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CRUISE



WEEKLY



Thursday 02 Feb 2017

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front full page wrap from **Seabourn**.

Uniworld 2018 prog

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection's program for 2018 has been unveiled, featuring three new European journeys.

The additions are the Enchanting Danube & Prague, Remarkable Rhine and Enchanting Danube & Munich.

New Halong ships

PARADISE Group will this year launch two Paradise Elegance ships on Halong Bay.

Cabins on the new 31-room ships will be 25m² - among the largest in the bay.

The first will sail on 07 Feb, followed by the other in Jun.

G Adv buys Swan Hellenic

G ADVENTURES has stepped in to save the Swan Hellenic brand after its parent company, All Leisure Group, was placed in administration last month (**CW** 05 Jan).

The small group adventure travel company plans to relaunch Swan Hellenic, announcing it will begin operations in 2018 with revised itineraries.

Adrian Piotto, managing director of G Adventures in Australia and New Zealand, told **CW** that Swan Hellenic appealed to the company as it was a "very successful brand, after pioneering that small boutique cruising market".

"We've got a very strong marine program and it's something that we can see as really expanding our marine program and our cruising program," he said.

In a statement on the Swan Hellenic website, G Adventures specified operations would

begin "with a new ship and new voyages that will continue the brand's extraordinary legacy".

John Warner, vice president of global sales, G Adventures, said the company was determined the legacy of the brand would live on.

"We know how beloved Swan Hellenic is to its loyal customer base and respect it has in the British travel community."

Swan Hellenic's itineraries will be announced this summer.

The acquisition follows the recent purchase of All Leisure Group's British escorted touring names Travelsphere and Just You.

Piotto said G Adventures was focussing on "ensuring those two brands continue to run and we deliver what the customer has purchased".

Administrator Grant Thornton closed down operations of Swan Hellenic and Voyages of Discovery in Jan, cancelling all trips.

Ponant new role

PONANT will create the new role of commercial director Asia Pacific under a restructure prompted by the pending departure of the current director of sales, Steve McLaughlin in Mar.

The position will be responsible for sales planning and development, distribution, marketing and leading the sales and marketing teams in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & Shanghai.

Crystal Northwest

CRYSTAL Serenity will return to the Northwest Passage in Aug following the success of its first sailing last year.

The 32-day voyage will depart Anchorage in Alaska on 15 Aug, bound for New York via the Arctic regions of Canada's north.

Expedition leaders include local Inuit guides, marine biologists and wildlife experts, with fares from US\$21,855ppts.

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*Terms & conditions apply. Itineraries are correct as at 30 January 2017 and are subject to change or withdrawal. **Guests Sail at Reduced Rate offer only valid on select sailings.

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Pacific Pearl leaves

P&O Cruises 1,800 passenger ship Pacific Pearl farewelled Sydney for the final time on its last turnaround this week.

Pacific Pearl joined P&O's fleet in Dec 2010 and exits the local fleet in Apr on a farewell cruise from Auckland to Singapore, after completing 294 separate voyages with P&O Cruises Australia.

The 28-year-old vessel will be taken over by Cruise & Maritime Voyages, replacing the company's flagship *Magellan* from May.

MEANWHILE, P&O has unveiled its NRL cruises available in 2017 as part of its sponsorship with the national rugby league.

There are options for the State of Origin on 26 May ex Sydney and 21 Jun ex Brisbane.



Credit: James Morgan

Encore arrives in Sydney

SEABOURN *Encore* became the youngest cruise ship to visit Sydney when she arrived for her inaugural visit yesterday.

Seabourn director of sales Australia Tony Archbold said it was a huge vote of confidence in Australia's appeal as a cruise destination that *Seabourn Encore* was sailing in local waters during her maiden season.

"A visit to Sydney is always a highlight on our itineraries and our guests have shown such a strong affinity with Australia that we couldn't resist bringing our newest ship down under," Archbold said.

The vessel is making her maiden call to nine Australian ports having departed Darwin on 22 Jan, visiting Townsville, Cairns, Hamilton Island, Mooloolaba,

Sydney, Phillip Island, Melbourne and Geelong.

Seabourn Encore is pictured sailing into Sydney Harbour.

Star troubles cont

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has reduced the compensation for pax on *Norwegian Star's* 18 Feb and 24 Feb sailings, following technical troubles with the ship's propulsion system (**CW** 31 Jan).

NCL explained the later cruise ports were "unlikely to be as affected as originally anticipated".

On Tue NCL was offering \$500pp on board credit plus a future cruise credit of 50% of the fare paid for their 19-night 18 Feb sailing, but is now providing \$250pp on board credit and a 25% future cruise credit.

The same goes for the 13-night dep on 24 Feb, which has been reduced from \$350pp on board credit and 50% cruise credit to \$175pp and 25% respectively.

A disgruntled passenger on two of the affected sailings told **CW** that guests were hostile and angry at the level of compensation, but NCL told **CW** "feedback on the offer has so far been positive".

Carnival Horizon 2018

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced more details on its *Carnival Horizon*, set to debut in the Mediterranean in Apr 2018.

In its inaugural season, *Horizon* will sail European itineraries from Barcelona and 14-day trips from Barcelona to New York, plus Caribbean sailings.



A BEACH on the Sunshine Coast is looking more like a giant sheet of bubble wrap than a classic postcard scene after millions of blue jellyfish washed up over the weekend.

Marine biologist Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin told the *ABC* the bloom at Deception Bay was among the biggest she had ever seen.

Blooms of jellyfish have at times caused problems for cruise ships, clogging water intakes and affecting their propulsion systems, including past instances in Brisbane.

Dr Gershwin identified the latest outbreak as the common blue blubber jellyfish, not ordinarily harmful to humans.

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