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at the renowned Jamie's Italian

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CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 26 Nov 2015

Cruise big with RCI

ROYAL Caribbean is inviting cruisers to 'Live Life Big' by showcasing the unique features of its vessels, the largest and most modern cruise ships to operate in Australia.

As well as visiting exotic destinations, those on board can enjoy Jamie's Italian restaurant, extensive shopping on the Royal Promenade - and that's not all.

Ice skating, rock climbing, surfing and skydiving simulators and even robotic bartenders and the "North Star" aerial observatory on *Ovation of the Seas* are all highlighted on the **cover page** of today's issue of **CW**.

Blue Lagoon bonus

BLUE Lagoon Cruises is offering free nights at the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa as well as bonus travel luggage in conjunction with bookings of its Fiji Islands voyages - for details see **page four**.

P&O celebrates five ships



P&O'S new *Pacific Eden* and *Pacific Aria* were the centrepieces of a massive event on Sydney Harbour yesterday, as the cruise line welcomed the vessels to its locally based year-round fleet.

Eden and Aria - pictured above with blue hulls - joined the other P&O vessels *Pacific Jewel*, *Pacific Pearl* and *Pacific Dawn* off the coast of Sydney before making their way into the harbour in formation while thousands of

Sydneysiders looked on.

Officially named by Kate Ritchie and Jessica Mauboy on Twitter as the vessels sailed past Fort Denison, there was also plenty of Champagne flowing over the hulls and all five vessels sounded their whistles simultaneously to mark Australia's first dual cruise ship christening.

Carnival Australia ceo Ann Sherry said the game-changing new vessels increase P&O's capacity by 50% and also herald a "new look and feel for our cruise line, inspired by modern Australia".

Many more pics from the event at [facebook.com/cruiseweekly](https://www.facebook.com/cruiseweekly).

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, a **front full page** from **Royal Caribbean International** plus a full page from **Blue Lagoon Cruises**.

White Bay ferry start

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has at last confirmed that its new ferry service from Sydney's Circular Quay and Darling Harbour to the White Bay Cruise Terminal will commence operations this weekend.

The much-anticipated service, which was set to kick off a week ago but was held up by a last minute approval hitch, will make the trip every 20 minutes from 7.30am to 2.30pm on all days that cruise ships arrive and depart from White Bay.

Captain Cook says the ferries will operate between White Bay and Circular Quay in the morning, and between White Bay and Darling Harbour in the afternoon, with ferry transfers available between Circular Quay and Darling Harbour for those wishing to connect to the service.

The service has been made possible due to the construction of Sydney's first mobile passenger wharf (**CW** 23 Jul) which has been developed by Captain Cook.

CCC gm Anthony Haworth said the cruise market had been "crying out for this ferry service for a long time," with the new option making transport to and from White Bay both more pleasurable and more accessible for passengers.

The White Bay ferry service is priced at \$9 one way per person.

Tickets are available at www.captaincook.com.au as well as from ticket offices and through participating cruise lines.

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RCCL kicks sustainability goals

ROYAL Caribbean Cruise Lines has released its 2014 Sustainability Report which showcases the company's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The report highlights a range of key achievements, including no use of landfills by RCI's Florida-based fleet, as well as a 114% increase in recycling fleetwide.

The delivery of the Quantum-class ships saw a range of innovations which lower carbon dioxide emissions, including RCI's air lubrication system, which reduces hull friction via a layer of billions of microscopic air bubbles also had a significant impact.

The company also increased "responsible local sourcing" in Europe, Asia, Australia and NZ, with a 20% increase locally.

Other goodwill initiatives included the launch of a program to make the ships a more welcoming environment for autistic guests and their families.

"At Royal Caribbean, we are working to ensure that sustainability remains at the heart of our business," said Richard Fain, chairman and ceo.

"Our mantra is continuous improvement," he added.

The full report is online at rclcorporate.com/environment.

CLIA into France

CRUISE Lines International Association is launching a new training portal for French travel agents, who will now be able to work towards industry recognised accreditation.

CLIA UK & Ireland is sharing almost 90 Learning Academy modules as well as other resources with agents across the Channel, with a range of French industry-focused events to be held in 2016 to further inform agents in France about cruising.

Almost 600,000 French people cruised in 2014, up 14%.

GPT NZ cruise-tours

GRAND Pacific Tours has released its latest Cruise and Luxury Coach Tour brochure, which combines a fully hosted voyage aboard *Celebrity Solstice* with GPT's luxury coach offering to provide the "complete New Zealand experience".

GPT first launched the product in 2012, and differentiates itself from competitors by pre-booking all of its staterooms on the ship so clients are guaranteed a Deluxe Cabin on Vista Deck 8.

The company also has its own tour guide with the group from day one so passengers are looked after all the way.

The options include the 19-day NZ Southern Explorer and Cruise including a six-night coach tour and 12-nights on *Celebrity Solstice*, and the 23-day Best of NZ by Cruise and Luxury Coach which starts ex SYD with a 12 night voyage and then ten nights of touring the north and south Islands - 1800 622 768.

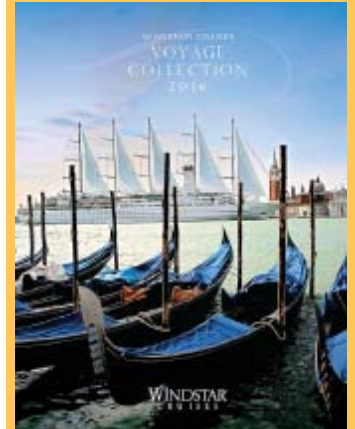
Grandeur bag storage

ROYAL Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas* is offering storage facilities for carry-on luggage so passengers can enjoy the ship unencumbered when they board while waiting for their stateroom to be ready.



Brochure Spotlight

Windstar 2016



TRAVEL the World has launched the 2016 Windstar Collection brochure which offers new itineraries across six elegant sail and motor yachts.

The expansion includes half a dozen additional voyages in the Caribbean as well as two in Northern Europe, year round cruising to Tahiti, a new Mediterranean voyage to southern Spain and Morocco, and Costa Rica & Panama Canal itineraries.

Also included in the program are a range of exciting private events which are complimentary - more details 1300 857 037.





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ACA Update



Jill Abel - CEO

Five ship spectacular

MORE cruise ships are visiting Australia than ever before and this week is no exception, with Sydney taking the focus as P&O Cruises' expanded five-ship fleet sailed into Sydney Harbour yesterday.

However it is the homeporting of P&O's fleet around Australia that is the real news as it will benefit Australian travellers and also provide increased revenue for the tourism infrastructure that supports the ships when they dock.

Pacific Eden will be home ported in Fremantle, while *Pacific Aria* will operate turnaround itineraries using Brisbane as her hub. *Pacific Jewel* meanwhile will have Melbourne as her home port from December for three months.

This means cruise passengers will have more choice when it comes to looking at departure cities. But the real story is the strong economic benefit for the tourism industry overall.

The economic impact of a ship turnaround is worth so much more to a destination than a transit visit, so the dispersion of the resulting financial benefits to state and regional tourism organisations, port authorities, providers, tour companies, and attractions - many of whom are members of Australian Cruise Association - is so much greater.

The buzz and publicity surrounding P&O Cruises' five-ship spectacular in Sydney Harbour has generated a lot of attention this week, which can only be good for the Australian cruising industry - and of course, our members!

RCI rendezvous

ROYAL Caribbean will conduct its own Royal Sydney Harbour Rendezvous this weekend, with *Explorer of the Seas* and *Voyager of the Seas* meeting for the first time this season.

Explorer will be making her maiden visit to Sydney on Sat, and *Voyager* will greet her at 6.30pm on Sat near Fort Denison.

Ideal vantage points for the historic meeting will include Bradley's Head, Circular Quay, Luna Park and Cremorne Reserve.

MEANWHILE Royal Caribbean has also confirmed the further roll-out of its VOOM high-speed internet service to additional vessels during 2016.

Claimed to be six times faster than any other internet at sea, VOOM will be added to *Majesty of the Seas*, *Enchantment of the Seas* and *Freedom of the Seas* starting from May next year.

Australians will be able to experience VOOM for themselves when *Ovation of the Seas* arrives for the 2016/17 season.

Scenic flight offers

SCENIC has extended several flight deals for its 2016 Europe River Cruising portfolio, with Category E cabins on the 02 and 07 Nov 2016 departures of its 15-day Jewels of Europe cruise priced at \$6,995. The offer has now been extended for bookings made before 31 Dec.

The company also has a new Business Class offer in lieu of fly free on all departures in Mar, Apr, Oct and Nov 2016, regardless of cabin type, with guests able to travel up the front for \$1,995pp.

Balcony cabin passengers travelling from May-Sep can fly Business Class for \$2,995pp in lieu of fly free for \$995pp offer.

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A busy week in Doha

MS ISLAND Sky, part of the fleet operated by Noble Caledonia, which is part-owned by APT, was one of three ships to call at Doha, Qatar this week as they explored the Arabian Gulf.

Qatar is ramping up efforts to expand its cruise tourism, with *Island Sky* the first ship to dock there as part of the Cruise Arabia Alliance, while other arrivals included *Seabourn Sojourn* and Hapag-Lloyd's *MS Europa 2*.

Passengers received a warm welcome complete with Arabic coffee, a traditional performance and a falcon photo opportunity before undertaking tours of Qatar's key landmarks.

Silversea Africa tour

SILVERSEA has launched a new pre-cruise "Accra & the Ashanti Kingdom" land adventure in conjunction with an upcoming *Silver Cloud* West Africa voyage which will cruise from Accra to Barcelona on 16 Mar 2016.

The six-day optional add-on will see guests have the rare opportunity to participate in the Festival of Akwasidae in the royal palace in Kumasi.

More info on 1300 306 872.



THERE'S no doubt about the commercial savvy of the people at Royal Caribbean.

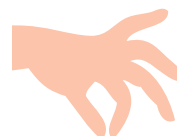
Such has been the excitement around the cruise line's special electronic WOWBands that the company is seeing whether passengers will pay extra to have them instead of ordinary room card keys.

The rubberised bands, which were unveiled late last year with the launch of *Quantum of the Seas*, can be conveniently worn on the wrist and give cruisers access to their rooms as well as the ability to pay for drinks and other on-board extras.

A charge of US\$4.99 is being trialled this month aboard the giant *Anthem of the Seas*, which is the second vessel to offer the WOWBand system.

Traditional plastic card room keys are still available at no additional charge, and passengers in suites can also still get a WOWBand at no cost.

During the pilot program the WOWBands continue to be free on *Quantum of the Seas*.



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