

Cruise Weekly today

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

U by Uniworld Asia

THE new youth-focussed brand from Uniworld, U by Uniworld, has revealed it will launch in Asia with a new ship to sail on the Mekong River (**CW** breaking news).

The announcement was made by U by Uniworld and Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection ceo, Ellen Bettridge, on board a preview cruise for the river cruise brand in France.

U by Uniworld also said it was looking to add two more ships to its current fleet of two vessels, with one new addition on the Mekong and another "to be announced shortly".

More on the U by Uniworld preview cruise on **page three**.

Sun Princess to homeport in WA

PRINCESS Cruises has revealed it will redeploy *Sun Princess* to homeport in Fremantle in Oct and early Nov next year.

Sun Princess will operate five departures including a mix of short breaks and longer cruises, with program details and itineraries to be released and go on sale on Thu.

The announcement follows the West Australian Government's commitment to carry out dredging at Broome Port next year, which will enable cruise ships all-tide access.

Princess Cruises vp for Australia and New Zealand, Stuart Allison, said the works were expected to allow the safe berthing of the line's larger Australian-based ships in Broome in the future.

"Having recently announced that two of our largest ships - the 3,000-guest *Ruby Princess* and the 3,600-guest *Majestic Princess*



— will be based in Australia, our ambition is to make Broome a marquee port on their itineraries from 2019," he said.

Last year Princess' parent company, Carnival Australia, warned it would no longer home berth its P&O Cruises or Princess ships in WA if problems at regional ports weren't fixed, and in Apr, P&O pulled its ships from WA for upcoming seasons.

The WA govt said in a statement

"it is understood Carnival Australia is considering further commitments to WA for 2019-20".

A spokesperson for Princess Cruises told **CW** "there are no further commitments for WA at this stage" and P&O Cruises confirmed it had no plans to homeport from WA.

Sun Princess' redeployment next year means there will be 31 calls to WA ports in 2018 across Princess Cruises and Cunard.

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CRUISE

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Find out what changes to the law might mean for the cruise industry in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

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Viking renames *Spirit*



VIKING Cruises has renamed its fifth ocean vessel *Viking Orion* and named American chemist, emergency room physician and recently retired NASA astronaut Dr Anna Fisher as its godmother. The 930-passenger *Viking Orion*

will debut in Jul 2018 and spend time sailing down under during her maiden year.

The former *Viking Spirit* was renamed after the prominent constellation and in honour of Fisher's contributions to NASA's Orion exploration vehicle project.

Viking Orion was floated out on 28 Sep at Fincantieri's Ancona shipyard and Fisher attended, taking part in several maritime traditions at the event.

She assisted with the "mast stepping" by welding commemorative coins under the ship's mast, and cut a cord to allow water to begin flowing into the ship's building dock.

The ship was later moved to a nearby outfitting dock for final construction & interior build-out.

MEANWHILE, Viking River Cruises has confirmed plans to grow its fleet by seven ships in 2019, with six new longships and one new ship on the Douro.

Taibel promoted

RYAN Taibel has been promoted to vice president of sales and marketing for Australia and New Zealand at P&O Cruises.

In his new role, Taibel heads up P&O's sales, marketing and digital teams.

Taibel was most recently sales director for P&O Cruises and joined Carnival Australia in 2010.

Celebrity's Revolution



CELEBRITY Cruises has revealed plans for a \$400m modernisation of its entire fleet through to 2023.

Dubbed the "Celebrity Revolution", the investment is the largest the brand has ever made to modernise the fleet and it says it will raise the bar in modern luxury travel.

Staterooms will be redone to maximise storage and 11,579 new cashmere mattresses will be introduced.

"We're not just redesigning

the staterooms, we're tearing them down and building them back up," says Brian Abel, vp hotel operations.

Suite guests will have access to a new retreat sundeck said to "rival any high-end resort" & the retreat lounge will be revamped.

A new OceanView Cafe "inspired by an international marketplace" will be introduced on *Celebrity Constellation*, *Celebrity Infinity*, *Celebrity Millennium* and *Celebrity Summit*.



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Dr Seuss activities

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has partnered with Dr Seuss Enterprises to introduce educational activities designed to promote kindness, compassion and generosity to its younger passengers.

The new "Be Kind/Dare to Care" offering is rolling out this month across the Carnival fleet and joins existing programming within CCL's Seuss at Sea program.

Activities will include a "pledge to be kind" activity where pax are encouraged to write down their kindness promise that will be posted on a special banner on board and kids can also create friendship bracelets and other keepsakes.

A royal return

THE arrival of *Radiance of the Seas* in Sydney on Sun marked the beginning of Royal Caribbean Cruises' 10th season down under.

Radiance of the Seas (pictured) was the first of the company's cruise ships to return, with six RCL Cruises vessels to offer itineraries throughout Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Asia this summer.



U by Uniworld sets sail



U BY Uniworld set sail for the first time over the weekend on a "sneak peak" cruise manned by influencers, lifestyle media, travel agents and contest winners.

The inaugural events included a renaming ceremony led by the line's "guardian angel" and supermodel, Petra Nemcova, (pictured with The Travel Corporation chief exec Brett Tollman) which saw guests release biodegradable lanterns to symbolise letting go of Uniworld's *River Baroness* ship and starting new with *The B*.

The festivities also included a drum circle to create "a spiritual energy onboard" and champagne sabering on the top deck.

The 120-passenger vessel, *The B* sails on the Seine and has been redesigned, offering four



Suites, 26 Balcony Bedrooms, 29 Studio Bedrooms and two Studios Bedrooms with triple occupancy – all with Bluetooth speakers.

U offers BeeKind amenities in all rooms, uses WhatsApp and email for internal comms, has a Press Reader app for guests and is creating an app, which will connect travellers before, during and after their trips and will debut in Mar ahead of the first bookable sailings.

Sailings on *The B* and U's second ship, *The A*, begin in Apr.

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AIDA releases new Aussie offerings

AIDA Cruises has plotted new routes and destinations in Australia, China & Indonesia in the release of its Feb 2018-Apr 2019 program.

AIDAvida will offer new cruises from Singapore to Australia and Indonesia including spending three days in Darwin, allowing passengers time to visit Kakadu National Park.

On 08 Oct 2018 *AIDAaura* will set sail on a 117-day world cruise calling at 41 ports, including many which the line hasn't visited before, including Melbourne, Tasmania, Fiji, Samoa and Namibia.

Also new to the program are cruises from Singapore to the Philippines, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

SCENIC° 2018/19 EUROPE RIVER CRUISING



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NCLH backs yes

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has backed the yes vote in the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

The international cruise line is encouraging all Australian citizens have a say in the vote that wraps up this month.

NCLH svp and md Asia Pacific Steve Odell said encouraging tolerance and harmonious relations was core to NCLH's corporate ethos.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Legend</i>	10 Oct
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	12 Oct
<i>Golden Princess</i>	15 Oct
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	16 Oct

MELBOURNE	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	12 Oct

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Oct
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	12 Oct
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	14 Oct
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	16 Oct

CAIRNS	
<i>Pacific Eden</i>	14 Oct

ADELAIDE	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	14 Oct

HOBART	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	10 Oct

AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	10 Oct
<i>Golden Princess</i>	11 Oct
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	16 Oct

Inspiration steel cut



HAPAG Lloyd has cut the first steel for its new *Hanseatic inspiration* ship in a ceremony at a Vard shipyard in Romania.

Inspiration will be the second newbuild expedition vessel from the line and is slated to launch in 2019 with *Hanseatic nature*.

As part of the official ceremony in Tulcea, Tudorel Topa, svp and yard director general department Vard (**pictured**) presented the Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' management team with a symbolic steel silhouette of the *Hanseatic inspiration*.

"The demand for expedition cruising is three times higher than supply and so with our two newbuilds we shall be ideally prepared for the future and also satisfy the international marketplace," said Karl J Pojer, ceo of Hapag-Lloyd Cruises.

Inspiration will cater for up to 230 guests or 199 pax on Antarctic cruises, and will hold the highest ice class for pax ships.

She will sail in the polar regions as well as warmer destinations such as the Amazon and the South Seas.

Eu Waterways brox

EUROPEAN Waterways has debuted its new 2018/19 96-page brochure featuring its fleet of 17 luxury hotel barges.

The brochure also includes offerings on the new 12 passenger *Spirit of Scotland* on the Caledonian Canal.

Nine European countries from France to Germany and the United Kingdom are featured inside.

To view the brochure online, **CLICK HERE**.

Marella Cruises

UK CRUISE line Thomson Cruises has announced a major rebrand that will see the company change its name to Marella Cruises.

The move will coincide with new additions to the fleet including the *Marella Explorer* as well as a host of new destinations which it said were "in the pipeline".

Marella Cruises, part of TUI UK and Ireland, is the third-largest cruise line in the UK.

Silversea flights

SILVERSEA has extended its Silversky air program to be available on all 2018/19 voyages from Australia.

Travellers will have access to return Economy class flights or Business class upgrades from BNE, SYD, MEL, ADL and PER.

Silversky flights also include transfers to and from the airport & the cruise terminal.

Silversea md Asia Pacific Amber Wilson said the program was designed to simplify the booking process for agents and travellers.

Call 1300 306 872 for more.



A YELLOW Labrador by the name of Finse was honoured by Viking Cruises recently when a coin which represented the pooch's year of birth was welded under the mast of *Viking Orion* during the ship's float out event.

Finse is no stranger to the world of celebrity events, having already starred in her own book series called *The World of Finse*, written by her owner Karine Hagen, who is also the daughter of the company's founder Torstein Hagen.

The company is yet to confirm whether or not Finse will take on a senior position within the ship's crew, but their silence makes one suspect the captain may have a new first mate AND best friend.