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P&O Cruises Australia sells *Pacific Eden* to CMV

P&O Cruises has sold *Pacific Eden* to CMV Travel & Leisure Group to make way for the addition of *Golden Princess* to the cruise brand in 2020.

Pacific Eden (pictured) will become Cruise & Maritime Voyages' sixth ship in early Apr 2019 with delivery in Singapore following a livery change, re-brand & some preparatory works.

The ship will be dedicated to both the German and Australasian cruise markets and following her refresh, will head to Northern Europe via the Suez on its inaugural voyage.

During the May-Oct northern summer season, the ship will operate under CMV's German brand, TransOcean Kreuzfahrten, homeporting from both Bremerhaven and Kiel.

Between Dec-Mar, she will return to Australian waters to homeport from Fremantle (Perth)

and Adelaide, offering more traditional scenic cruises.

CMV will also pitch the ship's voyages to its UK, North American and wider global markets.

P&O Cruises Australia and Carnival Australia president Sture Myrmell said the announcement was consistent with comments over the past six months that the P&O Cruises Australia fleet was ready to be refreshed over time.

CMV chairman and ceo Christian Verhounig said "as part of our mid-term growth plans the ship will provide the requirement level of extra capacity needed in Australia and Germany as we continue to grow our international business".

The new owners are running a competition for the trade and its Columbus Club Members to vote for one of four famous explorers for the ship's new identity.

The shortlist includes: Vasco da



Gama, Pytheas, Henry Hudson and Amerigo Vespucci.

Pacific Eden joined P&O's fleet at the end of 2015 and her final voyage with the cruise line will depart on 16 Mar 2019.

Passengers booked on *Eden* departures scheduled for after she will leave the fleet will be contacted over coming weeks.

Affected guests can be rebooked on an equivalent or near equivalent cruise on other P&O

ships or receive a refund.

Myrmell said the line was working on itineraries for *Golden Princess*, which would go on sale before the end of the year.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Dream Cruises**.

SAIL AWAY WITH NCL LEGENDS

Norwegian Cruise Line Travel Agent Famil

Norwegian Cruise Line is excited to launch a new Top Achievers Incentive Program for Travel Agents, NCL Legends. In 2018, Norwegian will be giving 25 lucky retail travel consultants the opportunity to experience a 7 day Tasmania cruise onboard the newly refurbished Norwegian Jewel, departing Sydney on 13 December 2018.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

Thursday 8th March 2018

Viking orders six ships



VIKING Cruises has inked an agreement with shipbuilder Fincantieri for an additional six ocean ships for delivery by 2027.

The move brings the company's total ocean ship order and options to 16 - a record high for a shipyard from a single owner.

The six additional vessels will be delivered in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 and the deal is subject to specific conditions.

Viking chair Torstein Hagen said when the line launched its first ocean ship in 2015, the company set out to reinvent ocean cruising.

"We focus on the destination, and we do not cram our ships with gimmicks and waterslides," he said.

"Our understated, elegant, award-winning ships are designed to simply enable our guests to better explore their destination."

Hagen said the order reflected the positive response received from guests and the industry.

Viking Cruises is known for its bullish approach to fleet expansion, having smashed the Guinness World Record for the most ships inaugurated in one day by one company with 16

Viking Longships in 2014.

Viking has not yet revealed details on the vessels in the latest order, but its current fleet of ocean ships are identical sister ships, which are 47,800 tonnes and have capacity for 930 guests.

The announcement was made just prior to the naming of Viking's fourth ocean ship, *Viking Sun* (pictured in Sydney), which was christened today in Shanghai.

Sun called into Shanghai as part of its 141-day World Cruise from Miami to London.

The visit marked the first time a Viking Cruises ship has called into China and the first cruise ship named in Shanghai.

CLIA LIVE events

CLIA is bringing CLIA LIVE events to Sydney and Auckland this autumn, following their success in Europe.

Hosted by CLIA Australasia, each event will run over two days and aims to provide CLIA accredited agents the latest from local and international cruise operators.

The Sydney event will be held 18-19 Apr - [CLICK HERE](#).

Unpack all of Carnival Australia's recent announcements in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Two more for Ponant



PONANT has set course for a fleet of 12 ships by 2021, with an order for two additions in its Ponant Explorer series.

To be called *Le Bellet* and *Le Surville*, the vessels are scheduled for delivery in the first & second quarter of 2020.

They will be built by Vard, part of Fincantieri Group, the same shipyard as the four previously announced Ponant Explorer ships.

The additions will be twins to the previously ordered Explorer vessels and will offer 92 staterooms and suites, each

with a balcony.

They will be 131m long, about 10,000 gross tonnes, adopt the latest environmental protection technologies and will comply with the international Cleanship label.

The six Ponant Explorer ships will feature a "Blue Eye" underwater lounge (*CW* 01 Jun), featuring two large portholes looking on to the sea bed, underwater lighting and hydrophones integrated into the keel to transit the sounds.

A render of the Explorer fleet is **pictured**.

Elaine Paige named *Ovation* godmother

ACTRESS, singer, producer and presenter Elaine Paige has been named godmother of Seabourn's new ship *Seabourn Ovation*.

Paige will preside over *Seabourn Ovation's* naming ceremony on 11 May which promises to "light up" the UNESCO World Heritage city of Valletta, Malta.

"Elaine's talents are boundless and, like Seabourn, the world is her stage and she is constantly seeking out new adventures," Seabourn pres Richard Meadows said.



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CRUISE

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Thursday 8th March 2018

Aurora expands

AURORA Expeditions has appointed two new sales-focussed directors.

Craig Upshall has been named sales director UK and Europe and Edith Beaudoin as sales director North America.



SHIPYARD Group MV Werften will offer its guests the chance to stay in a cruise ship cabin, without leaving land.

The company has broken ground on an accommodation facility to be made up of rooms fabricated in its own cabin production facility in Wismar.

Oliver Behrendt, md of the MVW Alter Holzhafen Behrbergungsstatte said the centre will combine conventional construction and shipbuilding technologies.

"Guests are thus able to spend the night enjoying the atmosphere of a cruise ship," Behrendt explained.

The 104-room facility is set to open by the northern 2018/19 winter and is intended to house subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, & shipyard guests.

Carnival & PBPL defend

CARNIVAL Australia and the Port of Brisbane have defended their proposed deal for a new Brisbane cruise terminal (**CW** 02 Nov) in a response to the ACCC's request for more information.

The submission has recently been made public but was put forward before the ACCC proposed to grant conditional authorisation and voiced concerns over elements of the deal.

The consumer watchdog said it had concerns over Carnival's proposed four days of preferential access per week and a right of first refusal over a possible future second berth at the terminal (**CW** 01 Mar).

The submission argued the priority rights of Carnival would not lessen the procompetitive effects of the proposed development, as currently many Carnival competitors have ships

Evergreen 2019

EVERGREEN Cruises and Tours has released its 2019 Europe program, revealing it will offer sailings on Croatia's Dalmatian Coast on the new 36-passenger *MV Adriatic Princess II*.

too large to call at Brisbane's current Portside terminal.

"Carnival is actually enabling its cruise competitors to have access to the Brisbane pax market on their larger ships and furthermore is securing certainty of access to Brisbane for all cruise lines into the future, on cruise ships big and small," the submission said.

The duo said without Carnival's right of refusal for a take or pay agreement for a potential second berth, other operators could reap the benefits of reduced costs of that second berth, taking "undue advantage of Carnival's significant commitment".

Carnival also said it would not agree to pay a higher access charge or accept fewer berthing days for its financial commitment as doing so would ultimately make cruise costs associated with the new facility "uncompetitive".

Endeavor peek

CRYSTAL Cruises has revealed a "first look" at its expedition newbuild *Crystal Endeavor*, which will begin sailing in 2020.

The ship will feature restaurants and public spaces similar to what are on board Crystal's ocean ships, along with new spots.

U by Uniworld age

U BY Uniworld has removed its 21-45 age restriction and opened its departures to all adult travellers.

MD Fiona Dalton told **CW** the move was in response to demand from consumers and that "nothing about the experience is changing, it's still a fresh new river experience".

CLIA
UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Global Cruising Grows

I'M WRITING this week's column from the Seatrade Global Cruise Conference in Fort Lauderdale where on Tue Cindy D'Aoust, CLIA global ceo reported that with more than 25 newbuilds entering the market in 2018, CLIA is forecasting more than 27m cruise pax this year.

In the annual State of the Industry panel that followed, Arnold Donald, president of Carnival Corp, Frank del Rio, chairman of NCLH, Richard Fain, chairman of Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited, and Pierfrancesco Vago, chairman of MSC Cruises, agreed that our industry is stronger than ever, with strong demand and high yields.

The panel explained that our industry is good at expanding multiple source markets globally, and whilst the boomers are still the largest group cruising, we are also seeing significant growth of millennials, "creating a double dose of demand".

Asked what keeps the leaders up at night, they highlighted the huge number of crew they need to recruit, train and retain to support the pipeline of new ships, the 24/7 nature of the industry, & geopolitical events out of their control.

The panel were unanimously bullish about the long-term growth of our industry, attributable in part to the industry's success in offering differentiated product, and a strong focus on creating personalised travel experiences for our passengers.



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