

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **Tauck**.

Azamara up thrills

AZAMARA Club Cruises has partnered with custom entertainment company RWS Entertainment Group to bring "Broadway-caliber" shows to its fleet of ships.

The tailored entertainment program will feature nine shows and follows a successful collaboration which saw the launch of 54 Below at Sea.

"Working with RWS again to launch our new Signature entertainment was an easy decision," said Azamara Club Cruises Director of Onboard Cruise Sales, Marketing & Entertainment Signe Bjorndal. Auditions start in NYC today.

Double the width AmaMagna arrives

APT, in partnership with AmaWaterways, has announced the delivery of its new European rivership *AmaMagna* which is scheduled to debut on the Danube in May 2019.

Separating herself from competitors by boasting nearly twice the width of traditional European river ships, *AmaMagna* caters to a maximum of 196 guests and features larger than normal suites - most equipped with step-out balconies.

The wide vessel was specifically designed to sail the Danube, Europe's second largest river that connects the shores of 10 countries from Germany to Romania, with the river's larger than normal locks allowing the uniquely designed ship to traverse its waters.

Key amenities on board the ship include five bars, four dining venues (the Main Restaurant,



Chef's Table, Jimmy's Wine Bar Restaurant and the Al Fresco Restaurant), two massage rooms, a pop-up elevator to the Sun Deck, & a water sports platform.

For the active guest, the ship also features a walking track and large heated pool on its expansive sun deck, while a rooftop bar, sun lounges and al fresco restaurant

also provide open spaces to relax.

Prices for a cruise on the *AmaMagna* start from \$11,995ppts, with bookings made before 30 Apr 2019 eligible for a Fly for \$495 Superdeal offer.

For further booking information call 1300 196 420.

To view a 3D animation of the *AmaMagna*, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Industry gears up for CLIAs

Entertainment boost

CARNIVAL Corporation has announced it has signed a range of new partnerships with well-known entertainment names to deliver “innovative and engaging entertainment” across its brands.

The first-ever indoor trampoline park and challenge zone at sea will feature on board *Carnival Panorama* thanks to Sky Zone, while Princess Cruises is celebrating four years of partnership with Discovery Inc, offering “immersive” Discovery at SEA experiences on its ships.

Peppa Pig fans will also enjoy Costa Cruises’ character-themed fun on board its Italian cruises, featuring colouring, puzzles, treasure hunts and workshops.

“Bringing special partnerships and popular entertainment experiences to the sea is another way our brands continue to surprise and delight our guests,” said Carnival’s Chief Comms Officer Roger Frizzell.

Celebrity pirouettes

CELEBRITY Cruises has partnered with the iconic American Ballet Theatre to offer a range of new onboard entertainment experiences.

The tie-up will provide passengers the opportunity to enjoy exclusive ballet performances on select ships, including the option to join the dancers for intimate seminars and ballet barre classes.

“We are always looking for new ways to open up the world...I cannot think of better partners than American Ballet Theatre, who will bring the best classical dance experience on board,” said Celebrity Cruises Senior Vice President Hotel Operations Brian Abel.

Celebrity has also revealed a new partnership with Michelin-starred Chef Daniel Boulud to be its Global Culinary Brand Ambassador.



THE Australasian cruise industry’s night of nights is set to attract its biggest ever turnout this weekend, with more than 500 people expected to join the 18th annual Cruise Industry Awards on Sat 23 Feb.

Hosted by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia, the gala dinner and awards evening will celebrate the top performers of the Australian and New Zealand travel trade.

“We’re now at the peak of the Australasian summer cruise season and the level of activity around our ports and harbours

reflects the prosperity of our industry,” said CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz.

“It’s also a sign of the dedication of our travel agent partners, so this week’s event will provide an opportunity to acknowledge their support and honour the big achievers in cruising,” he added.

A total of 71 finalists from across Australia and New Zealand will be in the running to win the 18 accolades to be handed out on the night hosted at the Star Event Centre in Sydney.

Follow the hashtag #TheCLIAs to keep up to date with results.

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A great start in Hobart



CUNARD'S *Queen Elizabeth* made her maiden call to Hobart last week, marking the commencement of a record season of visits to the Apple Isle.

Over the next five weeks, the 2081-passenger ship will make an unprecedented seven calls to Tasmania, including its inaugural visit to Burnie today and *Queen Elizabeth's* first call to Port Arthur on 07 Mar.

Speaking in Hobart last week, Chairman of Carnival Australia Ann Sherry said Cunard would continue to build its presence in Tasmania over the coming summers, injecting more tourist dollars into the state's economy.

"Today alone, *Queen Elizabeth's* 2,000 guests are enjoying a raft of activities here in Hobart from sightseeing and shopping in the city to day trips to Port Arthur

and Richmond – all of which are pumping dollars into the local economy," Sherry said.

"Tasmania benefits not only from guest and crew spending every time one of our ships visits the State, but also from the tonnes of Tasmanian produce we buy for our ships throughout the year...(which) includes about 40 tonnes of salmon, more than 80 tonnes of vegetables and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of delicious Tasmanian cheeses and creams," she added.

Pictured: *Queen Elizabeth*.

Scenic ups savings

SCENIC is offering savings of up to \$3,400 per couple on a 15-day Europe river cruise.

Book with quote code "2019CRUISE" before 28 Feb.

Silversea goes solo

SILVERSEA Cruises has introduced zero single supplement fares on 14 voyages when new bookings are made before 28 Feb.

The offer means passengers travelling solo will incur no fare supplement on select sailings to Australia, Asia, Central and South America.

"These special fares make it easier for solo travellers to discover the advantages offered by our intimate ships," said Silversea Managing Director Australia and New Zealand Adam Armstrong.

Eligible voyages include the 10-day Australia's Kimberley Coast cruise, the 12-day Malaysia and Myanmar sailing, an 11-day expedition of Japan, a 14-day cruise exploring South America and the 14-day Thailand and Vietnam voyage.

The zero percent single supplement promo is subject to availability and only applies to fares for lower suites.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

In further deals, Silversea is offering guests free roundtrip Business class air travel when bookings are made on four of its Arctic voyages by 14 Mar.

All of the sailings take place aboard the 296-passenger *Silver Cloud* and visits a range of remote destinations in Iceland and Norway.

Call 1300 306 872 for more.

Luck of the scientist

PROMINENT Irish scientist Diana Beresford-Kroeger (**pictured**) has joined Adventure Canada's expedition team, signing on to sail with passengers on an upcoming Ireland circumnavigation departing 09 Jun 2019.

The company said she is known for her ability to bridge the gap between complex science and the general public.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.



Virgin ponders Australian launch

BOOKINGS have opened overseas for cruises on board Virgin Voyages' *Scarlet Lady*, however no Australian launch date has yet been revealed.

Cruise Weekly was told by Virgin Voyages' US office that although sales aren't available locally yet, the cruise line is "looking at it in the future".

Scarlet Lady is a boutique-style, mid-sized ship that will set sail from the Port Miami on her inaugural season in 2020.

She will embark on voyages to destinations such as Havana, Cuba and Costa Maya, Mexico.



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Agents at the Chef's Table



AZAMARA Club Cruises recently hosted 25 travel partners for a special Chef's Table experience on board *Azamara Quest* in Mel where they enjoyed a French menu served with matching wines.

The group was looked after by Azamara BDM Belle Osmic and RCL Cruises District Sales

Manager Alexandria Hruncew, who joined the agents in enjoying the luxury culinary experience.

This dining option is available to guests on board *Azamara Quest*, *Journey* and *Pursuit*.

Pictured: The jovial group of travel partners enjoying their night on board *Quest*.

Princess lands trifecta



PRINCESS Cruises has marked three major milestones for its trio of ships all currently under construction.

The hatrick of achievements include the appointment of *Sky Princess'* godmother, a crew member nominated by her peers who presided over the float out of the ship which will enter service in Oct 2019.

Further landmark events announced were the keel laying ceremony for *Enchanted Princess* which launches Jun 2020, and a steel-cutting ceremony for its sixth yet-to-be-named Royal-Class ship debuting in 2022.

"As we continue to grow our fleet with five new ships arriving

by 2025, we're proud to not only celebrate these three major construction milestones in the same day but also to continue to innovate our product with cutting-edge technology and elevated guest experiences," said Princess Cruises Group President Jan Swartz.

Pictured: 2nd Officer and *Sky Princess'* godmother Kerry Ann Wright at the float out ceremony and inset with Jan Swartz.



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Take a peek at the fresh look onboard *Norwegian Jewel*. Read more in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY
Majestic Princess 18 Feb
Pacific Princess 19 Feb
Queen Elizabeth 20 Feb
Celebrity Solstice 20 Feb
Arcadia 21 Feb
Pacific Explorer 21 Feb
Silver Muse 22 Feb
Carnival Spirit 23 Feb
Sun Princess 23 Feb
Noordam 24 Feb

MELBOURNE
Pacific Jewel 18 Feb
Majestic Princess 20 Feb
Noordam 22 Feb
Radiance of the Seas 23 Feb
Pacific Jewel 24 Feb

BRISBANE
Pacific Aria 19 Feb
Pacific Dawn 23 Feb
Arcadia 23 Feb
Sea Princess 24 Feb

CAIRNS
Sea Princess 20 Feb
Pacific Princess 23 Feb

DARWIN
Seven Seas Navigator 22 Feb
Norwegian Jewel 23 Feb

FREMANTLE
Crystal Serenity 20 Feb

ADELAIDE
Astor 18 Feb
Pacific Eden 19 Feb
Pacific Jewel 21 Feb
Celebrity Solstice 24 Feb

HOBART
Coral Discoverer 19 Feb
Noordam 20 Feb
Sun Princess 20 Feb
Celebrity Solstice 22 Feb
Majestic Princess 22 Feb

Experts get to the Ponant



NATIONAL Geographic's Ocean Cruise Expeditions, in partnership with luxury cruise line Ponant, has launched a new range of immersive expeditions across a host of remote destinations.

Each of the expert-led sailings that depart in 2019 and 2020 feature a unique travel itinerary with a National Geographic expert and photographer in tow to provide guided tours and seminars at seas.

Daily itineraries are filled with off-ship adventures enabling guests to embark on activities such as sailing, hiking and diving, as well as on-shore visits to get up close to the flora, fauna and the



cultures of each destination.

Destinations in the program include Antarctica, Northern Australia, The Falkland Islands, & Papua New Guinea (pictured).

The list of experts that will accompany select journeys include: Editor-at-large of *National Geographic Traveler* Annie Fitzsimmons and award-winning photographer Dan Westergren.

For more information on the expeditions, **CLICK HERE**.

Navigator of the Seas cancels first sailing

ROYAL Caribbean has been forced to delay the first sailing of *Navigator of the Seas* following construction delays involved with its current multimillion dollar upgrade.

The cruise line has cancelled its 24 Feb cruise for *Navigator of the Seas*, which would have been the ship's first return trip after a dry-dock renovation.

Poor weather was cited as the primary contributor of the delay, especially when it came to refurbishing the vessel's outer decks.

In Oz with bells on

CUNARD has released a promo video to accompany the announcement that its bell boys are now donning gear by iconic Aussie brand R.M. Williams (**CW** 11 Feb).

The production features cinematography of various Australian locations such as playing cricket at the SCG and walking through the outback.

Watch the full video of the bell boys in action around Australia **HERE**.



THANK you for being my cruise friend, sailing from Miami and back again, your cruise is true, you're a pal and a confidant.

That's right folks, a special *Golden Girls* cruise has been announced and it will depart 24 Feb 2020 bound for Key West and Cozumel, Mexico.

Special treats include a "One Night in St. Olaf" dance curler.

The sitcom hung up its curlers in 1992, but it continues to cultivate a lively fan base thanks to a strong global syndicated presence.

CRUISE WEEKLY

www.cruiseweekly.com.au

Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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