CRUISE WEEKLY



www.cruiseweekly.com.au Monday 12th November 2018

Cruise Weekly today

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

Jewel is polished

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has completed the refurbishment of its 2,376-passenger *Norwegian Jewel* following a two-week dry dock in Singapore.

The refresh involved upgrades to entertainment venues, staterooms, restaurants and recreation areas, with the ship due to debut its new look in Sydney when she arrives for the Aussie cruise season in Dec.

"Norwegian Jewel's complete renovation showcases our dedication to providing guests with quality experiences," said NCL President and Chief Executive Officer Andy Stuart.

Celebrity releases 2020/21 program

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced the details of its 2020-21 program which features more than 280 ports in 77 countries. Asian itineraries revealed in

the collection include a 15-night sailing from Dubai and Singapore aboard *Celebrity Constellation*, taking passengers on visits to Mumbai in India and Penang in Malaysia.

Celebrity Millennium will once again service Asia in 2020/21, this time adding Ishigaki as a new port of call, a small city famous for its crystal waters and beaches.

Other highlights of the *Millennium's* itinerary include stops at Vietnam's capital Hanoi and an overnight stay in Japan's bustling hub of Osaka.

Celebrity also announced that Celebrity Silhouette will sail to South America for the first time, making 30 cities across nine countries available to visit.



Among the new ports to be added was Salvador, Brazil (**pictured**), home to many examples of Portuguese colonial architecture and historical monuments.

A new Peruvian Explorer package has also been launched, offering travellers land excursions to some of the most iconic attractions in the country such as Machu Picchu and the Amazon.

The latest program launch has introduced more new cities and overnight stays than previous collections, and follows a US\$500 million modernisation program for its fleet (*CW* 19 Jul 18).



Take all 5: Offer valid on selected sailings until 13 November unless extended. Offer is applicable to Oceanview, Balcony and Mini-suite categories only. Sail Away Categories (OX, BX and MX) are not applicable for this offer. Shore excursion credit is US\$50 per port per stateroom. US\$2,700 value is based on all 5 offers. Value is per stateroom. Visit ncl.com.au for full terms and conditions.

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MS Richard With reborn



HURTIGRUTEN'S custom built polar vessel *MS Richard With* entered a drydock in Norway's Fosen Yard last week to receive a comprehensive upgrade of its cabins, suites and guest areas.

Specific vessel enhancements will include large deck-to-ceiling windows fitted in the main Torget restaurant, The Brygga bistro will be replaced by a larger arcade, enhancements to the gymnasium and sauna, and two new lecture halls will be added on deck 4.

"We are thrilled to give the ship, named after our founder, a standard Richard himself would be proud of," said Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam.

"What we are doing will add a new dimension to the expression 'total makeover'," he added.

The move marks Hurtigruten's single largest upgrade project in



its history, and also signals the beginning of a refurbishment plan that will see new green LNG (liquefied natural gas) engines added to six of its ships.

"Hurtigruten is strongly committed to being the frontrunner in green change," Skjeldam said.

The cruise line recently ordered a third hybrid powered expedition cruise ship and now operates a fleet of 17 custom built expedition ships.

Pictured: *MS Richard With* & **inset** a renovated suite rendering.



Choose Well.

Glamping for Galapagos



CELEBRITY Cruises is introducing a new luxury camping experience on the top deck of its Galapagos Islands specialist vessel *Celebrity Flora*.

The new offering allows passengers to dine and sleep in a luxurious cabana (**pictured**) fitted with double beds.

"Our new Galapagos glamping experience gives guests an incredible opportunity to experience the destination the ship was built for, on a whole new level, under the millions of stars above," said Celebrity Cruises CEO Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

Celebrity Flora begins her inaugural season 26 May 2019 where she will sail alternating 10- and 11-night tours of the Galapagos throughout 2019 and 2020.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.





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Windstar Caribbean

WINDSTAR Cruises has announced its 2019/20 Caribbean and Latin America program will feature new port visits in Mexico, Honduras, Grand Cayman, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

The latest collection will boast 52 departure dates ranging from seven to 56 days, with the program shifting the focus to "less-visited tropical ports" and "unusual holiday experiences".

New trips include the twomonth Star Collector: Grand Caribbean Adventure cruise exploring the Caribbean's Greater and Lesser Antilles and Latin America destinations.

"No other cruise line has ever offered such an expansive sailing in this part of the world," said Windstar President John Delaney.

"Our open bridge policy, free water sports marina and signature beach barbecues will ensure our guests experience the very best," he added.

CLIA plays it safe

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has signed a partnership with government advisory Smartraveller to develop a new e-learning module that helps educate agents about important safety advice.

The new online tool covers important information on passports, insurance, and cruise healthcare.

"With cruises traversing every continent and reaching every corner of the world, this partnership with Smartraveller comes at a crucial time," said CLIA Australasia and Asia Managing Director Joel Katz.

"Knowing how to navigate Smartraveller...will ensure that agents are in the best position to advise their clients".

CLIA member agents can access the new module via CLIA's Learning Academy.

Viking's raid on top place



VIKING River Cruises has emerged as the favourite river cruise line of Australian travel agents, beating other high-profile operators to take top place in Cruise Weekly's annual industry survey for 2018.

Viking was chosen as favourite by 11% of travel agents who regularly sell the line, ahead of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection (10%), Avalon Waterways (9%), and Travelmarvel (5%).

As well as ranking top ocean cruise lines (CW Wed), respondents in this year's survey gave their views on each of the major river cruise operators in areas including sales support, training and call centre service. APT was the most commonly

booked river cruise product, sold by 65% of agents, followed by Scenic (60%), Travelmarvel (43%), Viking River Cruises (40%) and Avalon Waterways (39%).

While APT and Scenic have held the top-selling positions for several years, Viking's ranking has risen rapidly from seventh place in 2016 to fourth place in 2018.

Agents named Scenic as the line customers most often asked for by name, followed by APT, Travelmarvel, Viking and Evergreen/Emerald Waterways.

Tauck was ranked best for competitive commissions, Scenic was chosen for best call centre service and U by Uniworld was named for best training.

For a copy of the survey email research@traveldaily.com.au.



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Cruise Weekly

CELEBRITY CRUISES' TOOLS OF THE TRADE



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Carnival promotion

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced a 72-hour sale offering discounts on twin and quad cabins starting from \$72 per person, per day on twin share interior cabins. For more info **CLICK HERE**.



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Spirits sky high after visit



A GROUP of fortunate agents recently had the chance to inspect APT's *Caledonian Sky* expedition ship when it made a brief stop in Newcastle on its way from the Kimberley coast to New Zealand.

The agents toured around the ship's best features such as its spacious rooms, sun decks, and panoramic lounge areas.

The inspection crew (**pictured**) included: Garry O'Day, Holiday World Salamander Bay; APT's Expedition Guide Colin; Vicki Disselkoen, Travel Associates Toronto; Melanie Hogg, APT; Kerri O'Sullivan, Travel Partners Newcastle; Lisa Gair, APT NSW State Manager; Kate Arnold, APT; Jake Hodges, Flight Centre Cardiff; Nicole Adams, Helloworld Travel Belmont; Alisha Wood, Helloworld Travel Jesmond; Nicholas Dann, Cruise Travel Centre Kotara; and Karen Jarvie, Helloworld Travel Charlestown.

Kneeling: Michelle Barker, Jayes Travel; and Madeleine Dann, Cruise Travel Centre Green Hills.

OOE embraces cooler scientific approach

ONE Ocean Expeditions (OOE) has launched its latest Antarctic cruise season with select voyages featuring renowned scientists and oceanographic researchers on board.

Scientist Dr Ari Friedlaender from the California Ocean Alliance is back on deck for the 2018/19 season, while Antarctica wildlife expert Ron Naveen also joins the crew.

For more information on the Antarctic voyages, CLICK HERE.



Seadream Cuba

FOLLOWING strong sales for its first Cuba itineraries in 2019, Seadream Yacht Club has announced a second set of sailings to the Caribbean nation in 2020.

Seven new trips have been added between Feb and Mar and will lead in at US\$5,689 per person twin share.

Highlights of the latest Cuba tours include the city of Cienfuegos dubbed "The Pearl of the South", the town of Trinidad in Central Cuba, the resort island of Cayo Largo, and Isla de Juventud which is home to historic caves that are lined with Indian paintings.

Each cruise will have a passenger to crew ratio of 112 guests per 95-person crew. For further information regarding the 2020 tours call 02 9958 4444.

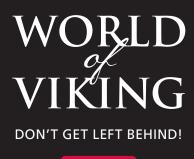
New Chicago ship

ENTERTAINMENT Cruises has recently introduced a new vessel to service its Lake Michigan cruise packages in Chicago.

Odyssey operates architecture and sightseeing tours of the city and is the only ship on Lake Michigan to offer a completely enclosed experience so that it can be climate controlled and run all year around.

For more info, CLICK HERE.





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leed help wading through the huge ariety of cruise options out there?

Check out the 2019 Cruise Guide for a comprehensive tool.

CRUISE Travel Daily travelBulletin



U By Uniworld deals

U BY Uniworld is currently offering significant discounts on select 2019 river cruises as part of its Our Best Offer promotion.

Special cruise prices start from \$2,159 per person and include eight-day sailings on the Rhine and Danube.

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY Radiance of the Seas Pacific Eden Ovation of the Seas Explorer of the Seas Majestic Princess	13 Nov 13 Nov 14 Nov 16 Nov 18 Nov
MELBOURNE Carnival Legend	13 Nov
BRISBANE Pacific Dawn Pacific Aria Pacific Dawn Sun Princess	13 Nov 16 Nov 17 Nov 18 Nov
CAIRNS Pacific Aria Sun Princess Coral Discoverer	12 Nov 13 Nov 17 Nov
DARWIN Amsterdam	18 Nov
HOBART <i>Noordam</i>	18 Nov
AUCKLAND Majestic Princess Golden Princess	14 Nov 17 Nov

Virgin finds way to pax' heart



VIRGIN Voyages has revealed what life will be like for foodies on board its first ship Scarlet Lady, releasing renders of several of its eateries. Steak and seafood will be on the menu at Wake (**top**), a restaurant that offers views of the vessel's wake while serving



up a range of fine wine options. The bold Razzle Dazzle (above) offers up a pastiche of menu options in an artistic eclectic mix of meat, vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Geonbar (**left**) is Virgin Voyages' Korean BBQ restaurant, providing floor-toceiling views and soju shots.



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Scottish art cruises

UK-BASED small ship cruise line St Hilda Sea Adventures has launched a new range of wildlife and art cruises in 2019.

The trips will take place aboard *Seahorse II* and explore remote Scottish islands and lochs, accompanied by wildlife experts and artists.



MOST cruise passengers will tell you the appeal of cruising to the poles rests largely in the regions' amazing wildlife and austere beauty, but very few would suggest it was because of a love of geometric shapes.

But that could well be a new drawcard for those in search of more unusual cruise destinations, with NASA recently spotting a giant rectangular ice shelf the size of Brunei in the Antarctic peninsula on satellite.

The unusually crisp cut iceberg not only has edges that are extremely straight, but also has two corners that appeared to be squared off at right angles.

Antarctica just keeps surprising people with its natural landscapes, you just can't keep that place in a box, can you.



CRUISE

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Pusiness events news

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