

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 29 Sep 2015

## Lindblad Euro session

AGENTS can learn more about the 2016 Lindblad Expeditions season in Europe onboard *National Geographic Orion* via two webinar training sessions.

Taking place tomorrow at **11am** and **7pm** AEST, the 30-minute webinar will cover ten itineraries. Click the times above to register.

## Masterchef back in 16

HOLLAND America Line's 2,106-pax *MS Nieuw Amsterdam* will next year host the second *Masterchef* cruise, based on the popular television cooking series.

The voyage will feature stars from the US series of *Masterchef* and will consist of a seven-night Caribbean setting sail from Fort Lauderdale on 06 Nov 2016.

## All change for AmaLotus

LUXURY touring operator APT has outlined a major change



to come as part of its 2016/17 Vietnam and Cambodia season, with the *RV Amalotus* (pictured) to undergo a significant redesign.

Works will include the addition of 'Indochine by Luke Nguyen', a private dining restaurant offering cuisine specially developed by the APT Asia Ambassador and celebrity chef himself.

All guests sailing onboard in 2016 will have the chance as part of their itinerary, 16 guests at a time, to partake in a six-course degustation designed by Nguyen.

A Lotus Spa and Wellness Centre will also be installed along with the French-inspired Le Việt Nam Café and an improved sun deck with swimming pool.

Nguyen will be central to the *RV Amalotus* redesign, overseeing the refresh of all three onboard restaurants as well as the menus.

The new-look *RV Amalotus* and its 54 balcony suites will be ready for relaunch on 01 Aug next year for exclusive use by APT guests.

In addition to the ship overhaul,

16 itineraries feature including the 13-day 'Vietnam

and Cambodia Highlights', which also offers opportunities to add on an extension to Sapa, Ha Long Bay or to China or Myanmar.

Nguyen will take a hands-on approach to guiding, personally escorting two tours in the season.

The 14-day 'Luke Nguyen's Vietnam & Mekong River Cruise' itinerary is slated for departure on 29 Jul and 02 Dec 2016.

Departing Ho Chi Minh City, guests spend three nights in the Vietnamese city, enjoying a range of culinary highlights before boarding the *RV Amalotus*.

Also new for 2016 is the addition of three nights in Siem Reap on itineraries 13-days or longer.

APT executive general manager global sales and marketing Debra Fox said the new season was the company's most exciting yet.

"APT's relationship with Luke Nguyen offers guests something that's unique. Our investment in the *AmaLotus* combined with our high standards of customer service, all inclusive lifestyle, unforgettable sightseeing programs and well-considered itineraries ensure that we deliver the best available product in this destination," Fox commented.

## Uniworld incentive

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection has launched a new agent incentive, with the top selling consultant through to 31 Oct winning a \$1,000 gift voucher to spend at 99 Bikes.

Second prize is a \$250 RedBalloon spa voucher, while the third highest booker will receive a copy of Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Volumes 1 & 2".

To enter, agents need to book and deposit any 2015 or 2016 Uniworld itinerary through the Reservations department.

Phone 1300 780 231 for details.

## 10% off Galapagos

CHIMU Adventures is offering a 10% discount on Galapagos cruises for 2016 departures, with voyages of four to 15 days length priced from \$3,150.

The discount offer is valid for bookings made before 30 Dec, and include all itineraries and departure dates aboard the *Galapagos Sea Star* yacht and the *Galapagos Seaman* catamaran. More info on 1300 470 130.

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Hapag-Lloyd defends Berlitz pole position

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises' *Europa* and *Europa 2* have once again been awarded as the only "five-stars plus" cruise ships worldwide in the latest edition of the prestigious Berlitz Cruise Guide.

The company continued its unbeaten reign at the top of the charts, with its *Hanseatic* also ranked as the only five-star expedition ship globally.

*Europa 2* was the top scorer, achieving 1,860 points out of a possible 2,000.

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OFFER MUST END  
30 SEPTEMBER

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Choose from over  
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FREE ONBOARD CREDIT

PLUS ONLY  
**50%**  
DEPOSITS

T&Cs apply

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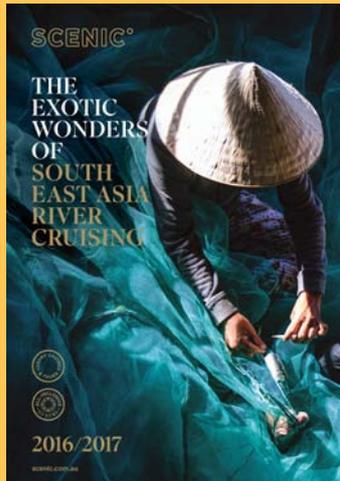
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## Brochure Spotlight

### Scenic South East Asia River Cruising



SCENIC has launched its first South East Asia River Cruising brochure, in the lead-up to next year's inaugural sailing season for the brand new *Scenic Spirit*.

The new ship will launch on the Mekong in Jan 2016, travelling an 8 day itinerary between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap.

Also new in Sep 2016 will be the *Scenic Aura* which will operate an 11 day voyage between Mandalay and Pyay on the Irrawaddy.

Both ships will offer a range of dining venues, a Sun Deck with open air cinema, complimentary beverages, butler service for all passengers and a guest laundry.

Claimed to bring "an unprecedented level of luxury to the region," the Scenic vessels will offer a guest to staff ratio of almost 1:1.

The 132-page brochure is available now and also showcases several land extensions allowing guests to explore more of the region including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Earlybird offers are available on bookings made by 31 Jan, including a fly free deal for any journey to Indochina of 13 days or longer, or 13 days or longer to Myanmar - a saving of up to \$3,070 per couple.

*Spirit* offers 34 suites and *Aura* has 22 - for full details, see [www.scenic.com.au](http://www.scenic.com.au).

## RCI one-stop shore shop

TRAVEL agents can learn more about shore excursions available in a wide variety of ports around the world through a new website from Royal Caribbean Cruises.

Excursions are sorted both by their region of the world as well as categories such as 'Culture & Sights', 'Caring Discoveries', 'Active Adventures' and more.

Activities include visits to water parks, cycling tours, zip lining, cooking classes, city tours, wine tastings, exploring ancient castles, village tours and much more.

Each shore tour selected takes users to more information on the RCI website which details the port in which the tour is offered, pricing and the ability to find a cruise offering the excursion.

The site also advises guests of items to bring, suggestions on what to wear and provides important notes such as advisories on physical fitness or health limitations.

"The new online hub is a one-stop resource to assist with booking shore excursions for clients, as well as hosting all details about new offerings, what's involved in the shore excursions and details about the most popular excursions on offer in each port of call," RCI said.

At this stage, commissions of 10% are payable for groups of 16

### Silversea 2017 on sale

EIGHT ships in the Silversea fleet will visit more than 800 destinations in seven continents over 246 voyages in its newly launched 2017 season, which is now open for reservations.

New ports featuring on the schedule include Geraldton in Western Australia as well as Sir Bani Island, UAE; Gisborne, NZ; Galway, Ireland and many more.

A world cruise on *Silver Whisper* will depart San Francisco on 06 Jan 2017, sailing westbound through Oceania and then up through Asia and India before reaching the Mediterranean.

or more, with 5% as a referral fee if clients make individual shore bookings ahead of departure through the website.

Airport and hotel transfers prior to or post-cruise are also able to be arranged through the site.

Passengers have until four days prior to a voyage departure to purchase their shore excursions through the website - for info, see [www.royalshoreexcursions.com](http://www.royalshoreexcursions.com) or **CLICK HERE** for a group flyer.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean has renamed and relaunched its online air booking tool as Air2Sea, offering all of the same features as the formerly named ChoiceAir.

Bookings can still be made on Cruising Power, with a dedicated web page coming soon.

### P&O menus out now

MENUS detailing the Italian and Pan-Asian fare to be available at Angelo's and Dragon Lady - two of the new restaurants coming to P&O Cruises' two new ships from Nov - have been released, both available at a small surcharge.

Available exclusively on *Pacific Aria* & *Pacific Eden*, the Oriental inspired Dragon Lady will offer items such as Tempura-crusted Uramaki Sushi, Singapore-style Soft Shell Crab and Salted 70% Dark Chocolate Cake.

Over at Angelo's, offerings will include Linguini Pasta Vongole & Sicilian-style Fremantle Sardines.

P&O Cruises senior vp Sture Myrmell said the new restaurants "will really appeal" to Australians' desire to try new experiences when they are on a holiday.

## Come and join our team at



### Want to become part of our dynamic team?

Due to the expansion of our company, we are looking for energetic and enthusiastic people to join our team. The positions are Australia wide, home based positions, with flexible hours and generous benefits.

You must have at least 3 years Domestic and International Travel Industry experience. We do all the marketing and supply all leads to you.

#### Are you:

- perceived as a leader and achiever in the industry?
- proactive and takes personal accountability for achieving sales targets, KPIs and objectives?
- a significant contributor to the business objectives?
- self motivated and able to work unsupervised?

#### Can you:

- work under pressure while maintaining great customer service?
- contribute positively to a dynamic and enthusiastic team environment?

#### Do you:

- have excellent communication skills?
- possess or have the ability to possess sound knowledge of Polar, Cruising Power, Galileo, Calypso and other online booking systems?
- revel in building positive relationships with your customers?
- thrive on gaining and maintaining product knowledge and skills?

#### If so!

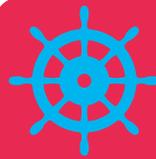
Please send your resume and covering letter through to [julie@justcruises.com.au](mailto:julie@justcruises.com.au) addressing how you could benefit our business model

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## Norwegian US blitz

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is heavily ramping up its promotion in North America, with a 100-city tour set to showcase the brand to thousands of travel agents across the USA and Canada over the next two months.

CEO Andy Stuart said the company was committed to having "the most engaged, empowered and responsive sales team in the industry," with the roadshow coming six months after Norwegian boosted its US sales force by more than 40% - including doubling the number of locally based BDMs.

**MEANWHILE**, in Australia the industry is keenly awaiting the opening of the new dedicated Norwegian office (**CW** 01 Jul), with former Silversea senior executive Steve Odell taking up his new role as Senior Vice President and Managing Director Australasia later this week.

## Scenic agents a close-knit bunch



**PATAGONIA** turned on its usual array of inspirational scenery for this group of agents recently, even if the weather inspired most to dress very warmly.

Hosted by Scenic, the group enjoyed many highlights including Glaciers National Park, in which they admired Perito Moreno Glacier and learned more about how the natural wonders form.

An exclusive Scenic Sundowners event provided a setting to toast the region with a whiskey on ice.

The itinerary saw the group spend two days in Santiago, enjoying the sights of Lake Pehoe as well as enjoying a morning walk through the Barrio Lastarria.

**Pictured** above at the glacier from left in the back row is Jacinta Anderson, Halya Hladenki, Efi Rialas, Janene Pendleton, Marnie Welbourne, Melissa Mcpharlane, Michelle Jardine, Jeanette Manley, Kiara Southwell, Roslyn Savio, Zena Duncan, Karen Lazaric and Lauri Bailie.

Front row: Zena Dalton, Kirsten Murray, Rebecca Duff, Nicola Judge, Katta Jackson, Michelle Simon, Lee Brodie, Karin Jones, Jennifer Wilson and Nicole Bryan.



**THE** tiny island of St Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean - where Napoleon was exiled by the British - is marking the end of an era, with a new airport set to see the end of a unique freighter cruise experience.

Currently the *RMS St Helena*, which carries the mail to the British enclave, is the only way to get to the tiny 16km x 8km dot in the ocean which has a population of just over 4,000.

Fares are still available for the ship's final season of voyages, with departures every month until the last cruise in Jun 2016, travelling from Cape Town to St Helena and Ascension Island.

There are just 14 cabins onboard the working cargo ship - but it all comes to an end next year when the new St Helena airport opens, with BA's South African regional offshoot Comair to operate once weekly flights from Johannesburg.

## Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	29 Sep
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	30 Sep
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	30 Sep
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	04 Oct
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	03 Oct
<i>Sun Princess</i>	04 Oct
DARWIN	
<i>Oceanic Discoverer</i>	01 Oct
THURSDAY ISLAND	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	01 Oct
AKAROA	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	04 Oct
PICTON	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	05 Oct
WELLINGTON	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	01 Oct

## RCCL shows the Love

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises Limited has confirmed the pending retirement of Gary Bald, currently the company's Senior Vice President of Safety, Security, Environment, Medical/Public Health and Situation Management.

Bald, who must only just be able to fit his title on his business card, will be replaced by Jennifer Love, whose career has included a 25 year stint at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

RCCL president Adam Goldstein said Bald had been a key figure in the development of the company's approach to safety, environment and health "and an important leader who has made significant contributions to the entire cruise industry".

## Aegean odyssey

**BEYOND** Travel is offering earlybird savings of up to \$800 per cabin on 2016 departures of the deluxe 8-day "Jewels of the Cyclades" mega-yacht cruise through the Aegean Sea.

Sailing round-trip from Athens aboard the 25-cabin *MS Galileo*, the itinerary takes in lesser-known Greek islands such as Paros, Kythnos and Syros alongside favourites including Santorini and Mykonos.

Low season prices start at \$2510ppts, a saving of \$460 per couple, while in high season it costs \$4090ppts including the \$800 earlybird offer.

The savings are valid for bookings made and paid by 25 Feb 2016 - for more information call 1300 363 554.

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