ENTRIES are coming in fast for a chance to win the latest exciting tech accessory - an Apple Watch.

Jito is giving away one of the shiny new gadgets everyone is talking about to a lucky user of the jito job alerts service.

Simply sign up to the service to ensure your dream role doesn't get away - winner will be drawn 01 Jun - details on the **cover page** of today's *Cruise Weekly*.

Genting closes Crystal buy

UPMARKET cruise line Crystal Cruises is now in the full control of Asian investment powerhouse Genting Hong Kong after the deal to buy the line from NYK Japan (CW 03 Mar) was formally settled.

The total transaction price for the currently two-ship line closed at US\$550 million.

Promptly upon closure of the deal, Genting Hong Kong

implemented a hierarchical restructure which saw president & coo Edie Rodriguez promoted to chief executive officer and president of Crystal Cruises.

Further promotions saw Genting Group executive chairman Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay imposed as Crystal Cruises chairman, relieving Nobuyoshi Kuzuya who returns to an executive position at NYK.

Long-time Crystal Cruises executive vice-president Thomas Mazloum will assume Rodriguez' former post as chief operating officer for the line.

During the handover, Rodriguez praised the outgoing owners, expressing her gratefulness for their support and leadership.

"We look forward to ushering in a new era of luxury cruising with Genting Hong Kong's support."

She added that Crystal Cruises will now eagerly anticipate the forthcoming arrival of a third ship, due for delivery in 2018.

New APT ship stays in the family



WÜRZBURG in Germany last week hosted its first ever river ship christening ceremony, welcoming the brass from APT as *MS AmaVenita* entered the fleet.

Tasked with official naming rights was Godmother Rebekah McGeary, daughter-in-law and wife respectively of APT founder Geoff McGeary and son Robert.

The town's Mayor Christian Schuchardt was also on hand, witnessing Rebekah follow

maritime tradition in breaking a bottle of champagne on the bow to bestow a lifetime of good luck.

Dancers, folk music and soprano Heidelinde Schmid from the Bavarian State Opera were also on hand to entertain spectators.

MS AmaVenita has now set sail on the Rhine, Main and Danube, offering capacity of 164 pax, priced from \$7,395ppts.

Robert, Rebekah and Geoff McGeary are **pictured** above.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a front cover page from **jito**.

Seatrade 2016 venue

TENERIFE in the Canary Islands has been announced as the venue for the Seatrade Cruise Med 2016 cruise industry conference.

Taking place at the International Trade Fair and Congress Centre in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the event will be held from 21-23 Sep 2016.

Hosted by the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the event will bring together industry executives and businesses across the sector to discuss pertinent industry issues, showcase products and host agent training.

Last days comm boost

AURORA Expeditions is offering \$250 cash cards for every booking to Antarctica made by 31 May under an extension of its travel agent incentive, with cards paid in addition to regular commission.

Four selected itineraries across the 2015/16 season are valid in the promotion, with departures taking place on 21 Nov (Scotia Sea Springtime), 08 Dec (Spirit of Antarctica), 19 Dec (Christmas in Antarctica) and 27 Dec (New Year in Antarctica), all in 2015.

Deposits must be received by 31 May in order to be eligible.

For more information on the extended incentive, phone Aurora Expeditions on (02) 9252 1033.

BOGO50% sale now on

DISCOUNTS of up to 50% for companions are now available on all three Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd lines for a short time.

The deal applies to 24 Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises or Azamara Club Cruises voyages in Asia departing after Oct 2015, with the sale on for two weeks.

Destinations on offer include Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and more.

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CCL lands the trifecta

THREE major events will be combined into the one sailing on Carnival Cruise Lines departing later this year on *Carnival Spirit*.

Guests departing Sydney on 30 Oct will combine Halloween, the Melbourne Cup and Oaks Day in one action-packed voyage.

John Tapp, veteran of more than 50,000 race calls will be a special guest on the sailing, offering up his personal insights into who to back in Australia's biggest race.

Racing TV personality Richie Callander will return for a second year, while a fashion parade will also be held onboard.

Prior to race day, the ship will be dressed in with spooky Halloween decorations, with trick or treating and special themed treats served.

The eight-night cruise will spend four days in Melbourne, priced from \$1,549ppts inclusive of course entry for Melbourne Cup.

Guests can upgrade tickets to include entry for Oaks Day, as well as to grandstand seats.

NZ targeting superyachts

TOURISM New Zealand is looking at cruise visitation in a whole new way, with a concerted program to attract more global superyachts to visit.

Speaking this morning at the TRENZ tradeshow in Rotorua, Jason Hill from Auckland Tourism, Events & Economic Development (ATEED) said the "superyacht initiative" is targeting a doubling of arrivals of the luxury cruise vessels by 2018.

Last year, a total of 58 of the huge ships visited New Zealand, including the 330 metre *Serene*, owned by Russian vodka billionaire Yuri Scheffler, which spent seven weeks in Kiwi waters.

The \$400m vessel, which has 50 crew and sleeps up to 24 guests in 15 staterooms boasts two helipads, an indoor climbing wall, a cinema and a submarine.

Hill said the admittedly niche superyacht segment still has significant tourism potential,

injecting almost \$40m into the economy in 2013 - a figure which is projected to grow to \$79m over the next three years which would see 74 superyachts visiting.

There is also a flow-on to the local marine industry, with the visiting vessels often taking the opportunity for refits while in southern hemisphere waters.

As well as the wealthy owners, having the superyachts visit New Zealand also opens up the opportunity for high net worth charters, with some people paying up to \$500,000 per week to charter the vessels.

That in turn feeds into on-shore spending in luxury lodges and high end product, Hill added.

ATEED's strategy includes raising awareness of NZ as a cruising and charter destination, increasing the time the superyachts spend in Kiwi waters, and positioning New Zealand as the "luxury yachting hub of the Asia-Pacific region".



AS FAR as research goes, this is certainly of critical importance.

GliderYachts, a UK watercraft firm has signed a £100 million deal for the construction of its newest yacht, designed on the basis it can travel at up to 70mph without spilling a single drink.

According to *Arabian Business*, purveyors of all things luxurious for society's elite, the yacht has been described as the world's most luxurious high performance sports boat.

Design techniques derived from Formula 1 racing & private jets were factored into the SS18 model, which can glide on the high seas from Dubai to Abu Dhabi in as little as 40 minutes.

While effectively looking like the Starship Enterprise on water skis, the first prototype of the model is due for launch in Sep.

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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	19 May
	<i>Sea Princess</i>	22 May
MELBOURNE	<i>Sea Princess</i>	24 May
BRISBANE	<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 May
PORT DOUGLAS	<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	20 May
AUCKLAND	<i>Ms Insignia</i>	25 May
PICTON	<i>Ms Insignia</i>	22 May
NAPIER	<i>Ms Insignia</i>	23 May
TAURANGA	<i>Ms Insignia</i>	24 May

No storms will stop Qld cruisers



WILD weather outside and recent cyclonic activity in the region did little to dampen the cruise enthusiasm of locals in North Queensland recently, flocking to an in-store event hosted by a local agency. The team from Endeavour

Cruise and Travel in Smithfield north of Cairns, a Travellers Choice group member, invited their Princess Cruises rep to be part of their cruise promotion. Strong levels of enquiry flooded in for Princess product all over the globe throughout the day, with many interested parties keen to try cruising for the first time, albeit in more pleasant conditions. The Endeavour team and special guests are **pictured** above, from left in the back row is manager Jill Faircloth, senior consultant Melissa MacQuillan, Princess Cruises BDM Queensland Peter Darby, senior consultant Celia Mackenzie and in front, senior consultant Elena Gualtieri.

RCI package long sailings

A **SERIES** of separate itineraries on Royal Caribbean Int'l ships have been packaged together and relaunched as new long sailings for guests with the available time.

Mainly repositioning sailings, the itineraries allow guests to visit more ports while unpacking just once and not repeating ports.

Guests keen to experience *Explorer of the Seas* prior to her maiden arrival into Sydney can do so on a 51-night repositioning cruise from Barcelona which visits ports including Crete, Jerusalem, Dubai & Goa, departing 09 Oct.

The ship will travel along the west and southern coastlines of Australia and into New Zealand prior to arriving in Sydney.

Lead-in prices for the entire

voyage start from \$5,069ppts.

Alternatively, *Mariner of the Seas* will embark on a 29-night sailing from Beijing to Singapore on 07 Oct, while *Voyager of the Seas* will make its annual journey to Sydney from Hong Kong on 14 Oct as part of a 22-night sailing.

Royal Caribbean Int'l commercial director Sean Treacy said the longer cruises allowed multiple exciting ports to appear together in the same itinerary.

"We know that the destination mix is important for those who have already travelled to many places in the world, which is why Royal Caribbean has packaged these unique itineraries featuring a range of exotic and lesser known locales," he said.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Editors: Bruce Piper and Matt Lennon info@cruiseweekly.com.au
Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Louise Wallace
Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik ads@cruiseweekly.com.au
Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

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Magic to New York

DISNEY Cruise Lines will return to New York for a short series of departures from late next year.

Beginning from 07 Oct, *Disney Magic* will operate 4-8 night cruises to the Bahamas, Florida & Nova Scotia, with the former two including a visit to Walt Disney World while in Port Canaveral.

The 2016 northern autumn will also see *Magic* offer departures from Miami to the Caribbean.

At the same time, *Disney Wonder* will be based in Texas, operating to the Bahamas.