

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 03 Nov 2015

## Brochure Spotlight

### APT Luxury Mega-Yachts

**THIS** new brochure from APT details a series of private charter voyages in the Aegean and Adriatic Seas in 2017, aboard Ponant's *Le Lyrial*.



Itineraries include a 15-day voyage departing 04 and 18 Jul 2017 visiting Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece and Turkey, as well as a 21-day "Luxury Land Journey & Cruise" which takes in Rome, Siena, Florence and Valpolicella before departing on a cruise from Venice.

There's also a 26-day Treasures of Turkey departing 24 Jun and 18 Jul 2015, and there are also optional city-stay add-ons.

The programs feature shore excursions in every port, dedicated APT cruise and tour directors, expert lecturers and local guides as well as all tipping, airport transfers and portage.

APT has fully chartered the 100-passenger *Le Lyrial* for these departures which have been designed specifically for the Australian and NZ markets.

## Crystal river ships in 2016

**CRYSTAL** River Cruises will make its debut a year earlier than previously planned, with ceo Edie Rodriguez overnight outlining aggressive growth plans including a doubling of the line's order to four newbuilds.

The ships will be delivered for the 2017 season - but due to strong demand from travellers and travel agents, Crystal has also purchased the German-built *MS Mozart* which is the largest river cruise vessel in Europe.

Following a major dry-dock, the ship will embark as the *Crystal Mozart* on 13 Jul 2016.

"We are upping the ante once again," Rodriguez said, with the redesigned ship offering "the largest guest suites and public spaces, the highest crew-to-guest ratio and Crystal's award-winning service."

"Once the transformation of *Crystal Mozart* is completed, it will truly be the crown jewel of the European rivers," she added.

*Crystal Mozart* is designed to fit into the wider locks on the Danube, from Passau to Budapest.

*Mozart* will offer 203 square feet window suites, deluxe suites of 215 square feet, a 322 square foot penthouse suite and two massive 2-bedroom Crystal Suites of 860 square feet.

## Seabourn exteriors

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line has revealed the first look at the exterior of its new *Seabourn Encore*, which will cruise in Australia during its maiden season from 22 Jan-17 Mar 2017 - see [encore.seabourn.com](http://encore.seabourn.com).

In 2017 the newbuilds from Lloyd Werft will arrive, with similarly sized suites all with industry-first king sized beds, walk-in wardrobes and bathrooms with double vanities.

Two of the new Crystal River yachts will cruise the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers with 110 guests, while the other two, each with an 84-guest capacity, will cruise the Seine, the Garonne and the Dordogne rivers in France.

The 2016 debut of Crystal River Cruises continues Crystal's massive expansion push since its acquisition by Genting Hong Kong (**CW 03 Mar**) which has seen the addition of Crystal Yacht Cruises, Crystal Luxury Air and Crystal Exclusive Class Ocean Cruises.

## HAL brand initiatives

**HOLLAND** America Line has announced a \$300 million program of "brand enhancements" with the aim of securing its position as the "leader in premium cruising".

The massive investment will include fleetwide enhancements to its top staterooms and upgraded amenities.

Onboard activities will also be enriched via a major new partnership with *BBC Earth* which will bring "world class fun and factual entertainment" in the form of films, concerts, shows, kids' activities and theme cruises.

HAL is also collaborating with software platform Utrip to offer the "highest level of cruise vacation personalisation, and adding expert destination content through AFAR Media.

## Hurtigruten incentive

**HURTIGRUTEN** is offering travel agents the opportunity to win an Apple Watch, with entry into the draw by depositing any two new 2016/17 Classic Norway Coastal Round Voyage or Explorer Voyage bookings with Discover the World between 02 Nov-11 Dec 2015.

A winner will be drawn every fortnight over the six week incentive period - for more details see [discovertravelshop.com.au](http://discovertravelshop.com.au).

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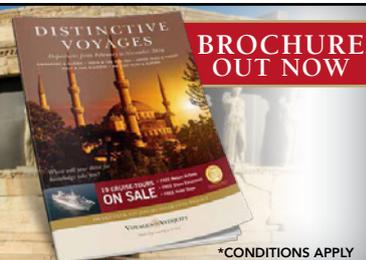
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## Pacific Dawn sails up the Yarra



**P&O'S Pacific Dawn** made history this morning when she became the largest ever cruise ship to sail under Melbourne's West Gate Bridge.

The 2000-passenger vessel which berthed at Victoria Dock is one of a flotilla of four Carnival Australia vessels visiting Melbourne during the Spring Racing Carnival, with *Pacific Pearl* and *Pacific Jewel* also both docked at Station Pier along with *Carnival Spirit*.

Between them the 8,000 passengers will represent about 8% of attendees at the Melbourne Cup, with the four ship visit expected to inject over \$7 million into the Victorian economy during their combined 12 day visit to the city.

### HTA cruise consultant

**THE** Hawaii Tourism Authority has selected Access Cruise to provide cruise development consultation services to assist in achieving cruise targets.

The contractor will also help to maintain and develop new cruise business and grow market share against competing destinations.

Access Cruise, Inc.'s contract is for one year, with the option to extend for up to two additional one-year periods.

### Viking defends comparison website

**VIKING** River Cruises is standing by its "dare2compare" website which provides a comparison between its products and those of rivals Scenic and APT (*CW* Thu).

APT has expressed concerns, with head of sales Debra Fox, saying the Viking site contains inaccurate pricing on some APT cruises as well as omissions, "thus immediately presenting a dishonest comparison".

"Viking and APT are not like-for-like comparison products, a fact that we know the travel trade will already be aware of," Fox said.

However Viking md Teresia Fors told *Cruise Weekly* the site, now in its third year, simply aims to remove some of the confusion around the plethora of river cruise deals, such as fly free offers and different inclusions.

"It's a fierce game," she said, likening the heavy competition to the energy, telco or insurance sectors where suppliers are often the subject of comparison.

She said Viking strives to ensure the site is accurate, with prices and offers from rivals updated several times weekly.

Scenic declined to comment on the controversy.



**THE** incredible potential of the Australian cruise industry has been highlighted in statistics released in Montreal, Canada.

The local cruise season has just wrapped up, with a total of 73 cruise ship visits and about 92,000 passengers and crew passing through the terminal.

However the really interesting statistic found that 8.5% of the passengers (about 5,600) were Australians - more than the 5,000 or so from Canada.

Despite Canada's population of 35 million people, nearby Americans outnumbered them almost ten to one, while the Australian contingent also outstripped the locals even though "Sydneyiders have to travel 10,000 miles to get to Montreal!" according to the *Cybercruises* website.

### RSSC Explorer floats

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises has floated its new *Regent Seven Seas Explorer* out of the Fincantieri shipyard in Genoa, Italy,

Billed as "the most luxurious cruise ship ever built," the 750-passenger all-suite vessel will offer a range of new features when she debuts in Jul 2016.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has already announced it will offer free unlimited wi-fi on all voyages from the recently released 2016-17 Winter Collection.

*Explorer* is RSSC's first new vessel in over a decade.

To view a video of the *Explorer* floating out of the dry dock see [cruiseweekly.com.au/videos](http://cruiseweekly.com.au/videos).



### Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	04 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	05 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	06 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	06 Nov
<i>Costa Luminosa</i>	07 Nov
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	07 Nov
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	09 Nov

MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	03 Nov

BRISBANE	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	03 Nov
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	07 Nov
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	08 Nov

HOBART	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	04 Nov

DARWIN	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	07 Nov

CAIRNS	
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	07 Nov

BUSSELTON	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	07 Nov

FREMANTLE	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	06 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	08 Nov
<i>Sun Princess</i>	09 Nov

GERALDTON	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	05 Nov
<i>Volendam</i>	06 Nov
<i>Sun Princess</i>	08 Nov

AUCKLAND	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	07 Nov
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	08 Nov
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	08 Nov

WELLINGTON	
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	04 Nov
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	04 Nov
<i>Noordam</i>	05 Nov

AKAROA	
<i>Noordam</i>	03 Nov
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	03 Nov

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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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Editor: Bruce Piper [info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Contributors: Guy Dundas, Jenny Piper, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Magda Herdzik [ads@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:ads@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Business Manager: Jenny Piper [accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

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