







www.cruiseweekly.com.au Tuesday 14th November 2017

Cruise Weekly today

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

Silversea portal

SILVERSEA has introduced a new online marketing toolkit for travel agents called Marketing Central.

The platform aims to do the "creative legwork" for agents in developing marketing campaigns and can be used to create flyers, web banners, email & social media content.

Marketing Central can be accessed in the Marketing Resources section of the MYSILVERSEA portal.

Tickets to the Australian Ballet on 13 Dec are up for grabs for the travel agent who registers with Marketing Central and is this month's top user - visit my.silversea.com.

NCL eyes more Australian growth

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's exec vp int'l business development Harry Sommer told Cruise Weekly the cruise line was "optimistic" it would send a ship down under for the 2019/20 season.

Speaking in Sydney on Sun on board Norwegian Jewel during the ship's first visit for its inaugural local homeport season, Sommer highlighted the ship's deployment as "one of the big successes for us this year".

"I'd say that anytime something is successful, the likelihood that we're going to repeat it is great," he continued, noting the deployment details for 2019/20 would be revealed in Dec.

Sommer also hinted an announcement was in the works in the technology space, explaining "we're clearly looking at things like what Royal and Disney did".

Norwegian's biggest challenge



in Australia was the availability of ports, he said.

"If I could wave my magic wand and triple the port capacity in Sydney, I would give you a different answer...there would be no reason why we couldn't take multiple ships, bigger ships, different ships."

Sommer voiced support for the cruise reference group's recommendation of Garden Island as the preferred location

for a second cruise terminal in Sydney (CW 12 Oct), urging the NSW Government to follow through and turn it into a plan.

NCL has experienced a 50% growth in year-over-year sales in 2017, when compared to 2016.

"There are not very many places in the world where we could be up 50% in sales so we're very happy with that," he said.

More from Norwegian Cruise Line on page three.



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Tuesday 14th November 2017



Goldman appoints

THE Goldman Travel Group has appointed Leighton Schembri as cruise manager. He will work across all of the group's agencies, including development of the recently acquired The Cruise Centre.



P&O takes over Sydney



THERE was a rare sight in Sydney on Fri with three P&O Cruises ships - Pacific Explorer, Pacific Eden and Pacific Jewel - all arriving at the same time.

Between them, the three ships were carrying a combined total of 6,000 guests.

The three ships are pictured above in Sydney.



CCC Fiji 2018/19

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises Fiji

has released 2018 and 2019

departure dates for its two

For the list of dep dates, see captaincookcruisesfiji.com.

seven-night Northern Fiji

Discovery cruises.



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Tuesday 14th November 2017

CRUISE

WEEKLY WEEKLY

On location aboard **Crystal Bach**

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Crystal Cruises, aboard the Crystal Bach currently cruising Germany's Rhine River.

CRYSTAL Cruises has pulled out all stops to create its new river ships, with our voyage aboard *Crystal Bach* this week taking us from Mainz to Basel and then back to Frankfurt.

The Rhine itinerary sees us stop in Speyer, Kehl and Breisach before an extended stay in Basel, where the ship will dock for two nights to allow for exploration of the Black Forest & Switzerland.

More from *Crystal Bach* on page four.

Viking Med cruises

VIKING Cruises has released two new Mediterranean itineraries for 2018, both of which are combinations of existing shorter itineraries.

The new additions include the 15-day Mediterranean & Italian Sojourn, departing Barcelona to Venice on 29 Jul and is a combination of Iconic Western Mediterranean and Italian Sojourn and is priced from \$12,998ppts in a Penthouse Veranda.

The 24-day Mediterranean Explorer & Crossing incorporates the Western Mediterranean Explorer and Mid Atlantic Crossing and will sail from Rome to Miami on 04 Dec.

Fares are from \$8,890ppts in a Veranda stateroom.

Both prices include a \$1,000 discount available for bookings made by 31 Dec.

Jewel's big Aussie debut



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line welcomed *Norwegian Jewel* into Australian waters on Sun for the start of the cruise line's inaugural Australian and New Zealand homeport season.

Nicole Constantin, vp sales Norwegian Cruise Line, showed media around the 2,376-passenger vessel, highlighting some of its 16 dining venues, 15 bars and lounges and public spaces.

The ship will operate a total of nine voyages through to Feb, including seven round trip itineraries from Sydney and will return next year fresh from a multi-million dollar drydock.

Speaking to Cruise Weekly, NCL's

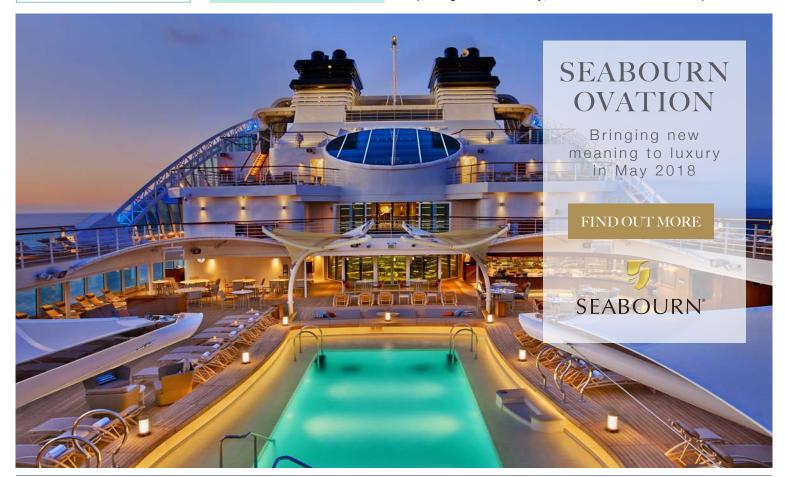
exec vp int'I business development Harry Sommer said *Norwegian Jewel's* inaugural season was "pretty much sold out".

"We can clearly see this is a place that has tremendous potential that's well received by our past guest base so we're not just looking for new passengers, we have loyal guests that want to come here which is a huge help."

Sommer said NCL decided to send *Jewel* to Australia as it was the only cruise market in the top five that it didn't already have "a real presence" in.

NCL vp sales Nicole Constantin is **pictured** with *Norwegian Jewel* master Kenneth Harstrom.

See **FACEBOOK** for photos.



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Tuesday 14th November 2017

Crystal makes music



CRYSTAL Cruises created its new European river cruise product as a result of feedback from members of its Crystal Society loyalty program wanting to experience river cruising after enjoying the company's ocean ships - so it has been somewhat of a surprise to see how many pax so far have been "new to Crystal," according to Walter Littlejohn, md of Crystal River Cruises.

Littlejohn is cruising aboard Crystal Bach on Germany's Rhine River this week, and told CW about half of the line's bookings are from customers who haven't cruised on Crystal's ocean vessels - indicating the potential to crosssell from river into ocean as they are introduced to the brand.

Crystal has been determined to emulate the luxury aspects of its ocean product with the European river operation.

"We don't want to just 'Crystallise' existing river cruise offerings - we are building a new product from the ground up," Littlejohn said.

"We don't want to use the limitations imposed by operating a river ship to impede the experience in any way," he added.

Crystal Bach (pictured), which debuted in Aug 2017, is the same size as European river cruise ships operated by other brands, but carries significantly fewer passengers and many more staff than its competition.

The vessel carries 106 guests in 53 cabins, served by 68 staff including butlers for every suite.

Passenger accom is spread across two decks - in Littlejohn's words "we don't have any swanview cabins" - and every suite has a panoramic window which opens to provide an indoor-outdoor river experience.

There has also been a major investment behind the scenes, with the new Crystal ships utilising diesel-electric propulsion systems meaning there is minimal engine noise.

The galley is five times the size of kitchen facilities on competitor vessels, meaning Crystal can offer a full a la carte dining experience with all items cooked on demand.

Twenty-four hour room service is included, while the vessel also features a heated indoor pool with a "swim jet" - and a gymnasium and fitness instructor.

Currently the ships carry their own speedboats, used for some excursions, but in 2018 these will be relocated to specific locations on the river ready for deployment by any of the visiting vessels.

One of the key reasons for the change is that currently the speedboats impede the view from the rear of the ship, and with six in total across the fleet they can provide superior options in all of the suitable locations.

Littlejohn said another distinguishing feature of Crystal was the length of its season on the rivers of Europe, with the last cruise finishing around 03 Jan.

Crystal currently operates three river ships in Europe, with a further two to launch in 2018.

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Hurtigruten's taster



HURTIGRUTEN has published its first voyages of the 2019/20 season and released details on its two new expedition ships, MS Roald Amundsen (pictured) and MS Fridtjof Nansen.

The 2019/20 season is shaping up to be the line's most extensive Arctic and Antarctic program in its 125-year history, with the first Antarctic voyages to be on MS Fridtjof Nansen.

Three ships will be operated out of South America for the full season, and several vessels - including MS Fram, MS Spitsbergen and MS Nordstjernen - sailing four- to 14-day Arctic voyages out of Longyearbyen, Svalbard.

Select Greenland expedition voyages will also be available on MS Fram.

Currently under construction at Kleven Yard in Norway, MS Roald Amundsen and MS

Fridtjof Nansen will debut in 2018 and 2019 and are being billed as the "world's greenest, safest and most advanced expedition ships".

They will feature a two-level indoor/outdoor Observation Deck wrapped around the ships' bow, in front of the Amundsen Science Center/ Nansen Science Center.

The venue will include lecture spaces, a small library, and speciality areas for workshops.

Guests will be able to choose from three restaurants or hang out in the sauna, gym, or on the pool deck featuring an infinity pool, jacuzzis & a bar.

All 265 rooms on the 530-passenger vessels are outside cabins, half of which will have private balconies.

The ships will be equipped with Blueye underwater drones, kayaks & Explorer Boats.

Three Fred Olsen ships to be renovated

FRED Olsen Cruise Line has revealed its ships Braemar (pictured) and Balmoral will be refurbished before Christmas and Boudicca will be upgraded in Mar 2018.



The schedule includes renovating public areas, creating new facilities - such as a new restaurant and gelato bar on Balmoral, a new dining room on Boudicca, a new buffet restaurant on Braemar and cabin enhancements across the fleet.

Black Watch underwent improvement work at the end of last year.



Tuesday 14th November 2017



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY

14 Nov Carnival Legend Pacific Jewel 14 Nov **Golden Princess** 15 Nov Pacific Eden 16 Nov Norwegian Jewel 17 Nov Pacific Explorer **17 Nov** Radiance of the Seas 18 Nov Explorer of the Seas 19 Nov Pacific Explorer 20 Nov

MELBOURNE

Pacific Jewel16 NovMaasdam17 NovNoordam18 NovNorwegian Jewel19 NovPacific Jewel20 Nov

BRISBANE

Pacific Aria 14 Nov Pacific Explorer 15 Nov Voyager of the Seas 15 Nov Pacific Dawn 18 Nov

CAIDAIC

CAIRNS Amsterdam 19 Nov

DARWIN

Amsterdam 15 Nov

FREMANTLE

Sea Princess 18 Nov

ADELAIDE

Maasdam 14 Nov

HOBART

Norwegian Jewel 15 Nov Noordam 16 Nov Maasdam 19 Nov

EDEN

Pacific Eden 15 Nov Noordam 20 Nov

AUCKLAND

Radiance of the Seas 14 Nov

On board Norwegian Jewel



treated to a tour of Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Jewel on Sun during the ship's first visit of the season.

The group explored the ship's public spaces, venturing to the Sapphire pool on deck 12 (pictured above), the Stardust Theatre (inset), Crystal Atrium (right) and restaurants such as Le Bistro, Teppanyaki & Azura.

Accommodation was put on show, with guests gawking at The Haven three-bedroom Garden Villa (below), which comes complete with a piano in the spacious lounge room, a private garden with a hot tub, complemented by a butler and concierge service.





Trump Cuba rules

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's new Cuba policy took effect on Thu, placing travel restrictions on certain types of travel to the island nation for American citizens.

Cruise lines escaped the brunt of the changes, which impact on individual travel.



FERRY McFerryface will soon be a regular on Sydney Harbour thanks to a Name Your Ferry competition run by Transport NSW.

More than 15,000 suggestions were made for the new fleet of six ferries with hundreds of Sydneysiders putting forward the winning Ferry McFerryface.

"We asked Sydney to name their new ferries, and we have listened," said NSW Minister for Transport & Infrastructure Andrew Constance.

"Ferry McFerryface will be the harbour's newest icon, and I hope it brings a smile to the faces of visitors and locals alike," he added.

The suggestion was alongside Victor Chang, Fred Hollows and Catherine Hamlin, followed by Boaty McBoatface.

"Given Boaty was already taken by another vessel, we've gone with the next most popular name nominated by Sydneysiders," Constance said.

CRUISE

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