

CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 04 Apr 2017

Cruise Weekly today

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

Beatrice renovations

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection will redo the *River Beatrice* to renovate elements which haven't been upgraded since her launch, including the bathrooms.

The ship will go into drydock in late Oct and return in time for next year's season.

"She will look different," Ellen Bettridge, Uniworld ceo told **Cruise Weekly**.

"The whole idea is to launch her and have her be still as elegant and gorgeous and incredible as Mrs Bea Tollman but she'll be just getting a complete makeover so we're very excited about that".

The *River Beatrice* was Uniworld's first luxury ship when she launched in 2009.

More on U by Uniworld

U BY Uniworld has shifted its target age bracket from 18-40 to 21-45 and launched its US website, with the Australian portal to follow in coming days.

Speaking to **Cruise Weekly** last week on board Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's inaugural sailing of *Joie de Vivre*, ceo Ellen Bettridge said the 18-20 age bracket was "a little too young" as an 18-year-old had "a different mindset".

Bettridge said the change was also prompted by feedback from trade on the *Joie de Vivre* inaugural who said they wished the age bracket was a little older.

"We heard this from people so throughout the week we heard this and we listened to them and we said 'you know what? Let's go for it, let's change it, it's not too late,'" she said.

The fresh U by Uniworld US website touts the product as "a

new take on experiential travel".

The ports on the four eight-day itineraries operating on the Seine, Danube, Main and Rhine rivers have been detailed, all featuring ports already visited by Uniworld.

"They're not new ports, it was about finding the larger ports that have enough things to do in them," Bettridge told **CW**.

Shore excursions are more active and include kayaking on the Danube Gorge, hiking in Passau, a "bar crawl" in Rouen and a grand banquet in a castle.

U by Uniworld will offer several festival cruises, visiting the Paris Jazz Festival, Oktoberfest and The Sziget Festival.

There will also be painting, mixology and cooking classes on board as well as morning yoga.

A redone *River Baroness* and *River Ambassador* are both set to begin sailing from 14 Apr, 2018.

See ubyuniworld.com/US.

TUI Explorer plans

THOMSON Cruises has announced its newest ship will be called *TUI Explorer* when it joins the fleet in May next year.

To be based in Palma, Majorca, it will join Thomson's recently launched *TUI Discovery* and *TUI Discovery 2* in offering all-inclusive Mediterranean cruises.

As the largest ship in the Thomson fleet, it will feature 10 dining venues including Surf & Turf, Kora La and Snack Shack, as well as new addition Umi Sushi, a showcase sushi counter.

It will also offer a glass roofed dining area with two inclusive restaurants – a pizzeria and tapas eatery – plus a Hot Stone Grill at an additional cost.

Several bars include Indigo at the top of the ship and a speakeasy-style bar, Aperitif.

Other features include an extensive spa with a Finnish sauna, a couples room and an adults-only sunbathing area.

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Your mouth will water when you read our comparison of the food offerings on ships homeporting in Australia in the April issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read

travelBulletin



Silver Muse delivered

SILVERSEA Cruises has taken delivery of its newest luxury ship *Silver Muse* at a ceremony in Genoa, Italy, bringing its fleet to a total of nine ships.

The newest addition accommodates up to 596 passengers and has been billed as an evolution of the *Silver Spirit* launched in 2009.

At 40,700 gross tonnes, *Silver Muse* will offer guests the greatest number of inter-connecting suites for families and friends and more large suites than any other ship in the fleet.

The vessel will also offer eight restaurants, which Silversea says is more than any other ultra-luxury ship.

Silver Muse was handed over yesterday at the Fincantieri shipyard, where it was blessed by Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco in front of local dignitaries and executives from Silversea.

The cruise line's ceo Roberto Martinoli said, "Today marks another milestone for Silversea, our guests and our colleagues as we celebrate our new flagship, *Silver Muse*, joining the fleet."

"The attention to detail throughout the ship is a reflection of our dedication, in conjunction with Fincantieri, to offer the ultimate luxury experience at sea," he said.

The ship this month begins sailing Mediterranean cruises of eight to 14 days from ports including Monte Carlo, Rome (Civitavecchia), Athens (Piraeus), Venice and Barcelona.

It will be christened at a ceremony in Monte Carlo on 19 Apr and will visit 34 countries and 130 ports during 2017.

Despite being larger than other Silversea ships, the line promises it will retain a "small ship intimacy".

Legend farewells Australia

CARNIVAL *Legend* has said farewell to Australia after her third summer sailing in Australia.

The 88,500 tonne superliner is now on its way to Hawaii ahead of a season of Alaska cruises, having just completed a five-night Tasmanian cruise on the weekend, its last in Aussie waters this year.

A visit to Hobart last week provided a chance for Tasmanian travel agents to get a taste of



the ship, including reps from Travel Time Kings Meadows, Cruiseabout, Escape Travel, Travel Studio, Travel with a Cause, MTA - Mobile Travel Agents, Dowde & Turner Travel Associates, Helloworld & FCTG, **pictured**.

Monaco on show for Aussies



MONACO Tourism hosted their biggest famil group of Aussie agents, media and their partners last weekend prior to Silversea Cruises' "shakedown" sailing of *Silver Muse* (see left).

Spending the weekend at Monte-Carlo SBM's Hotel Hermitage, the team of 31 visited the Monte-Carlo SBM Resort, went sightseeing and wine and dined at some of Monaco's restaurants and bistros.

Participants departed Monaco for Genoa where they will be the first to board *Silver Muse*.

The group is **pictured** above.

Douro Nov sailing

EVERGREEN Tours has added a new eight-day voyage on the Douro in Portugal on the soon-to-launch *Emerald Radiance*.

The Secrets of the Douro sailing will operate roundtrip from Porto, departing on 04 Nov.

An Evergreen spokesperson told **Cruise Weekly** that due to "incredible demand...we've managed to squeeze in an additional departure this year".

HAL appointment

FRITS van der Werff was yesterday announced vp of food and beverage within the guest experience and product development department for Holland America Line.

In the role, van der Werff will oversee culinary service and manage beverage operations.

He was most recently brand performance director at MSC Cruises and project leader for the food, beverage and hotel ops in the north American market.

HAL drops Acapulco

HOLLAND America Line has scrapped port calls at Acapulco due to "recent security concerns" at the popular Mexican port.

In lieu of Acapulco, passengers aboard eight scheduled itineraries in 2017 and 2018 (including seven Panal Canal voyages) will visit other Mexican destinations.

Guests on affected sailings have been notified by HAL.

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RCI family sale

ROYAL Caribbean International is holding its annual family sale, offering kids cruise fares from \$39 a day & up to 30% off for parents.

The offer is applicable on all local sailings for departure between Sep 2017-Apr 2018 and must be booked by 28 Apr.

For more info, head to royalcaribbean.com.au.

Hapag Circus Roncalli

CIRCUS Roncalli will perform on a cruise ship for the first time on board Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' *Europa 2* in Jul and Aug.

The program is directed by Bernhard Paul and features acrobatics, juggling & costumes.

The first departure featuring the circus kicks off from Venice on 30 Jun, arriving in Monte Carlo on 10 Jul and the second will sail from Bilbao to Hamburg from 01 Aug to 12 Aug.

Both cruises on *Europa 2* are already fully booked.

For more, see hl-cruises.com.

Casino rewards plan

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises have enhanced their Casinos At Sea rewards program.

The relaunched program is the first multi-branded casino rewards scheme, allowing players to redeem benefits across all three brands, including stateroom and suite discounts, free play, special birthday and promo offers, ship-to-ship point transfer, and on board credit.

CLICK HERE for more.

Carnival first quarter

CARNIVAL Corporation has announced a net income of US\$352 million in the first quarter of 2017, an increase from the \$142 million posted in the same period last year.

President and ceo Arnold Donald said, "We are off to a good start delivering another quarter of operational improvement on top of a very strong first quarter last year."

Majestic Princess arrives



PRINCESS Cruises took delivery of its first international luxury ship tailored to the China market, *Majestic Princess* from shipbuilder Fincantieri on Fri.

The ceremony took place at the shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy and was attended by the Italian Prime Minister, Paolo Gentiloni; executives from Carnival Corporation including Micky Arison, chairman; Arnold Donald, chief executive officer; Stein Kruse, chief executive officer of Holland America Group; Jan Swartz, group president of Princess Cruises and Carnival Australia; Anthony Kaufman, executive vice president international operations of

Princess Cruises, and Cherry Wang, vice president and general manager of the Princess Cruises' brand offices in China.

Fincantieri was represented by Giuseppe Bono, ceo, and Giampiero Massolo, chairman.

The 143,000-tonne *Majestic Princess* operated a preview cruise from 31 Mar to 04 Apr before departing from Rome on her five-day inaugural voyage exploring the Adriatic Sea.

MEANWHILE, Princess Cruises has revealed details of its 2017 Encounters with Discovery at Sea speaker series program which will debut on *Ruby*, *Star*, *Grand* and *Island Princess* five to 10-day sailings dep Mar through May.



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Step aboard Uniworld's S.S. Joie de Vivre

Cruise Weekly has been busy getting acquainted with Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's new ship, *Joie de Vivre* on the vessel's inaugural sailing.

Described by The Travel Corporation chairman and founder Stanley Tollman as "one of our best achievements," the ship introduces a number of new concepts to the Uniworld offering.

At the back of the ship is a space which is called Club L'Esprit during the day and provides a calming and relaxing area where guests can go for a massage, yoga, swim in the pool or a drink.

In the evening, a hydraulic floor rises up and covers the pool and the venue turns into a supper club called Claude's, serving a set menu, drinks, live music and on certain nights, screens films.

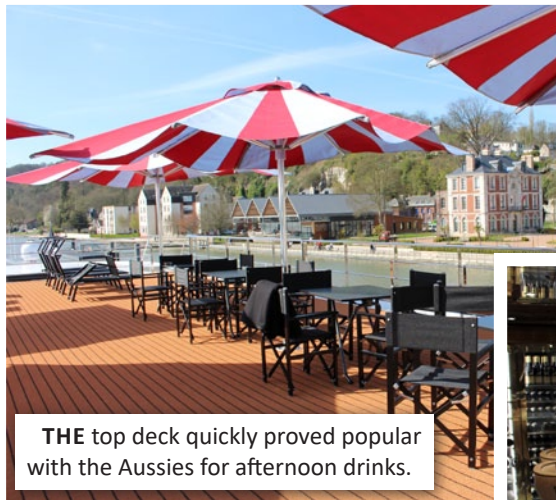
On the bottom deck is La Cave des Vins, or as Ellen Bettridge, Uniworld ceo calls it, an "on board shore excursion," where groups can cook with the chef and dine together.

Le Bistrot, a French-style cafe, has also been added at the front of the middle deck, offering a relaxed dining alternative where all the windows can be lowered for an open-air experience.

For more pictures, see **CW's FACEBOOK**.



THE staterooms come equipped with a full-sized window which lowers to create a balcony.



THE top deck quickly proved popular with the Aussies for afternoon drinks.



CLUB L'Esprit is the on board spa and wellness centre during the day and at night the pool is covered and the space is transformed into a supper club.



LA CAVE des Vins (the wine cave) is a private dining room for groups on the lower deck.



THE bedroom in the Royal Suite.



SALON Toulouse is the ship's main meeting space, serving afternoon tea and hosting evening cocktail receptions.



RESTAURANT la Pigalle serves a sumptuous breakfast and lunch and an extensive set menu for dinner.



LE BISTROT is a space for an early or late continental breakfast or some light snacks in between meals.



THE Royal Suite bathroom.

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MS Volga earlybird

RUSSIAN Travel Centre has released an earlybird discount on a 13-day land and cruise trip on board *MS Volga Dream* in 2018. Travellers can save up to \$600pp on the journey between Moscow and St Petersburg if booked by 31 Jul - phone 1300 668 844.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	05 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	05 Apr
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	06 Apr
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	07 Apr
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	07 Apr
<i>Noordam</i>	08 Apr
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	09 Apr
<i>MS Sirena</i>	09 Apr
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	10 Apr
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	10 Apr

MELBOURNE	
<i>MS Sirena</i>	04 Apr
<i>Golden Princess</i>	05 Apr
<i>Noordam</i>	06 Apr

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	05 Apr
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	07 Apr
<i>Sea Princess</i>	07 Apr
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	08 Apr

CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	10 Apr

DARWIN	
<i>Pacific Pearl</i>	06 Apr
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	07 Apr

FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	09 Apr

HOBART	
<i>Noordam</i>	04 Apr
<i>MS Sirena</i>	06 Apr

Norwegian Jade refurb



AFTER three weeks in dry dock, *Norwegian Jade* has sailed into Tampa as a virtually new ship, having undergone an extensive refurbishment as part of the Norwegian Edge program.

All staterooms received new carpet, furniture, flat screen TVs and larger headboards with USB charging outlets.

The Atrium (pictured above) has been enhanced with a custom designed chandelier, new reception and shore tour areas, plus a banquet seating area and a 24hr pub-style restaurant and American diner have been added.

Norwegian Jade will spend most of her summer season sailing from Hamburg, Germany.

American Queen lay-up

THE *American Queen* has emerged from its annual lay-up ahead of the 2017 season.

During the refresh, the ship underwent cleaning, repairs and updates, plus eight interior cabins were converted into four new Luxury Suites.

American Queen Steamboat Company president and coo Ted Sykes, said the addition of the Luxury Suites would allow the line to accommodate larger groups and families.

The River Grill & Bar has been



completely rebuilt and new tiles were installed in public restrooms and about 25 guest bathrooms.

Cruises aboard the *American Queen* lead in at US\$1,799ppts and include a one-night pre-voyage hotel stay.

Silversea Galapagos

SILVERSEA Expeditions has launched the first of two new seven-night itineraries in the Galapagos islands.

Guests will sail aboard the 100-guest, all-suite *Silver Galapagos*, as she operates alternating itineraries each Sat.

Departing from Baltra, the north central trip sails the Galapagos Islands en route to San Cristobal, while the western itinerary sails back to Baltra from San Cristobal and includes a circumnavigation of Kicker Rock.

ACL names new ship

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has named its latest vessel, the *American Constitution*.

Currently under construction by Chesapeake Shipbuilding of Salisbury, the ship's name was inspired by the US Navy's oldest ship, the *USS Constitution*.

American Constitution will carry 175 guests and is scheduled for its maiden voyage in May 2018.



THE Baltimore Ravens NFL team decided to take a cruise flair to their Apr Fools gag.

The team announced they would take a cruise ship to their game in London, citing it would help beat jet lag suffered from changing five time zones.

They said an unnamed ship would be refitted with a full size football field and a gym.

The Ravens said the rough seas would help their balance.

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