

Cruise Weekly today

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

Sun Princess refurb

PRINCESS Cruises' *Sun Princess* will homeport in Fremantle, WA, for a short season from Oct this year after the completion of a multi-million dollar refurbishment in Singapore last month.

The itineraries include a maiden eight-night "Coral Coast" voyage which will see the ship return to Exmouth for the first time since 2009.

Updated features on board *Sun Princess* include a renovated Camp Discovery youth centre, an Effy Fine Jewellery Boutique, improved mattresses designed by sleep expert Dr Michael Breus, and a new livery design.

RCI & APT double headers at NTIA

ROYAL Caribbean International continued its winning streak at the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) on Sat, taking out both the Best Cruise Operator – International Deployment and Best Cruise Operator – Domestic Deployment categories, while another major winner was APT.

The win marked the third year running RCI has claimed both categories and the ninth time the company had been named Best Cruise Operator since 2005.

Attending her first NTIA, the cruise line's new Australian and New Zealand vice president and managing director Susan Bonner was on hand to accept the awards, emphasising the win was a "tremendous validation".

"We're in this for the long term...We appreciate our networks and we treat the groups of people we work with with respect," Bonner said.



MEANWHILE, APT continued to dominate the Best River Cruise Operator category, claiming the award for the fourth consecutive year since the category's inception in 2014.

"The whole team is ecstatic," said APT's group md Chris Hall.

"We've managed to maintain our dominance in this award, and

it's so important because it's not many awards that are voted by agents and this one is."

The company also pocketed Best Tour Operator – Domestic for the sixth time since 2012.

The Royal Caribbean team is pictured, with Bonner centre.

For more on the NTIA winners, see page four.

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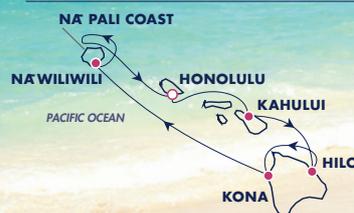
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Tuesday 24th July 2018



Hop onboard Norwegian Bliss with us in the July issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read **travelBulletin**

European river deal

EUROPEAN Waterways is offering up to 20% discounts on select river cruises when bookings are made by 08 Aug.

Among the deals is a 10% saving on select *Anjodi Enchant* cruises in Sep and Oct, with prices starting from €3,465ppts (A\$5,474).

Other cruises on offer include the La Belle Epoque adventure that sails from Burgundy to Paris along the Burgundy Canal with land excursions to the battle site of Alesia in France, private Champagne tastings at the boutique Maison Alexandre Bonnet, and a trip to the Abbey of Fontenay.

For further information on the deals **CLICK HERE**.

Celebrity reaches Apex



THE first piece of steel has been cut on Celebrity Cruises' newest ship, *Celebrity Apex*, the second vessel in the company's Edge series following *Celebrity Edge*.

The official ceremony was held at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire France, with Celebrity's president and ceo Lisa Lutoff-Perlo in attendance.

"With *Celebrity Apex* we will yet again show how we are taking our brand to the next level...we are offering our guests the best way to experience the world in modern luxury style," she said.

"Welcoming *Apex* into our family

with the leadership team was a very special moment, especially when we all signed the ship silhouette cut from the first piece of steel," she added.

Celebrity Apex is scheduled to make her debut in 2020, with the third and fourth Edge series ships due to arrive in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

Pictured: Celebrity's president and chief executive officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo (**centre**) with Royal Caribbean Cruises chairman and chief executive officer Richard Fain (**left**) at the steel cutting ceremony in France.

MSC gets creative

MSC Cruises has introduced new workshops across its fleet that are designed to help families create better shareable online content.

The cruise line offers instructional videos hosted by YouTube influencer Luciano Spinelli who provides tips and tricks to passengers wanting to polish their Instagram skills.

"We know how important it is for families to capture the perfect shots and videos of their special moments together on holiday," said MSC Cruises' youth activities manager Matteo Mancini.

Social media workshops are the latest instalment in MSC's family entertainment program.

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Princess adds two new LNG ships

PRINCESS Cruises has signed an agreement with Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri to build two new primarily Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) ships, marking the first time the cruise line will operate dual-fuel-powered vessels.

Each ship will be 175,000 gross tonnes and be able to accommodate 4,300 passengers, with further design details to be released at a later date.

“This revolutionary platform for next-generation, LNG-powered cruise ships will introduce innovative design and leisure experiences driven by the future vacation and lifestyle trends of our guests,” said Princess Cruises president Jan Swartz.

“As we further evolve the already best-in-class Princess Cruises experience we deliver today...we look forward to collaborating with Fincantieri



to bring our vision for this next-generation premium cruise ship into service,” she added.

The newbuilds are anticipated to be delivered in 2023 and 2025 respectively, and add to a healthy pipeline of ships already under construction.

“Princess now has five ships arriving over the next six years

between 2019 & 2025,” said Princess Cruises senior vice president, Asia Pacific commercial & operations, Stuart Allison.

“This comes just two months before our newest ship, *Majestic Princess*, makes her inaugural visit to Australia,” he added.

Pictured: The Royal class *Majestic Princess*.

NCL itinerary refresh

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has revealed changes to its 2019 and 2020 itineraries.

Following its recent refurbishment, *Norwegian Jewel* will return to Australia/New Zealand, Asia and the South Pacific for a third year of seasonal cruises in summer 2019/2020.

Port highlights include Honolulu, Papeete, Sydney, Auckland, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo (Yokohama).

In addition, the 2,400 passenger *Norwegian Jade* will offer a season of sailings throughout southeast Asia departing from Singapore and Hong Kong in the northern winter 2019/2020.

The deployment of *Norwegian Jewel* and *Jade* to the region is aimed to take advantage of a growing cruise demand in Australia.

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Evergreen Mekong

EVERGREEN Cruises and Tours will introduce its first Star-Ship on the Mekong River as part of a series of new South East Asia itineraries launching in Sep 2018.

Emerald Harmony boasts 42 staterooms and suites, with four lead-in Emerald Staterooms, 32 Emerald Panorama Balcony Suites, four Grand Balcony Suites and two Owner's Suites, each with a terrace and hot tub.

Other onboard features include a pool, restaurant, and themed bar and lounge.

The new itineraries available from Sep include the 13-day Majestic Mekong Discoverer Cruise, the 17-day Treasures & Temples of Vietnam and Cambodia, and the 21-day Grand Tour of Vietnam and Cambodia tour.

Bicton Travel cruises in

THE accolades kept coming at the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) last Sat, with big gongs handed out to a range of travel companies Australia-wide.

Best Wholesaler - International Product this year went to Adventure World, with DBT Travel picking up the award for Best Travel Agency - Corporate.

Family-run, Adelaide-based Phil Hoffmann Travel pocketed the award for Best Travel Agency Retail - Multiple Location for a record 12th time, while specialists in cruise ship deals and packages in Western Australia Bicton Travel



scooped the coveted People's Choice award for Retail Travel Agency of the Year.

"The fact that this award has been voted on by the public is incredible, it means we're doing something right," said Carole Smethurst, owner and founder of Bicton Travel.

"We have an ultimate respect for the client, and try to match them to the holiday they want. We listen to what they say."

Pictured are: Jasmine Hayter, Byron Horne, Carole Smethurst, Phil Smethurst and Fiona Armaro from Bicton Travel at the NTIAs.

Kiwi cruise surge

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia today released its *New Zealand Source Market Report*, which indicated a record 98,000 Kiwis sailed on cruise holidays in 2017, outpacing the percentage growth experienced by the cruise sector in Australia during the same period.

The report's figures showed an 8.7% spike in NZ passenger numbers last year when compared to the previous 12 months, while Australia only managed a 4.4% increase.

The most popular cruise destinations for New Zealanders in 2017 included the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia.

Aussie cruises witnessed the largest upswing for Kiwis, up by 112% on the 2016 numbers.

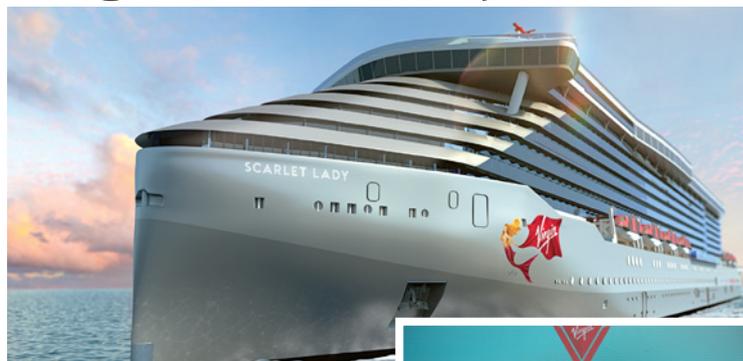


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VIRGIN Voyages has revealed the name of its first ship will be *Scarlet Lady*, a handle paying homage to one of Virgin Atlantic's first planes.

The company made the announcement while attending the official flooding of the ship's drydock at the Fincantieri shipyard in Genoa, Italy.

Scheduled to set sail from Port Miami around the Caribbean in 2020, the 2,700 passenger adult-only vessel will boast a range of on board health and fitness amenities including an outdoor boxing ring, gymnastics equipment, a hydrotherapy pool, a mud room, yoga spaces, as well as bike and balance rooms.

Virgin Voyages says the cruise ship aims to provide a dose of "Vitamin Sea" and according to the company's president and ceo

Tom McAlpin, "sailors will come back feeling rejuvenated, not like they need a holiday from their holiday."

Scarlet Lady will be designed with ample outward looking spaces including The Crow's Nest featuring a 360-degree view.

The cruise brand also revealed it will seek to champion socially responsible causes such as single-use plastic bans and a female empowerment management initiative called the "Scarlet Squad" program.

Pictured: A rendering of the *Scarlet Lady* and (inset) Richard Branson in Genoa, Italy.

CLIA head resigns

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) announced last week that its president and chief executive Cindy D'Aoust will be stepping down at the end of the year to focus on family priorities.

She will remain in her role to help find a successor and also oversee the transition to a new leader.

"CLIA has been fortunate to have Cindy at the helm for the last two years but we respect her decision to focus on her family and wish her all the best," said CLIA global chair and ceo Arnold Donald.

CLIA Australasia confirmed to **Cruise Weekly** that despite news of the resignation, D'Aoust will be going ahead with her keynote address at this year's Cruise360 conference at the Hyatt Regency in Sydney on 31 Aug.

Carnival gets behind Oprah scholarship

CARNIVAL Corporation has donated US\$10,000 to the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation to help support university scholarships for graduates of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa.

The cruise line made the announcement during its participation in the Centenary Delegation to the country to mark the 100th birthday of former South African President Nelson Mandela.

"I am truly honoured to present the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls with this donation," said Carnival Corporation's chief procurement officer Julia Brown (pictured right).

"But more importantly, to have the opportunity to meet the intelligent and determined young women at the school that are so focused on their education," she added.



Euro golfing cruise

EXPERIENTIAL luxury tour company Latitude 33 has partnered with Azamara Club Cruises to launch a 20-night golfing cruise tour of Ireland and Scotland.

The trip commences with four nights at the Trump Turnberry golf resort in Scotland before boarding a 12-night Azamara cruise from Edinburgh and exploring Scotland and Ireland.

Stops include some of the region's most famous golf courses including Royal Troon, Portstewart, KClub, Southport and Ainsdale.

For further info **CLICK HERE**.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	24 Jul
BRISBANE	<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	28 Jul
CAIRNS	<i>Pacific Aria</i>	26 Jul
	<i>Pacific Aria</i>	27 Jul
	<i>Pacific Eden</i>	28 Jul
DARWIN	<i>Pacific Aria</i>	26 Jul
	<i>Silver Discoverer</i>	29 Jul
AUCKLAND	<i>Pacific Jewel</i>	24 Jul



FOR those who feel property prices in Australia are making it close to impossible to enter the housing market, chin up because perhaps it's not such a bad thing to feel all at sea about the issue.

American man Drew O'Neill lives on an abandoned WW2 supply boat docked off Alaska's south coast crammed with books and artwork, and believes there's "something romantic about being on here".

Whatever floats your boat!