

# CRUISE



WEEKLY



Tuesday 25 Jul 2017

## Cruise Weekly today

**Cruise Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **CruiseAgents**.

## Sun early delivery

**VIKING** Cruises has extended its 2018/19 season due to *Viking Sun* being scheduled to leave the shipyard in Oct, a few weeks earlier than expected.

Six new itineraries have been released, along with additional departure dates & combo cruises.

Viking has confirmed to **Cruise Weekly** the move is due to it having five ocean ships by 2018, allowing it to offer more destinations and dates.

The first *Viking Sun* departure will sail on 04 Oct on a seven-night Venice, the Adriatic and Greece itinerary.

Viking has released a supplementary brochure on the new additions - see **page two**.

## Royal's twin NTIA win

**ROYAL** Caribbean Int'l added two shiny new NTIAs to its collection on Sat, after being named Best Cruise Operator, Int'l & Best Cruise Operator, Domestic at the AFTA awards night.

The cruise line has claimed the Best Cruise Operator gong nine times since 2005 and Adam Armstrong, md Australia and NZ for Royal Caribbean recognised the efforts of the trade.

"Our travel agent partners play a huge role in the success of our cruise brand sailing here in Australia and around the world," Armstrong said.

APT continued its three-year streak and took home the award for Best River Cruise Operator, which it has claimed since the category's inception.

Speaking to **CW** on Sat, Robert McGeary, director of APT said the win was "a really big deal for us," particularly given it's the

company's 90th year.

"I think the reason travel agents chose us is our sales team work really hard with travel agents and build a strong rapport," he said.

"Our product is very strong as well, and our customers keep voting us 10 out of 10 and we work very hard in making sure that customer satisfaction is right up there as good as it can be."

Fantasea's Stephanie Hu was named Young Sales Executive - Industry Supplier and the award was accepted by Anthony Hayes, ceo of Fantasea Cruising.

"It is a great acknowledgement for the great work she has done and the great leader she is in our industry," Hayes told **CW**.

Phil Hoffmann Travel returned to the stage to accept Best Travel Agency Retail - Multi Location after a four-year hiatus.

The award was the company's 11th NTIA - more on **page two**.

## AIDA's maiden calls

**AIDA** Cruises has revealed it will hold a second world cruise which includes the cruise line's maiden calls to Melbourne and Burnie, along with South Africa, Namibia, Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia.

Bookings are open for the 117-day itinerary, which will sail from Hamburg on 08 Oct 2018 on *AIDAaura* and will visit 41 ports in 21 countries.

*AIDAaura* will also visit destinations including Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Easter Island, Tahiti, Sydney, Perth and Madagascar.

The cruise will include a NYE party in Mauritius and prices lead in at €12,995pp (AU\$19,072).

The cruise follows *AIDAcara's* first world cruise which departs 17 Oct, 2017.

**MEANWHILE**, AIDA Cruises will hold mountain bike and racing bike weeks in Sep, Nov and Dec, accompanied by cycling experts Jens Heppner and Mario Peters.



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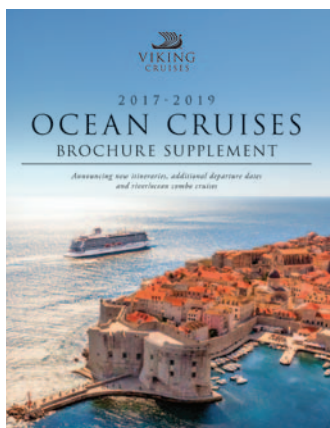
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## Brochure Spotlight

### Viking Cruises - Ocean Supplement 2017/19



**VIKING** Cruises has released a 68-page ocean cruise supplement brochure detailing its six new itineraries, additional departure dates on popular itineraries and three new combination cruises. New voyages include the 11-day Amsterdam to Catalonia (Barcelona), eight-day Iberian Explorer from Barcelona to London and 13-day In Search of the Northern Lights from London to Bergen. There is the option to combine two Mediterranean ocean cruise itineraries and two river and ocean combos in Europe.

## MSC MasterChef

**MSC** Cruises will launch MSC MasterChef at Sea later this year in collaboration with MasterChef producers, Endemol Shine Group.

MSC MasterChef At Sea will mirror the cooking show, pitting guests against each other in an on board cooking competition.

Guests will be challenged in pairs to make a dish from a box of mystery ingredients and will be judged by the MSC Cruises exec chef on board and on each cruise a new winner will be crowned.

## Kos earthquake

**SEABOURN** told **CW** it was closely monitoring the situation in Kos Island, Greece after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit the cruise destination on Fri.

The cruise line is scheduled to call at Kos on 11 Aug, and said if a change is deemed necessary, the decision would be made closer to the call date.

## SeaDream wine dep

**SEADREAM** Yacht Club has teamed up with Schug Carneros Estate Winery to host a seven-day roundtrip wine sailing from St Thomas in Nov 2018.

The winery's Pinot Noir and Chardonnay varietals will feature on the cruise, and a rep from Schug will host wine tastings and the Winemaker's Dinner.

It will close the 2018 SeaDream Wine Voyage season, which features wineries from around the world on voyages in both the Med and the Caribbean.

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## NTIAs dazzle the industry



**AFTA'S** National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) on Sat attracted more than 1,400 travel reps to celebrate the trade's best in a flashy gala night.

Held at the ICC Sydney for the first time, the event marked 60 years of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA).

The night culminated with a performance by ARIA-nominated Ricki-Lee Coulter, who quickly got the crowd to their feet.

For all the winners, [CLICK HERE](#).

The team from APT is **pictured** above celebrating their win and the squad from Royal Caribbean International are **below**.



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## Coral Exp brochure

**CORAL** Expeditions has released a brochure detailing its Sydney to Hobart Race Special departure announced last week (**CW** 18 Jul).

The six-night sailing departs on 26 Dec and follows the 73rd Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

**CLICK HERE** for the online brox.

## NZ Cruise360 demand

**FOUR** times as many New Zealand agents as last year have already signed up to attend Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia's Cruise360.

New Zealand agents will make up 10% of all conference delegates when the event is held in Sydney next month.

Joel Katz, md CLIA Australasia said the number of Kiwi agents attending Cruise360 "is a true reflection of the growth in demand for cruising among New Zealanders and the determination of our New Zealand members to improve their cruise selling skills".

## Royal US portal

**ROYAL** Caribbean International has introduced a new education portal for US travel agents called Royal Caribbean University.

The platform is made up of three tracks – the Campus Tour, Bachelor of Adventure and Master of Adventure.

After graduating the bachelor and master levels, agents will be eligible to receive rewards such as CLIA credits, on board credit and opportunities to attend Seminars at Sea.

The new portal is not available to Australian agents, who instead have [cruisingforexcellence.com](http://cruisingforexcellence.com).

## Aranui Marquesas

**FREIGHTER** cruise line Aranui Cruises will stop by Marquesas Festival in Tahiti's Marquesas Islands on 20 Dec.

The biennial event was created to preserve Marquesan traditions and includes cultural performances & demonstrations.

## FCTG jumps on board *Majestic*



**PRINCESS** Cruises recently gave 20 Aussie agents a taste of *Majestic Princess* on a sailing from Xiamen, China, to Taipei, Taiwan, visiting Hong Kong.

The group dined at Michelin Star chef Richard Chen's Harmony Restaurant on board and while in Hong Kong visited the floating markets, Nathan Road and more.

**Pictured** in the back row: Shaun Kavanagh, bdm Princess Cruises; Amanda Fricker, Cruiseabout Golden Grove; Tammy Davis, Escape Travel Hervey Bay; Charli Brownlee, Cruiseabout Caloundra; Kristie Deegenars, Cruiseabout Runaway Bay; Kim Klooger, Cruiseabout Toorak; Jo Hambleton, Cruiseabout Canterbury; Annette Kahi, Cruiseabout Albany Creek;

Virginia Walker, Infinity Cruise Titanium; Nadia Walker, Infinity Cruise Atlantic; Damian Clark, Cruiseabout Mermaid Waters; Samantha Boyce, Infinity Cruise Atlantic; Lu Cyran, Cruiseabout Knox City; Cheyanne Herring, Cruiseabout Live; Kolinda Schafer, Escape Travel Colonnades; Rachaelle Tyrrell, bdm Princess Cruises and Frances Wyvill, Escape Travel Caloundra.

In the front: Helen Mezzan, bdm Princess Cruises; Nicola Sinclair, Cruiseabout Cleveland; Barbara Johnson, Infinity Cruise Royale; Jodie Rogut, Cruiseabout Hampton; Angela Honey, Cruiseabout Mt Gravatt; David Craven, Infinity Cruise Atlantic and Jackie Schurmann bdm Princess Cruises.

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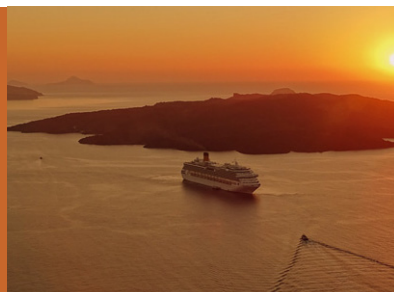
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Find out the latest results of the cruise survey in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

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



## Vard Q2 results

**SHIPBUILDER** Vard recorded revenue of NOK2.13 billion (AU\$3.3b) in Q2 2017, which was 20% higher than the Q1 2017.

The result was largely the same as Q1 in 2016.

VARD's overall revenue was affected by softer activity at the Norwegian yards and the cessation of operations in Vard Niteroi, as it declined to NOK3.91b (AU\$6.15b).

The group had 44 ships on its order books as of 30 Jun.

## Quark covers tips

**QUARK** Expeditions will cover all gratuities for its crew members from the 2018/19 Antarctica season, which was released earlier this month (**CW** 13 Jul).

The season has packed in more 12-day trips and will introduce a new vessel, *World Explorer*.

## MSC Caribbean mth

**MSC** Cruises will kick off Caribbean month from 27 Jul with a stack of deals available for cruise travellers.

The line will offer 50% off the second pax's fare on bookings for a 10-night Caribbean cruise, departing from Miami on 25 Jan, 2018 - Call 1300 028 502.

## Odysseus India office

**TRAVEL** technology company Odysseus Solutions will open a second office in India.

The move follows the addition of cruise inventory to Odysseus' Dynamic Packaging technology, allowing for cruises to be packaged with air and hotels in a single transaction on any device.

The company will employ another 20 software developers, and support engineers, who will work out of the new office in Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

## Cruise Whit schedule

**CRUISE** Whitsundays has adjusted its timetable from tomorrow due to the reopening of Shute Harbour after it was damaged by Tropical Cyclone Debbie in Mar.

The company is advising agents to reconfirm bookings 48 hours in advance as some passengers may be moved onto new services as a result of the changes.

## Silversea Americas '18

**SILVERSEA** Cruises has unveiled seven new expedition voyages through the Americas in 2018 for *Silver Explorer*.

The additions will venture from Tierra del Fuego, all the way up the Pacific coastline to Vancouver.

Highlights include the 14-day Ushuaia to Valparaiso; 12-day Fuerte Amador (Panama City) to Puerto Quetzal and 11-day San Diego to Vancouver.

## Carnival embarkation

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line is expanding its keyless embarkation system, in a move to speed up embarkation.

The system sees a cabin key placed in an envelope outside of cabins, ready to be collected when the rooms are ready.

Senior Carnival Cruise Line cruise director John Heald said on Facebook the system was introduced on *Carnival Freedom* over the weekend and will launch on *Carnival Valor* this weekend & on *Carnival Breeze* on 07 Aug.

It is already in place on *Carnival Glory*, *Sensation*, *Victory*, *Vista* and *Splendor*.



### Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	27 Jul
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	28 Jul
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	31 Jul
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	28 Jul
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	29 Jul
<i>Sun Princess</i>	31 Jul
CAIRNS	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	25 Jul
AUCKLAND	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	29 Jul

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**AN AMERICAN** company has come up with a way to "put an end to personal odours" and is marketing the product to cruise and land travellers.

Called "Just'a Drop", one drop of the odour eliminator in the toilet before use is being touted as being able to trap 98% of all odours under the water.

"When sharing a hotel room or cruise ship cabin there are some things that we just don't talk about: offensive bathroom odours," said Randy Hecht, president, Just'a Drop USA.

"There comes a time when you get the sudden realisation that you are going to leave a lasting, lingering impression in the bathroom. Just'a Drop is the perfect solution to end this embarrassing scenario," he said.

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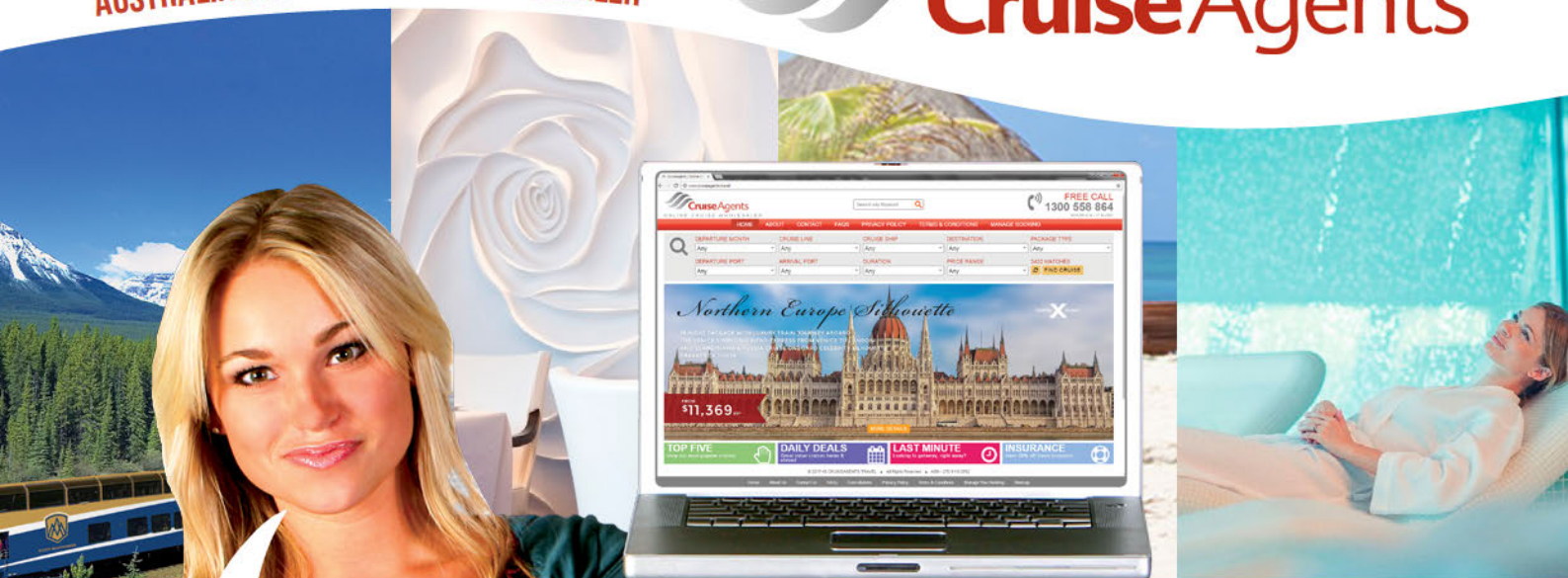
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