

CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 17 May 2016

What a great Guy

ROBERT (Bob) Guy, md of Destination Asia in Singapore & Malaysia, has received the Rama Rebbapragada Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Cruise Industry in Asia.

The win was announced in Hong Kong during Seatrade Cruises Asia, recognising Guy's 40-year career and his experience which saw him advise many cruise execs.

"He has been involved with cruising since its absolute beginning in Asia," said Royal Caribbean president North APAC & China, Dr Zinan Liu.

Carnival wi-fi plans

CHEAPER and faster internet and social media packages will be launched on Carnival Cruise Line's Australia-based ships this month.

The social media package starts from \$15 a day, with additional discounted plans available for the entire cruise duration.

Carnival is the third cruise line this month to announce internet upgrades, with RCI introducing VOOH fleetwide (**CW** 03 May) & MSC Cruises enhancing wi-fi in "coming months" (**CW** 05 May).

CLIA committee expands

THE appointment of Steve Odell (pictured) as the new chairman of Cruise Lines International Association Australasia (**Travel Daily** Fri 13 May) has coincided with some major changes to the CLIA committee, including the departure of Ann Sherry after more than three years.

Sherry, who's now Carnival Australia executive director, leaves the committee along with former chairman Gavin Smith, who is relocating to the UK following his appointment as Royal Caribbean's senior vice president int'l (**CW** 22 Mar).

The committee has now grown from six to eight members, with additions including Princess Cruises' vice president Stuart Allison, Royal Caribbean md Adam Armstrong and Carnival Cruise Line vice president Jennifer



Vandekreeke.

They join existing members Andrew Millmore from Travel the World (GSA for Tauck), Silversea Cruises md Karen Christensen, MSC Cruises md Lynne Clarke and Ponant chairman Asia Pacific, Sarina Bratton.

CLIA Australasia managing director Neil Linwood welcomed the new committee, in particular thanking Smith for his efforts since he was first appointed chairman in 2011.

"Gavin has been very generous with his support and guidance for CLIA during a time of rapid industry growth and we thank him for all his hard work on the industry's behalf," Linwood said.

It's familiar territory for Odell, who was chairman of CLIA's predecessor the International Cruise Council Australasia from 2005 to 2008 when he was working at Silversea Cruises.

Odell, who is now heading up Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings in Asia Pacific, said he regarded his appointment as CLIA Australasia chairman an "immense honour".

Despite her departure from the CLIA board, Sherry doesn't look to be slowing down, with her other non-cruise roles currently including being a director of Sydney Airport, a member of the supervisory board and non-executive director of European banking giant ING and a director of the Australian Rugby Union.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news and photos plus a full page from **Travel Industry Expo**.

Fathom extends stay

ADDITIONAL sailing dates for Fathom *MV Adonia's* stay in the Caribbean region have been unveiled following the line's inaugural sailing from the US to Cuba a little over two weeks ago.

Tara Russell, president of Fathom said the flagship vessel will stay in the area through Dec 2017 due to the "tremendous response" from travellers.

Adonia will operate seven-day roundtrip voyages from Miami, alternating between the destinations of the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

The new departures are from 27 Nov 2016-31 Dec 2017 and prices start at \$974pp to the Dominican Republic or \$1,899 to Cuba.

Fathom's reservations systems will open for 2017 bookings by 01 Jun, for more information see www.fathom.org.

Search suspended

THE search for a passenger who fell off the *Carnival Liberty* on Fri has been suspended by the US Coast Guard, **CNN** is reporting.

Surveillance video indicates a 33-year old female guest was sitting on a deck railing and fell backwards into the water, Carnival Cruise Line says.

Planes spent 20 hours searching for the woman in an area of more than 10,878km² before suspending search efforts on Sun.

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Vard expedition order

AN UNDISCLOSED int'l cruise company has inked a Letter of Intent with Vard for the design and construction of two expedition cruise vessels.

The ships will be approximately 14,500 tonnes, about 137m long and 22m wide and accommodate 240 passengers in 120 cabins.

They will be designed to offer a high standard of facilities and will be ice-class and environmentally friendly, with delivery scheduled from Vard Langsten in Norway in 1Q 2019 and 1Q 2020.

It's expected contracts will be finalised in the coming months.

New Charity venture

CHARITY Turner, who has over 12 years of sales and marketing experience at North Star Cruises and the Kimberley Cruise Centre, has launched a new consultancy business called Evolve Republic.

The operation will target "experiential lifestyle and niche tourism brands" with a full suite of services - evolverepublic.com.

Evergreen discounts

IN A bid to provide a welcome distraction from Australia's longest election campaign, Evergreen Tours has launched "Election Winning Offers".

Evergreen's 15-day Splendours of Europe River Cruise in 2017 is bookable for \$3,995pp before 02 Jul, a saving of up to \$2,390pp.

Angus Crichton, gm of Evergreen Tours says the offers "are a fantastic diversion from the relentless news coverage about the elections".

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

Piraeus upgrades

PIRAEUS Port in Greece has undergone equipment and infrastructure upgrades, The Piraeus Port Authority reveals.

New air conditioned passenger waiting areas with 1,000 seat plus security screening and check-in equipment have been built and the first floor of the departure hall has been converted into a waiting and control room for the ship's crew.



FOLLOWING an \$8 million renovation, the 2,138-guest *Celebrity Millennium* has emerged from drydock.

Showing off her shiny new additions in Alaska this summer, Aussies will be able to test out the new features when *Celebrity Millennium* sails from Singapore & Hong Kong to Thailand, Vietnam, The Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea and other destinations.

A new Rooftop Terrace on deck 12 will host "a taste of film", pairing a multi-course tasting menu with modern and traditional classic movies.

The ship's Penthouse and Royal Suites have also been significantly renovated and each has received new fixtures, marble surfaces,

and seats in the bathrooms along with new soft furnishings.

Celebrity Millennium's Olympic restaurant has been scrapped in favour of Italian-inspired steakhouse, Tuscan Grille, (render **pictured** above), which has already debuted on the line's Solstice Class ships.

An enclosed portrait studio has been added, along with a future cruise sales office.

Sea Princess is off

SEVERAL thousand cruisers escaped the Sydney winter last weekend on *Sea Princess'* epic 104-night world voyage, which is the 11th world cruise the line has undertaken from Australia.

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Uniworld discount

SAVE \$800 per couple on Uniworld's eight-day European Holiday Markets river cruise when booked and paid in full by 31 May.

Pay \$4,744pp, for departures on 01 Dec, 08 Dec and 15 Dec.

Aussies get out there

SEADREAM has seen a spike in interest from Australians for its Caribbean cruises, fuelled by better air connections from Sydney to Dallas/Fort Worth and onwards, non-stop direct flights into San Juan, Puerto Rico.

A spokesperson said while growth in the Caribbean is not as strong as in the Mediterranean - where Aussies make up 10% of guests - it "hopes to see an ultimate figure close to that in the Caribbean too, in coming years".

MEANWHILE, Celebrity Cruises reported last week it has seen Australian bookings for Alaskan sailings increase a whopping 65% year-on-year.

Vista's new venues

YOU would hate to be indecisive aboard *Carnival Vista*, with the new vessel boasting nearly 30 dining and bar venues.

Seafood Shack and expanded versions of Bonsai Sushi and Cherry on Top are among the options only available on *Vista*.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	18 May
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	18 May
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	19 May
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	23 May
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	23 May
MELBOURNE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	18 May
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	21 May
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	21 May
ADELAIDE	
<i>Sea Princess</i>	19 May
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	17 May
<i>Sea Princess</i>	23 May
AUCKLAND	
<i>Insignia</i>	19 May
TAURANGA	
<i>Insignia</i>	18 May

Harmony's delivery



CREW and the project team of *Harmony of the Seas* were honoured last week at a traditional delivery and flag changing ceremony in Saint Nazaire, France.

The US\$1+ billion ship takes the claim for the tallest slide at sea, 23 swimming pools, a double-story Wonderland, the debut of Broadway's hit musical *Grease* in the Royal Theater and diving shows in the AquaTheater.

Harmony of the Seas will homeport in Barcelona, Spain from 07 Jun until Nov, when she will arrive at her new homeport of Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale in Florida.

She has capacity for 5,479 guests and features 2,747 staterooms.

The ceremony is pictured.

Scenic's new event

SCENIC Rouge is the cruise line's newest Scenic Enrich event, to be introduced on Scenic's 12 night cruise on the Rhône and Saône in 2017.

The cabaret performance will play out on the banks of the Rhône River in Lyon.

Azamara inclusions

AZAMARA Club is throwing in US\$500 of on board spending money for every room booked by 31 May on *Azamara Journey*.

The offer applies on sailings between 10 Dec-12 May, during which the ship will depart from Hong Kong, Singapore, Mumbai and sail two Singapore-Sydney repositioning cruises.

See azamaraclubcruises.com.



A WOMAN in Boca Raton, Florida will surely be avoiding the ocean for some time after she was taken to hospital for a shark bite, with the sea beast still attached to her arm.

The two-foot nurse shark was killed before firefighters arrived at the scene, but they were unable to remove it.

Nurse sharks can grow to nine feet and have a bite reflex which mean once quietly re-immersed, it may be some minutes before it will relax and release its tormenter.

"Knowingly or not, people swim near nurse sharks every day without incident," the National Park Service says.

"Attacks on humans are rare but not unknown and a clamping bite typically results from a diver or fisherman antagonizing the shark with hook, spear, net, or hand."

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