

# CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 19 Jul 2016

## Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos.

## APT Wine Series 2017

FOUR leading representatives from the Australian wine industry will host APT guests on Wine Series cruises in 2017.

The company revealed it would continue its successful wine focussed journeys, securing ambassadors Scott McWilliam of McWilliam's Family Winemakers; Peter Barry from Jim Barry Wines; Cherry Stowman, Senior Brand Ambassador for Taylors Wines; & Bruce Tyrrell of Tyrrell's Wines.

Each ambassador travels with guests for the duration of the cruise and will bring a selection of wines for tasting sessions, host special dinners paired with their own wines, lead excursions to vineyards to meet local vintners and educate guests on traditions.

Departures are scheduled for 23 Jul, 17 Aug, 11 Nov and 19 Sep.

For more information, head to [www.aptouring.com.au](http://www.aptouring.com.au) or call 1300 196 420.

## RCL, APT win big at NTIA

ROYAL Caribbean International made a clean sweep of the ocean cruise categories at last weekend's glittering National Travel Industry Awards, taking

out both the Best Cruise Operator domestic and international awards (*CW* breaking news).

RCI head of sales, Peter McCormack said it was the first time the company had been nominated for the domestic award and its maiden win of the international category.

"We were awarded by our peers, the travel agents...they are the people who sell our products, they're the people who fill our ships and it makes a huge difference to us that they love our product so much that they voted us the number one cruise operator," he said.

APT once again took out the coveted Best River Cruise



Operator category, with director Rob McGeary telling *Cruise Weekly* "there are a lot of very credible operators out there that have a lot of presence and it's a great honour to be chosen and to be voted by our travel agents.

"We're making people's dreams come true...we're in the fortunate position where we are entrusted to deliver them," McGeary said.

The other cruise winner on the night was Travel the World offshoot [cruise guru.com.au](http://cruise guru.com.au) who won the Best Online Travel Agent category, which was accepted by the operation's manager, Leighton Schembri.

See [facebook.com/traveldaily](https://facebook.com/traveldaily) for lots of NTIA photos.



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## Travel Sales Consultant

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Aurora Expeditions are looking for Travel Sales Consultants to join their team. They aren't looking for just any sales people - they are pioneers of previously unheard of activities such as polar diving, polar kayaking and camping on the ice in Antarctica, and are looking for people who share the same sense of adventure and excitement about life. Aurora Expeditions are not an ordinary travel company and this is not an ordinary sales role. This is an opportunity to become part of a specialist team creating once in a lifetime, unforgettable experiences for people from all backgrounds and walks of life. On joining Aurora Expeditions, you will be given an above industry standard, base salary of \$60,000 plus super. You will also have the ability to earn bonus and incentive payments!

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## Aqua Amazon accident

**PASSENGERS** scheduled to depart on the *Aqua Amazon* are being reassigned to the *Aria Amazon* and other river cruisers after *Aqua Amazon* suffered a very serious accident, and sank over the weekend.

An accident occurred which caused an explosion during the regular Sat supplying and turn-around hours.

No passengers were on board but Aqua Expeditions has issued a statement saying there have been fatalities amongst five missing crew, however the number is yet to be confirmed.

Milly Alva Haimberger, director of Sales & Marketing, Aqua Expeditions said the team is on the job 24/7 in Lima and Singapore and is “working as fast as possible to do all the changes and contacting all clients”.

Aqua Expeditions is actioning bookings in date order with immediate sailings the priority.

The investigation is ongoing and the cruise line’s entire operations team is on the ground providing logistical support with local emergency services.

*Aqua Amazon* was used by Scenic on some itineraries, who did not have any guests immediately impacted.

A spokesperson from Scenic told **Cruise Weekly** the operator is “working with Aqua Expeditions for future Scenic guest bookings, and will be in contact with any guests and their agents for future sailings over the next week to provide alternatives once these are finalised.”

Last month, Aqua Expeditions revealed plans to build a third ship dedicated to the Amazon and resembling *Aqua Mekong* (CW 16 Jun).

For sales and reservations issues, call 1800 243 152 or contact [reservations@aquapexpeditions.com](mailto:reservations@aquapexpeditions.com).

## Massive Pacific Dawn reno



**A NEW** waterpark are among the enhancements in store for *Pacific Dawn* as part of her multi-million dollar refit in Feb.

Two waterslides and a kids-only play area will be installed in the addition of The Pantry, which is set to introduce a Mediterranean offering called Nic and Toni’s.

Public spaces the atrium, Charlie’s, The Orient and the Promenade Bar will be redesigned to mirror the decor of *Pacific Aria* and *Pacific Eden*.

The Dome nightclub will be revamped to offer more live music, The Orient will take on a new summer pub vibe and The Promenade Bar is set be


transformed into a cocktail and live music venue.

P&O Cruises president Sture Myrmell said the refurbishment would kick off a big year for the cruise line in Queensland.

“There’s no question that Queenslanders love holidaying at sea with P&O, so we’re very excited that our Brisbane guests will soon be able to enjoy a stylish new look Pacific Dawn as part of their cruise holiday experience, alongside one of our latest ships, Pacific Aria.”

The refreshed *Pacific Dawn* is scheduled to sail from Mar.

A rendering of *Dawn*’s The Pantry is **pictured** above, or for more images, see **Facebook**.




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## Crystal Cruises recruit

**KEITH** Cox has stepped into the role of vice president of entertainment and enrichment for all Crystal brand extensions, including Crystal Cruises, Crystal Yacht Cruises, Crystal River Cruises and Crystal AirCruises.

Commencing in the role yesterday and based in the Miami office, Cox reports to the svp of operations & total guest satisfaction, Christian Sauleau.

He moves over from Costa Cruises after four years, where he brought numerous production shows to the stage geared toward int'l audiences.

Crystal ceo and president Edie Rodriguez said "Our guests have come to expect on board experiences as enriching as the ones they find in the remarkable destinations our vessels visit, and we're certain that Keith's extensive background in orchestrating entertainment that resonates with global travellers will only up that ante".

## Island Escape pkg

**SPACES** are running out on Island Escape Cruises' eight-night cruise package in Fiordland, NZ operating Jan-Mar 2017.

An average of three cabins remain available on each of the 12 departures.

The package includes pre/post accommodation in Queenstown, transfers, a helicopter and scenic plane flight and a six-night inclusive cruise.

## Sunsail Kiteboard trip

**KITEBOARDING** enthusiasts can book on Sunsail's new Kiteboard Flotilla holiday, sailing 01-12 Nov.

The guided holiday led by professional Kiteboarder Brock Callen, cruises through the top kiting spots in the Bahamas aboard a Sunsail catamaran.

Sunsail flotillas offer a sociable experience and geared towards groups looking to make friends and share new experiences.

# TTC relaunches Cruise Spirit

**THE** Travel Corporation has relaunched the consumer-facing 'Cruise Spirit' brand, with several travel agents promoted as the call to action for packages advertised in last weekend's newspaper travel supplements.

The offers include combinations of cruises with other Travel Corporation land product including AAT Kings.

It's being branded as 'Cruise Spirit powered by Creative Cruising,' with the Creative Cruising website having also relaunched with a consumer-facing presence in addition to the former travel agent login option.

There's no Cruise Spirit website at this stage, but a Facebook page is offering a range of land-cruise combinations including Trafalgar, Uniworld and Insight tours.

Cruise Spirit was among the brands acquired by The Travel Corporation when it purchased the NRMA wholesale operations, including Adventure World and Creative Cruising, in Oct 2013.

## Amazon robbery

**AVALON** Waterways has confirmed there was a robbery on a cruise charter of the *Amazon Discovery* in Peru last week.

The "brazen attack" saw bandits reach the ship on a small boat and then rob passengers & crew of goods worth about \$25,000.

Two Avalon guests on board were Australian and all guests and staff are safe, after being flown from Iquitos to Lima where hotel accommodation was arranged for them.

The cruise line said safety was a top priority, with extra security measures implemented for future Amazon cruises.

"Avalon is assisting police and other authorities with their investigations and has been in contact with local embassies."

Guests were flown home as soon as possible and were provided with compensation and emergency funds to cover costs of their journeys.

## New Cunard cocktails

**CUNARD'S** cocktail bar, the Commodore Club has introduced a new menu, with each of the seven drinks sharing the story of a Knighthood Cunard Commodore.

The creations include 'Punch Romain à la Carpathia', believed to be the last drink served on Titanic which is inspired by Commodore Sir Arthur Rostron who led the safe rescue of all survivors of Titanic.

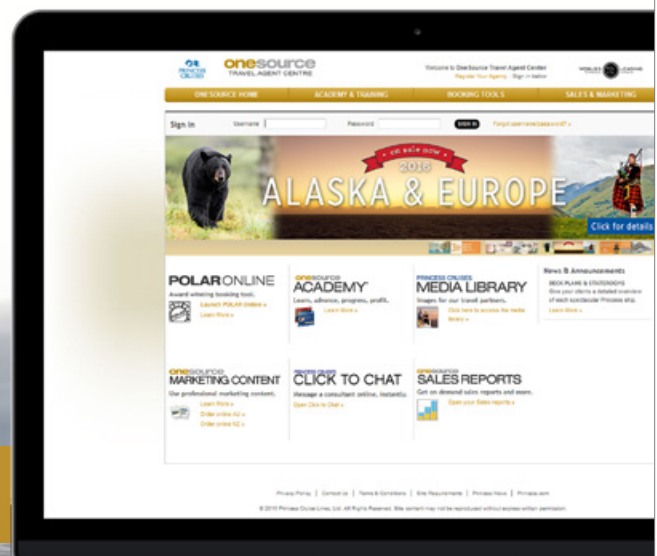
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## Aurora special offer

**AURORA** Expeditions has released a new 11-day Galapagos Island 'Fly & Cruise' package, including international flights, accommodation and transfers plus a nine-day cruise on the 38-pax *Isabela II*.

The trip departs Australia on 20 Oct with prices from \$10,850pp - call 1800 637 688.

## Rock the Boat acts

**CHOOSE** Your Cruise has just released more of the line-up for the upcoming Rock the Boat 6 - A Salute to the Sixties voyage which will sail from Brisbane in Nov.

The additions include Barry Ryan and Wayne Fontana, who will join other performers such as Chubby Checker, Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, Wilbur Wilde, The Fortunes, P.J. Proby and Badfinger.

Prices for the biggest 60s music festival at sea start at \$3,315pp - for details, call 1300 247 371.

## Carnival appoints

**HELEN** Deeble, who is ceo of the P&O Ferries Division, has been appointed to the Carnival Corporation board of directors.

Deeble will serve in a non-executive capacity on the 10-member board, and will also be part of the board's Health, Environmental, Safety and Security Committee.

She has been ceo of the Ferries division since 2006, and prior to that was chief financial officer for Swedish ferry operator Stena Line.

**MEANWHILE**, Carnival has also inaugurated the Arison Maritime Centre in Almere, Netherlands, just outside Amsterdam.

Named in honour of company founder Ted Arison and his son and longtime chairman Micky, the facility is equipped with the latest bridge and engine control room simulators.

It will be used for the annual training of the company's 6,500 ship officers, operating across Carnival's ten brands.

## Aranui on show at the show



**ABOVE:** Laurent Wong from Arauni Cruises was one of the exhibitors at the 2016 Travel Industry Exhibition, which wraps up this afternoon at Sydney's Luna Park Crystal Palace.

Aranui was also at the Melbourne show last week, with Wong showcasing the Polynesian passenger freighter cruise line's latest brochure, including itineraries on the new *Aranui 5*, following its debut last year - see [info@aranuicruises.com.au](mailto:info@aranuicruises.com.au).

## Pandaw special

**PANDAW** is offering savings of up to 20% as well as no single supplement on select departures in Aug-Oct this year.

The company has released a flyer detailing the late availability offers, which can be accessed for bookings made by 31 Jul and include voyages on the Mekong, Chindwin and Irrawaddy rivers.

For more details of dates and pricing, see [www.pandaw.com](http://www.pandaw.com).



  
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**FIND OUT MORE**



Learn all about Norwegian Jewel down under in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

**CLICK HERE** to read **travelBulletin**



### Fathom science cruise

**FATHOM** has just departed on its seven-day Dominican Republic voyage, marking the first cruise to the Caribbean focussed on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programming.

Advertising students from Gaylord College at the University of Oklahoma also joined the special sailing to promote the inaugural journey.

### Viking earlybird

**VIKING** has early booking discounts available across its new 2017 and 2018 departures priced from \$3,349 per person when booked between now and 31 Aug.

Viking is also treating guests to a \$499 return airfare to Europe from Australia in conjunction with 2017 cruises, to view Viking's cruise deals, **CLICK HERE**.

### Lindblad deal

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions is offering 15% savings for solo travellers and \$1,500 for kids' on Galapagos sailings on board explorer ship *National Geographic Endeavour*.

The 15% saving is valid on standard solo cabin rates for departures between 01 Sep and 18 Nov while travellers can take \$1,500 off per child under 18 years of age on sailings in the same period.

For more details, contact Lindblad on 1300 361 012.

### Floating Casino open

**A CENTURY** Casino has debuted on board Diamond Cruise International's *Glory Sea* on her maiden voyage from Shanghai, China to Shimonoseki, Japan.

The casino features 40 slot machines and 16 live gaming tables (such as Black Jack and American Roulette) and caters to regular cruise passengers as well as VIP players.

The vessel which can carry up to 1,200 guests operates four-day sailings between China, South Korea and Japan, focussing specifically on the Chinese cruise market.

### Costa to enter India

**COSTA** Cruises has announced it will start cruising in India with the first voyage in Dec from Mumbai.

*Costa neoClassica* will undertake weekly sailings from 16 Dec through until 18 Mar.

The 1,680 passenger cruise ship will be the first of its kind to sail between the Indian capital to destinations within India such as Goa and Kochi, as well as the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Costa Group Asia president Buhdy Bok said he was delighted to be able to bring cruising to the people of India, right at their doorstep like never before.

### APT fly free offer

**COUPLES** booking on APT's 13-day Classic Antarctica Cruise departing 02 or 22 Feb 2017 will receive free return Economy flights to Argentina from Australia, flying with LATAM Airlines or an airline selected by the tour and cruise company.

The offer is strictly limited until sold out with the cruises on board the luxury 200-passenger ship *Le Boréal* starting from \$15,790pp twin share.

For more information, phone 1300 196 420.



**WHEN** you request an ocean view window on board your European cruise, you don't expect masked men drilling near said window all day.

But that's exactly what happened when Nate Zemanek asked for an upgrade during his honeymoon sailing on a Holland America Line ship.

Nate posted a YouTube video **HERE** of the white suited man (a clip from the video is pictured below) with his buzzing drill right next to the window earlier this week along with the following comment:

"The crew said they will be working during the day the entire time. Thanks for telling us when you up charged us \$600 extra for the window guys".

The video went viral, wracking up nearly two and a half million views in just two days.

Nate has since amended the comments section to say the line had become aware of his video, resulting in a call from guest services.

They are now refunding the couple's \$600 upgrade and shouting them a "nice dinner".

Unfortunately they can't move the couple to another room because the ship is full but the maintenance looks set to continue!



Cruise Calendar	
This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia.	
SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	20 Jul
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	21 Jul
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	22 Jul
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	25 Jul
DARWIN	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	20 Jul
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	20 Jul
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	22 Jul
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	23 Jul
CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	25 Jul

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia  
Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 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, Nathalie Craig, Bonnie Tai, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan, Magda Herdzik, Melanie Tchakmadjian  
[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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