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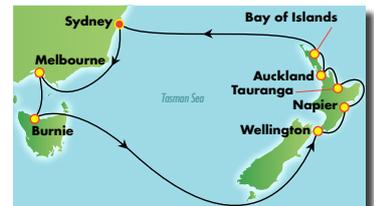
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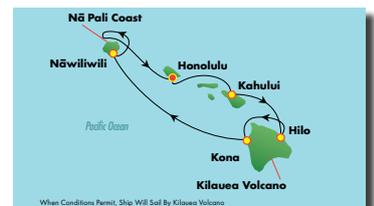
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CRUISE

WEEKLY



Tuesday 21 Feb 2017

Cruise Weekly today

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

Paradise in Cuba

CARNIVAL Cruise Line will offer new shore excursions similar to the Fathom offering when it enters Cuba in Jun (*CW* 16 Feb), but developed in partnership with a Cuban tour operator.

The cruise line's Cuba cruises have been modified from four-day sailings to Mexico and five-day Caribbean/Mexico voyages.

The cruises depart on the same dates but the ports of call have been changed.

In a statement, CCL told *CW* all guests who were booked on the original itineraries were given the option to cancel, however, if they opted to keep their reservation they were given \$100 per person on board credit.

U by Uniworld reveal

U BY Uniworld's two refurbished vessels both have the tentative launch date of 14 Apr 2018, Ellen Bettridge, president and ceo of Uniworld revealed to *Cruise Weekly* at an event in Sydney yesterday.

Prior to their launch under the new youth-focussd brand, *River Baroness* and *River Ambassador* will be refitted with a more contemporary look.

The lobbies, the entrance, top deck, lounges and dining rooms will be redone in a simpler design.

Cabins will be only slightly modified to give "it a little calmer feel", and they will be sold in the categories of studios, balconies and suites.

Similar to Contiki, passengers will have the option to purchase a shared cabin, where they buy a single fare and share a room with someone else on the trip.

There will also be the option

to book as a single (with a single supplement), as a couple or the suites can be made into a triple.

Bettridge revealed the new brand will offer four itineraries.

River Ambassador will operate the Danube Flow, which will go from Regensburg to Budapest; Rolling on the Rhine will sail Amsterdam to Frankfurt and an Frankfurt itinerary between Frankfurt and Regensburg.

River Baroness is scheduled to cover France, on a roundtrip Paris to Honfleur itinerary.

Led by a U by Uniworld Cruise Director, the semi-inclusive experience will start with a welcome party and will include wi-fi, an average of two meals a day, gratuities and some excursions, while drinks will not be included.

Pricing for U by Uniworld is going to be "around" US\$1,800 for the week, or \$300 a day.

Voyages new winter itinerary released

VOYAGES to Antiquity has just unveiled its brand new Nov 2017 to Mar 2018 itineraries, including its inaugural sailings to the Caribbean and Cuba (*CW* 10 Jan).

The company's managing director Jos Dewing told *CW* Voyages to Antiquity would be doing its sailings "quite differently" to other cruise lines.

"We're going to multiple ports not just Havana but also Casilda, Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba," he explained.

Voyages has also been working with author of *Empire's Crossroads: A History of the Caribbean from Columbus to the Present Day*, Dr Carie Gibson to uncover "hidden parts of the Caribbean" to explore.

Other destinations the ship will visit during winter include the Canary Islands, Barbados, Mexico, Jamaica, Spain and Morocco.

The advertisement features a background image of a city skyline (Sydney) and the Sydney Opera House. In the foreground, an Azamara cruise ship is sailing on the water. The text is overlaid on the image.

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NCL orders four ships

UP TO six new ships are on the cards for Norwegian Cruise Line, under a deal inked between Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) and Fincantieri.

The next generation of “extraordinary” ships are scheduled for delivery in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, with an option for two additional ships in 2026 and 2027.

Priced at approximately €800 million per ship, the four 140,000 gross tonne vessels will accommodate 3,300 guests and build upon the brand’s recent Breakaway-Plus Class ships.

Energy efficiency will be a design priority, aiming to optimise fuel consumption and reduce the impact on the environment.

“This new class of ships will continue Norwegian Cruise Line brand’s legacy of introducing meaningful innovation to the cruise industry,” said Frank Del Rio, president and chief executive

officer of NCLH.

“This order continues to highlight our disciplined newbuild program, extends our growth trajectory well into the future, enhances our already attractive earnings profile, and drives expected long-term returns for our shareholders.”

The Company has obtained export credit financing with favourable terms to fund 80% of the contract price of each ship delivered through 2025, subject to certain conditions.

CMV two ships in Oz

CRUISE and Maritime Voyages will have two of its ships in Australia at the same time from Thu until 05 Mar.

Astor will arrive in Adelaide after three months sailing from Perth, while Magellan will visit Sydney and Queensland as part of its current world cruise.



THE P&O Cruises team is out in force this week at the 25th annual Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo in Melbourne, promoting the line’s extensive range of short break cruises to the business events market.

P&O this morning unveiled an “unprecedented number of short break cruises from Sydney and Brisbane in 2018,” buoyed by demand for its two to four-night Sea Breaks.

P&O Cruises corporate sales manager, Rebecca Mutanen, told **Cruise Weekly** this morning the MICE-focused product offering had proved extremely popular since the company first targeted

business events in 2015.

More than half of its annual meeting bookings are now on the short break cruises, with departures from Sydney and Brisbane dominating the mix.

“More and more organisers are discovering that short cruises offer a wonderful opportunity to give delegates a truly special meeting experience,” she said.

Mutanen said P&O’s 2016 group bookings were up a whopping 54%, with more growth expected.

Pictured at AIME channelling their inner Leonardo di Caprio and Kate Winslet are, from left: Chris Rich, Rebecca Mutanen and Andrew Perry from P&O Cruises.

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Which new expedition ships is right for you? Find out in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK HERE to read **travelBulletin**



Princess Ocean Medallion on Island

ISLAND Princess has been announced as the fourth cruise ship to feature Princess Cruises' new Ocean Medallion devices (*CW* 06 Jan).

The innovative digital wristband which can be used to unlock stateroom doors, place dining orders and navigate the ship will debut on the ship in Alaska.

The Medallion Class Alaska cruise will sail on the Voyage of the Glaciers seven-day itinerary between Vancouver and Anchorage departing 16 May.

The vessel now joins three other Princess ships scheduled to premiere Medallion Class: *Regal Princess* will lead the way on 13 Nov 2017, followed by *Royal Princess* and *Caribbean Princess* in early 2018.

Azamara maiden Sydney voyage



AZAMARA Journey arrived in Sydney for the first time yesterday.

The boutique 690-guest liner has undertaken a \$25 million dollar facelift.

Managing director of Azamara Club Cruises Australia & NZ Adam Armstrong said, "She is a completely new ship compared to her sister *Azamara Quest* who made her debut last summer".

It features a spa suite located adjacent to the refreshed Sanctum Spa; as well as new features to public spaces and staterooms like The Patio.

Pictured above is the newly refurbished vessel leaving the Harbour City after her short call.

Ovation departs Syd

OVIATION of the Seas bid farewell to her home in the Harbour City yesterday.

Adam Armstrong, managing director of Royal Caribbean Australia & NZ said, "Ovation of the Seas has wowed more than 40,000 guests".

"The SuperCruising Vessel has impacted the Australian economy with more than \$35 million in passenger spend alone," Armstrong said.

Ovation returns to Sydney next Nov, joining sister ships *Explorer of the Seas*, *Voyager of the Seas* and *Radiance of the Seas*.

Coral Expeditions back to Tassie

THE recently refurbished *Coral Discoverer* will make its way to Tasmania from 01 Jan 2018.

Highlights of the program include seeing seals sun bake on the Isles de Phoques and watching dolphins jumping.

Guests will navigate through smaller channels and anchor in small bays.

All rooms have been upgraded with soft furnishings, en-suite bathrooms and a complimentary turndown service every evening.

For more information or to book a departure head to coralexpeditions.com.

Syd Royal Rendezvous

TWO Cunard ships will sail into Sydney Harbour this weekend.

The 2,700-guest *Queen Mary 2* will berth at Circular Quay while the 2,000 passenger *Queen Elizabeth* will call in at Athol Buoy near Taronga Zoo.

The "Royal Rendezvous" comes almost 10 years to the day after *Queen Mary 2* visited Sydney for the first time on 20 Feb, 2007.

Cunard is inviting spectators to post an image of one or both of the Queens in Sydney over the weekend on their Instagram or Twitter accounts using the hashtag #CunardinSydney.

A winning photographer will enjoy a two-night *Queen Mary 2* cruise for two people.

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Silversea Antarctica

SILVERSEA has announced its new, all-inclusive Antarctica expedition packages for 2017/18 on board *Silver Explorer* and its newly converted ice-class vessel *Silver Cloud*.

The expeditions range from 10 to 23 days in length and travel from Ushuaia, Argentina between Dec 2017 and Feb 2018.

For a limited time, the cruises lead in at \$16,350 per person, based on a Vista Suite.

Reserve the trip by 30 Apr to score a \$899 roundtrip Economy airfare or a \$4,950 return Business class ticket from Australia to South America.

Fares include zodiac excursions, accommodation with butler service, gourmet meals, alcohol, wi-fi and all gratuities.

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Port Douglas transformation

THE Douglas Shire Council in far north Queensland has given approval for an \$85 million redevelopment of the Reef Marina in Port Douglas.

The project will include a dedicated tender dock for cruise ship passengers, as well as a boardwalk with views of the Coral Sea and Daintree National Park.

Other features include a series of luxury waterfront townhouses and apartments, connected to the town centre via a landscaped "rainforest walk".



"The project will energise our beautiful waterfront with new levels of amenity for Port Douglas locals and visitors, Reef Marina co-owner Andrew Hooper-Nguyen said.

QM2 maiden KI visit

KANGAROO Island's population of 4,500 almost doubled yesterday as *Queen Mary 2* became the largest ship to visit the South Australian destination.

The Cunard flagship was on its maiden visit to the island, anchoring off the town of Penneshaw after its earlier visit to Adelaide last week.

SA Tourism Minister Leon Bignell said *QM2* was one of 17 cruise ships to visit Kangaroo Island this summer and part of a record 50-ship schedule for the state over 2016/17.

Aqua kids' offer

AQUA Expeditions is offering free travel for children aged 7-12 to mark the launch of its family friendly cruises on *Aqua Mekong*.

The deal is available on Mekong departures of three, four or seven nights between 05 May and 01 June and again between 01 July and 11 Aug, 2017.

Bettridge's inaugural visit



ELLEN Bettridge, president and ceo of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection launched the 2018 Boutique River Cruise Collection yesterday in Sydney during her inaugural visit to Australia in the role.

The new collection features itineraries in Europe, Russia, Egypt, India, China, Vietnam and Cambodia, including the addition of three new European journeys (**CW** 02 Feb).

Carrying the new brand campaign "The World is Your Canvas" and a refreshed, simpler look, the brochure has done away with fixed pricing grids, instead opting for a pricing guide insert.

Uniworld's managing director of Australia, Fiona Dalton said the new pricing model would be more responsive to changing market conditions and extend the shelf life of the brochure.

Speaking to **CW** yesterday, Bettridge said it was the earliest Uniworld had gone to market, prompted by customer demand.

"Don't be surprised if we put 2019 out even earlier," she said.

Despite only soft-launching the program three weeks ago, Bettridge said it was already "selling very nicely".

Dalton and Bettridge are **pictured** above at the 2018 program launch yesterday.



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

SYDNEY	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	21 Feb
<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	22 Feb
<i>Norwegian Star</i>	22 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	23 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	24 Feb
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	25 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	25 Feb
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	27 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	27 Feb

MELBOURNE	
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	22 Feb
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	22 Feb
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	24 Feb
<i>Noordam</i>	26 Feb
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	27 Feb

BRISBANE	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	22 Feb
<i>Arcadia</i>	22 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	24 Feb
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	25 Feb
<i>Sun Princess</i>	26 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	27 Feb

CAIRNS	
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	22 Feb

DARWIN	
<i>Legend of the Seas</i>	27 Feb

FREMANTLE	
<i>Aurora</i>	21 Feb
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	25 Feb

ADELAIDE	
<i>Astor</i>	24 Feb
<i>Aurora</i>	25 Feb

HOBART	
<i>Noordam</i>	24 Feb
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	24 Feb
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	26 Feb
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Feb

AUCKLAND	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	21 Feb
<i>Insignia</i>	22 Feb
<i>Dawn Princess</i>	22 Feb
<i>Emerald Princess</i>	24 Feb

Sanctuary Explorer relaunch

SANCTUARY Retreats will next month reveal a major makeover of its *Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer*, with the refurbishment said to consolidate the vessel's position as the "most luxurious ship on the Yangtze River".

Explorer carries a maximum of 124 passengers with 38 deluxe cabins, 20 suites and four specialty suites, all with private balconies.

The new interiors have been designed by Premchit Chitrabamrung, who also designed the *Sanctuary Ananda*, the company's Myanmar vessel.

The company's global director of sales & marketing, Pieter van der Schee, said *Yangzi Explorer* would "offer the ultimate luxury cruise experience in China".

The 20 suites (pictured) are being fully refitted with new furniture, authentic Chinese artwork and 'silver-leaf' wallpaper.

Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer offers three night cruises from Chongqing to Yichang, or four nights in the other direction - see www.sanctuaryretreats.com.

Fred.Olsen appoints

FRED.OLSEN Cruise Lines has promoted Julian Brackenbury to the role of hotels operations director, replacing Susana Entrana who takes on the newly created role of hotel project manager.

Entrana's position involves overseeing maintenance and refurbishment projects across the Fred.Olsen fleet, both in dry dock and while in service.



UnCruise Wine

UNCruise Adventures has introduced an updated wine-themed voyage on board its 88-guest *S.S. Legacy*.

The week-long river cruises depart round-trip from Portland, Oregon and travel the Columbia, Snake and Willamette rivers.

The refreshed trip has an extra day of wine tasting in the Willamette Valley and a new visit to the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center.

For more information email sales@uncruise.com.

Avalon preview brox

A **PREVIEW** brochure for the 2018 sailing season has been released by river cruise firm Avalon Waterways featuring more than 30 itineraries spanning Europe and Asia.

To coincide with the launch, a holiday credit of up to \$2,800 per couple can be applied when a booking is made by 04 Apr to any component including international flights, a Monograms city stay break or to the cruise price.

Highlights of the preview brochure include a new eight-day Tulip Time cruise sailing throughout The Netherlands.

For bookings call 1300 130 134.

NCL conservation

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is partnering with the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation and Nova Southeastern University's Guy Harvey Research Institute to host an ocean conservation-themed cruise on *Norwegian Escape*.

Leaving 21 Oct from Miami, the week-long cruise will sail to the Eastern Caribbean and will feature the opportunity to meet marine wildlife artist and conservationist Guy Harvey and hear about his life.

CLICK HERE for more details.



ATTENTION Cunard - an avid *Cruise Weekly* reader has spotted a stowaway on *QM2*.

Lucy Bellamy from Savenio in Adelaide noticed the additional passenger while disembarking from the ship in Melbourne on the weekend.

She took a photo for identification purposes (below), quipping that the free-rider certainly appears to have given the ship the, ahem, seal of approval!



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