



Cruise Weekly today

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

Uniworld new brand

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection's new U by Uniworld brand (**CW** breaking news) will target active travellers between the ages of 18 and 40.

"U by Uniworld is poised to define the river exploring experience for an entirely new demographic," said Brett Tollman, chief executive of TTC.

Itineraries will be experiential and focus on longer stays in destinations, allowing travellers to explore local attractions and discover each city's restaurants and bars.

On sale from Mar 2017, the new offering's brochure, website and more information will be released early in 2017.

The U by Uniworld logo is pictured.



Celebrity new stops

FOUR new South Pacific destinations have worked their way into Celebrity Cruises' 7th Australian season in 2018/19.

The refurbished *Celebrity Solstice* will call into Apia in Samoa and Pago Pago in American Samoa for the first time as well as Vava'u and Nuku'alofa in the Kingdom of Tonga.

Celebrity will also introduce overnight stops in Hobart and Tauranga and an Auckland roundtrip for the first time.

RCI sees newbuild need

ROYAL Caribbean International is "absolutely" seeing a market in Australia for a ship the size of *Ovation of the Seas*, Adam Armstrong, md ANZ RCL told **CW** at a gala industry event aboard the vessel on Thu.

"This ship is almost full for this season and coming back next year so we think there's absolutely a market for this size of ship," he said.

Armstrong said a lot of ports had been very proactive in anticipating *Ovation*, with Sydney extending the terminal and the wharf, while in New Zealand, ports had been dredged, wharfs extended and bollards strengthened.

But the supercruiser is currently unable to call into the passenger port in Melbourne and Royal Caribbean is considering the use

of the city's cargo berth.

"We've been in discussions with Melbourne about what it would take to get the ship to either the cruise terminal, which is probably a significant undertaking given the size of the ship, or what alternatives there would be.

"Maybe the cargo berth, but we'd like to be in Melbourne", Armstrong told **Cruise Weekly**.

Armstrong flagged the South Pacific as "the next big thing for this ship.

"We're trialling a few ports in the South Pacific, so Noumea and Mystery Island, and we'd probably like to go to more.

"We've invested already in upgrading the infrastructure in Port Vila and in Mystery Island so that's probably the next stage, to upgrade the infrastructure there to be able to take 4,500 pax."

Ovation will return for a longer season next year and will be launching the following season early next year.

"Our intention is very much to bring *Ovation* back and, based on booking trends so far, I can see it coming back for many years," Armstrong added.

More on **page two**.

CLIA Global 2017 stats

MORE passengers will sail on more ships in 2017, according to the Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) *2017 State of the Cruise Industry Outlook*.

An estimated 25.3m passengers are expected to sail in 2017, up from 15.8 million in 2007 and 26 new ocean, river and specialty ships will take to the water.

From 2017-2026 the industry is expected to introduce a total of 97 new vessels.

"The cruise industry is responding to global demand and we are highly encouraged by both the short-term and long-term outlook," CLIA global president and ceo Cindy D'Aoust said.

For the full report, **CLICK HERE**.

Ponant newbuild rerouted from Aus

PONANT has quietly decided against deploying the first of its four newbuilds immediately to Australia in 2018.

Sarina Bratton, Ponant chairman Asia Pacific told **Cruise Weekly** she & the ceo made the call in Jul.

"We decided there was too much risk associated with bringing *Explorer 1* immediately to Australia in 2018 as the first Australian itineraries are two ten-night charters in the Kimberley," she said.

"Should the ship be delayed, this would be a huge problem for our valued charter client."

Ponant's slightly larger ship, built in 2010, *L'Austral* will replace the newbuild in the region in 2018 and will operate Great Barrier Reef, New Zealand, Sub Antarctic and Kimberley voyages.

Ponant will release full details on the new ships in Q1 2017.

RCI Tonga maiden call

RADIANCE of the Seas sailed into the Kingdom of Tonga last week, marking the first visit from Royal Caribbean International.

The ship called into Vava'u on 12 Dec & Nuku'alofa the next day.

MEANWHILE, Royal Caribbean Cruises has released its latest sustainability report - **CLICK HERE**.

Silversea incentive

AGENTS can tuck into an extra 5% bonus commission on new bookings for Silversea Cruises' 2018 world cruise.

The 121-day journey visits 20 ports and 21 countries, for more info, **CLICK HERE**.

GoCCL site revamp

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has relaunched its goccl.com.au website to allow agents to quickly & easily find details on Carnival's itineraries, the latest brochures, deals and destination guides.

Information about Carnival's on board offering, easy-to-edit flyers and sharable video content and more is on the site.



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P&O meetings up

CORPORATE group bookings increased 54% in 2016 for P&O Cruises, which expanded its capacity by 50% in late 2015.

The cruise line carried 64% more corporate passengers in 2016 than 2015.

For more information, see **BUSINESS EVENTS NEWS**.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	20 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	21 Dec
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	22 Dec
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	22 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	23 Dec
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	26 Dec
MELBOURNE	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	21 Dec
<i>The World</i>	25 Dec
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	20 Dec
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	22 Dec
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	26 Dec
CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	23 Dec
FREMANTLE	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	21 Dec
ADELAIDE	
<i>The World</i>	21 Dec
HOBART	
<i>Maasdam</i>	22 Dec
<i>Europa 2</i>	26 Dec
AUCKLAND	
<i>Europa 2</i>	20 Dec
<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	21 Dec
<i>Golden Princess</i>	21 Dec
<i>Emerald Princess</i>	23 Dec

Ovation checks in to Sydney



OVIATION of the Seas set out on her first cruise from Sydney on Fri afternoon, following a CruiseCo charter from Singapore.

The charter was populated exclusively by Australians, but the ship's current cruise is about 25% international sourcing, from the US, UK, Germany and Canada, Adam Armstrong, md ANZ Royal Caribbean Cruises told **CW**.

"That's consistent throughout the rest of the season, about 20-30% international sources."

To help manage the check-in process for a ship which is 25% bigger than the Voyager class, when guests embarked on Thu RCI started its "next generation check-in".

The new system, already in operation in New York, South Hampton and Beijing, sees the addition of "roaming" check-in staff with iPads.

"If you haven't done your pre-cruise check-in and haven't uploaded your photo already then they'll just take it with the iPad, it all gets sent to the ship's security system, and there's nothing to sign, no paperwork, it's all just done through roaming

check-in site," Armstrong said.

To celebrate the arrival of the behemoth vessel into Sydney, RCI held a cocktail party on Thu night for around 250 industry VIPs.

The event showed off the ship's shiny new features and culminated in a performance from this year's Australian *Eurovision* candidate, Dami Im, in the vessel's theatre, Two70.

"Tonight we become the largest cruise line in Australia, which is quite a climax for a little office in North Sydney with 20 people in it eight years ago, so we're pretty proud of that," Armstrong said.

Pictured at the event are Gavin Smith, Royal Caribbean svp int'l and Adam Armstrong.

Viking Sun float out

VIKING Ocean Cruises' 930-pax *Viking Sun* was floated out on 15 Dec at Fincantieri's Ancona shipyard in Italy.

The vessel will debut in late 2017 and sail her maiden season to Cuba and the Caribbean, before embarking on a world cruise and arriving in Australia in early 2018 - **CLICK HERE** for pics.

Sir Bani Yas opens

A **NEW** beach destination for cruise passengers has opened in Abu Dhabi.

Sir Bani Yas Cruise Beach is the Gulf region's only dedicated desert island cruise stopover and stretches over 1.3km of land, with the capacity to double in size and scale to meet market needs.

The beach (**pictured**) is expected to attract more than 60,000 passengers from 39 stopover cruise line calls in its first season.



A **RING** lost in Papua New Guinea in 1943 has found its way back to the family of its owner in New Jersey.

Alotau villager Liam Ngahan found the ring on the site of a new house being built and showed it to guest lecturer on Carnival Australia cruise ships sailing to PNG, John Hocknull.

Hocknull knew the 1938 Audubon High School ring would have huge sentimental value to the owner's family and set about tracking them down.

He discovered the ring belonged to Edward Dodds, who was serving in the US military and stationed at Alotau in 1943 during World War Two.

With the help of the school and the internet, the ring has now been returned to Dodd's surviving family.

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