

Cruise Weekly today

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

Carnival ups Aus

CARNIVAL Australia also announced Carnival Cruise Line will up its Australian operations to two ships full time in 2020.

Currently *Carnival Legend* and *Carnival Spirit* sail down under, with *Spirit* full time and *Legend* sailing locally Oct-Apr.

The detailed deployment for Carnival Cruise Line will be announced in May 2018.

Carnival Australia exec chair Ann Sherry said "seven of Carnival Corp's nine cruise brands sail in this market & we intend to further strengthen our leadership position".

This year marks CCL's fifth anniversary in Australia.

A Princess to grace P&O Cruises

CARNIVAL Australia yesterday revealed a reshuffle of its local fleet which will see Ocean Medallion introduced to P&O Cruises following the addition of Princess Cruises' *Golden Princess* in 2020 (**CW** breaking news).

Carnival Australia executive chairman Ann Sherry said the Corporation was strategically realigning the Australian business to ensure it was at the cutting edge of guest expectations and had solid foundations.

"Carnival's commitment to this market and the decision to put P&O Cruises' guests at the heart of industry innovation through Ocean Medallion is a mark of respect for the Australian consumer," Sherry said.

Initially Carnival Corporation planned to deploy the 113,300 GRT, 3,012-passenger *Carnival Splendor* to P&O Cruises at the end of 2019 (**CW** 15 Dec), but the



vessel will now remain in Carnival Cruise Line's global fleet.

P&O will instead expand its portfolio by taking *Golden Princess* under its wing, which has a tonnage of 108,865 and a lower berth capacity for 2,600 guests.

In Nov 2018, *Golden Princess* will be the first to introduce the Ocean Medallion device and platform to Australia while it's sailing under the Princess Cruises

brand (**CW** 29 Jun).

Princess Cruises won't be left short of a ship, with the line replacing *Golden Princess* in serving Princess guests down under with the larger 3,000-passenger *Ruby Princess*.

By then, *Ruby Princess* will be equipped with Ocean Medallion, with the vessel set to receive the tech in Jan 2019 (**CW** 29 Jun).

See **left** for more.

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Brochure spotlight Bentours 2018/19

BENTOURS

has released a refreshed brochure packing in new itineraries for Scandinavia & expedition cruising in 2018/19.

The special anniversary brochure celebrates the company's milestone in 2018 of 40 years of being a Scandinavian specialist.

A Hurtigruten insert is included in the brochure, which shows off top selling expedition cruises to Norway, Antarctica and more.

Some of the destinations inside the program include Norway, Svalbard & Sweden.



100 new excursions

AZAMARA Club Cruises has unveiled over 100 new "Cruise Global, Connect Local" shore excursions for the upcoming Australia & Asia cruise season.

The additions include a culinary adventure across Kangaroo Island during the cruise line's maiden visit in Feb.

Passengers will sample local produce at Clifford's Honey Farm, the Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery and Island Pure Sheep Dairy.

Other highlights of the fresh shore excursions include visiting ancient temples in Benoa, Bali, and a guided bike tour through Hoi An, Vietnam.

Azamara launched the "Cruise Global, Connect Local" concept in Jan, which the company said aims to incorporate "a diverse and truly immersive range of on-shore experiences in each port of call".

Azamara reunites R class



AZAMARA Club Cruises will reunite three of eight "R" class sister ships originally built for the now defunct Renaissance Cruises following an agreement to purchase P&O Cruises UK's ship, *Adonia* (**CW** breaking news).

When *Adonia* is delivered to Azamara in Mar 2018, it will mark the first time that the three vessels have sailed together under the same brand since Renaissance Cruises went bust.

All three ships are 30,277GRT and are close in age, with *Journey* and *Quest* built in 2000 and *Adonia* in 2001.

Adonia will be renamed *Azamara Pursuit* and undergo updates to bring it into line with the rest of the fleet.

Currently *Adonia* sails at a

normal guest capacity of 710 passengers, while *Journey* and *Quest* have capacity for a total of 686 guests.

The vessel's last cruise with P&O Cruises will be a roundtrip from Barbados from 23 Feb-09 Mar.

"During her time with us *Adonia* has captured the hearts of many thousands of P&O Cruises guests," P&O Cruises senior vice president Paul Ludlow said.

"She has ventured into new ports of call around the globe and has negotiated Icelandic Fjords, European rivers and Caribbean coves," he added.

The vessel made history in 2016 while it was sailing under the Fathom brand as the first US cruise company to sail to Cuba in more than 40 years.



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Plan a Cruise Mth deals



PLAN A CRUISE MONTH

CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) annual Plan a Cruise Month, to take place in Oct, is fast approaching.

The global industry-wide promo is in its second year with CLIA offices around the world working with CLIA accredited agents and CLIA member cruise lines to promote cruise holidays.

CLIA Australasia & Asia md Joel Katz said, "This Oct's Plan a Cruise Month is set to be bigger and better than ever with great deals available across a range of popular cruise holidays including

luxury, expedition, ocean and river cruising".

The month also marks the beginning of Australia's cruise season, with the first int'l ships arriving for the summer.

This season Australia will see around 60 ships in local waters.

Deals on offer will range from cabin upgrades to cabin savings, including 50% off the second passenger on select MSC Cruises' departures and a room upgrade on select 2018 Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection sailings booked 08-14 Oct.

The Meeting Place on *Edge*



CELEBRITY Cruises' new ship *Celebrity Edge* will feature a 183m² meeting venue on board called The Meeting Place, the cruise line has revealed.

Placed in "a central location", the space will have soundproof dividers, audiovisual capabilities, varied seating options, private office space for event planners, mobile bars for food and beverages and a fully equipped pantry with a bar.

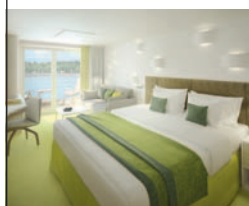
The room will be able to be configured in theatre-style, classroom, U-shaped, or circular layouts, along with options for high-top bar tables or comfortable lounge seating for the evening.

"Of course, the most advanced ship we've ever designed would include the



most exciting venues for get-togethers, including The Meeting Place," said Dondra Ritzenthaler, senior vice pres of sales, trade support and service, Celebrity Cruises.

"Imagine the spectacular conferences, trade shows, weddings, and reunions you can plan with the gorgeous *Celebrity Edge* as your setting and an ocean as your brilliant backdrop," Ritzenthaler said. *Edge* will debut in Dec 2018.



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The HANSEATIC inspiration is planned to launch in October 2019 - make a free of charge pre-booking (no deposit needed) for your clients now! The new catalogue will be published in January 2018. An offer will then be sent to you.

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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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Cruise lines pitch in

CRUISE lines have thrown their weight behind helping those affected by the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean.

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, multiple ships were dedicated to aiding the relief efforts and lines have since committed to further support.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) revealed a partnership with disaster relief organisation All Hands Volunteers (**pictured**), setting a goal to raise US\$2.5m for the Hope Starts Here hurricane relief program.

Carnival Cruise Line has embarked on a mission to bring critical supplies to affected Caribbean islands, with *Carnival Antigua* recently dropping off pallets of water, food and other items to be



delivered to Barbuda.

The line also donated 100% of proceeds from two sold out shows by Chris Tucker on board *Carnival Liberty* and *Carnival Breeze* to assistance efforts.

Carnival Corp, the Miami HEAT Charitable Fund, and the Micky and Madeleine Arison Family Foundation have pledged up to US\$10 million in funding.

Royal Caribbean Cruises has cancelled a 30 Sep cruise on *Adventure of the Seas* so the ship can be used for evacuation and humanitarian efforts.

Silver Spirit to undergo 15m lengthening

SILVERSEA has revealed plans for its first-ever ship lengthening, with *Silver Spirit* to be extended by 49-feet (approx 15 metres).

The transformation will take place early next year at the Palermo shipyard of Fincantieri in Italy.

Fincantieri will cut open the midsection of *Silver Spirit* and drop the prebuilt structure into place before attaching it together.

The extended section will house six Silver Suites, 26 Veranda Suites and two Panorama Suites.

Spirit will also undergo upgrades to bring it in line with the brands flagship, *Silver Muse*, including the addition of new dining concepts and refreshed suites and public areas, as well as technical upgrades.



FACE-2-FACE: Roberto Martinoli

CEO Silversea Cruises



1. What motivates you in your career?

Creating wonderful memories for travellers, it is the best job in the world.

2. Most common assumption people make about your job?

That we travel a lot with our beautiful product. Unfortunately we actually spend most of our time in the office.

3. What is the key to building great relationships with travel agents?

Trust and respect. Silversea could not have grown to a fleet of nine ships without the support of the trade, for which we are very grateful.

4. Biggest challenge facing the industry?

For the larger cruise ships, offering differentiated destinations; big ports are getting overcrowded and this will be a great challenge for mass market. At Silversea it is not an issue as we have among the smallest ships in the various categories and we can thus offer destinations no-one else can reach.

5. My next cruise will be?

The Kimberley.

6. Your best fam trip?

A Silversea Cruise in Vietnam and China in Dec.

7. When not working, how do you spend your time?

On my small boat.

Crystalbrook buys into Port Douglas

TOURISM and hospitality group Crystalbrook Collection has purchased The Reef Marina in Port Douglas and announced plans for a further \$100 million investment in the Far North Queensland town.

The company plans to expand the marina facilities and add a 100-room boutique hotel, as well as residences and enhanced retail and dining areas.

"With our plans, we believe we can redefine the Australian marina experience and ensure Port Douglas is an essential-visit location for high-end global travellers," said Crystalbrook owner Ghassan Aboud.

The marina is a key gateway to Great Barrier Reef excursions.



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Silversea webinar

SILVERSEA Expeditions will be running a "Silversea Expeditions - Asia" webinar tomorrow to showcase all that Asia has to offer.

The one-hour session will get started at 8:30am AEST.

To join the webinar, **CLICK HERE** tomorrow.

Europa 2 gets a restyle



HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises has announced *Europa 2* has been successfully upgraded to include a range of improved restaurant and leisure facilities throughout the ship.

Passengers can expect to take advantage of a number of restyled amenities including a rebranded gin bar named Collins, a new-look Belvedere lounge on deck nine, updated spa & sauna technology, and a newly integrated library, among others.

The revamp took place while the vessel was docked in Hamburg

over the last two weeks and reportedly used the resources of 550 external specialists to carry out the upgrades in such a short space of time.

One unique feature of the enhancements is a new *Europa 2* museum, allowing passengers to view pieces that serve to illuminate the history of the ship.

Changes to the Teen's Club have seen the facility relocated from deck seven to deck four, with new features including games consoles, a refurbished lounge area and some graffiti artworks.



P&O Cruises has unveiled the winner of its prestigious Chicken Confidential competition, the search for the world's most mouth-watering chicken burger.

Yvonne Vickers from Sydney emerged triumphant after impressing Australian chef and restaurateur Luke Mangan with her poultry masterpiece.

The winning burger, nicknamed Karaage Kid, included a fusion of wasabi coleslaw and mirin-marinated fried chicken.

The competition was run to celebrate the launch of fast-casual dining option, Luke's, on of *Pacific Explorer*.

For those curious to taste Yvonne's genius, the burger is available at Luke's until 04 Oct.



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**CLIA
UPDATE**

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Hurricane response

THE recent weather-related events in the Caribbean have devastated many of the communities that CLIA Cruise Lines visit.

The impact of these storms is still being tallied and will linger for months to come.

It is encouraging, however, to see how our industry has come together in the wake of these natural disasters.

It is important to recognise the great work that cruise lines are doing to aid in rescue efforts.

From delivering supplies to impacted areas such as the Caribbean Islands and helping evacuate stranded tourists and families, member Cruise Lines are continuing to work with officials to best lend their support.

It is often said that the worst of times brings out the best in people.

Plan a Cruise Month

With a whole month of cruise deals on the horizon, Oct is stacking up to be the perfect time for your clients to plan next year's holiday and nab a bargain.

We've already seen over 1,200 CLIA agents visit the PACM pages, and almost as many visits to the Travel Agent Toolkit.

This year's PACM is set to be biggest and best ever, offering a wide variety of deals across a range of popular cruise holidays from cabin upgrades to discounts and onboard credits, exclusively through CLIA agents.

If you are not yet a CLIA member and would like to take part in PACM, please visit www.cruising.org.au.



CRUISE
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