

Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC mid-year sale

MSC Cruises has kicked off its 2020-21 mid-year sale, offering guests the ability to choose from the Caribbean, Mediterranean or Arabian Peninsula, and be rewarded with up to \$600 onboard credit per cabin.

Participating offers include a five-day Mediterranean cruise from Venice to Civitavecchia and an eight-day Caribbean & Antilles voyage.

The offer is valid on selected departures from Nov to Apr, and for bookings made until 30 Sep.

Chimu celebrates 15th with a twang

LATIN America and Polar specialists Chimu Adventures celebrated its 15th anniversary in Sydney last night, bringing together an exclusive group to party, and announcing one upcoming celebrity passenger.

Co-founders Chad Carey and Greg Carter confirmed exclusively to **Cruise Weekly** Australian musician Paul Kelly would be the group's next special guest aboard its charity cruise in 2021.

Sailing to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia on 11 Mar 2021, the Songs of the South journey will bring the rock legend and 450 guests on a 21-day voyage, with a lead-in price of \$17,995 p.p.s.

Carter noted the importance of finding a celebrity participant who fitted with the company's



sustainability ethos.

"[Kelly's] a big advocate for climate change, Carter told **CW**.

"We've worked with a lot of great celebrities over the years: Andrew Denton, Samuel Johnson, Peter FitzSimons; we're looking for the next person who gels with our culture."

Carey also reflected on how the industry and the space in which

Chimu operates had changed over the years.

"It's always been about how we can differentiate ourselves; now we've got hotels, we've got *Endeavour*, our own DMCs managing our packs on the ground, it's completely different."

Pictured is the Chimu team celebrating a decade and a half of success.

Seabourn's new dining experience

SEABOURN has given a glimpse of the eight new dining experiences, including The Restaurant (render **below**), aboard its two new ultra-luxury purpose-built expedition ships: *Seabourn Venture*, set to launch in Jun 2021, and her yet-to-be-named sister ship, due in May 2022.

The Restaurant features fine dining in an elegant, open-seating dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner

and The Colonnade, offering a more casual alternative for buffet or table service breakfast and lunch, as well as themed dinners.

"We're proud of our legacy in the culinary arena, cultivated over more than 30 years by a team intent on producing fresh, delicious and memorable cuisine equal to the finest restaurants anywhere," said Gerald Mosslinger, VP of Hotel Operations for Seabourn.



At Uniworld we believe celebrations are best shared. So in recognition of being voted #1 River Cruise Line in the Travel + Leisure 2019 World's Best Awards, we invite your clients to sail with us on a 2020 all-inclusive luxury river cruise in Europe with three amazing NEW offers to choose from. Hurry, offer ends 16 August.

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CRUISE



Friday 26th July 2019

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Crystal overhaul

CRYSTAL Cruises will enhance the benefits for its Crystal Society members, beginning 01 Sep.

At the core of the upgrade is the points distribution, with ocean, river and yacht voyages of five to 15 nights now earning one 'As You Wish' point, and 15 nights or more two points, while expedition cruise of five to 15 nights earn two points, with 16 nights or more earning four.

While shipboard credits will continue to be offered at the same milestones, members can now both earn and redeem benefits for cruises, and can apply points to fares.

APT's UK barges

APT has launched tailor-made UK barge cruises for 2020 aboard the *Magna Carta*.

Guests can embark on a Royal River Thames cruise from London to Hampton Court for eight days from \$11,595ppts, or a Royal River Thames with London option, London return, from \$13,795ppts.

Both options also include a Fly Free offer of a return Economy airfare per person.

The "floating hotel" accommodates just eight guests in four spacious suites, and sails with a chef on board.

Eclipse's welcome in NY



SCENIC'S vaunted yacht *Scenic Eclipse* (rendering **pictured**) will be formally christened in New York on 10 Sep.

After several delays, the company confirmed the inaugural voyage would take place as planned, departing Reykjavik on 15 Aug bound for Quebec.

Scenic Chairman Glen Moroney, announced Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren as godmother at the ship's christening, after which it will undertake a series of cruises on the East Coast of the US.

"*Scenic Eclipse* is a unique ship that requires an equally unique person to act in this role," Moroney said.

"We are delighted to welcome Helen Mirren as *Scenic Eclipse* godmother - her style, beauty and spirit of adventure are true

to those embodied in the design and ethos of *Scenic Eclipse*."

The ship features 114 all-verandah suites along with 10 dining options, a large spa and gym with a separate yoga studio, plus two six-guest helicopters and one six-passenger submarine.

Scenic also highlighted a range of technology innovations on *Eclipse*, including oversized "zero-speed stabiliser fins," a Polar Class 6 rating, GPS dynamic positioning meaning the ship can remain stationary without an anchor, and redundancies in propulsion, navigation, safety systems and food refrigeration.

The ship has faced numerous delays due to the bankruptcy of the shipyard where it was being built, with the company making all efforts to ensure the ship's delivery (**CW** 13 Feb).

Geraldton upgrade

MORE cruise ships and an upgrade for Geraldton Fishing Boat Harbour is on the way, with Mid West Ports Authority committing to a port maximisation project.

The coastal city will welcome 10 cruise ships to its shores next season, with Ports Authority CEO Rochelle McDonald saying cruise ships offered an exciting opportunity for the region's businesses.

"Cruise ships are the fastest growing tourism industry in the world and Mid West Ports is proud to be able to facilitate cruise ships into Geraldton."

Regent's theatrics

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has today released details of its five new theatre performances to debut aboard *Seven Seas Splendour* upon its launch in Feb 2020.

"These captivating theatrical performances are unrivalled in luxury ocean cruising," said Regent Seven Seas Cruises President and Chief Executive Officer Jason Montague.

"They were created and produced by our team of Broadway choreographers and directors.

"We recruited some of the finest, most talented musicians and performers to deliver unforgettable productions."

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Friday 26th July 2019

Star Clippers' Zen

THERE'S arguably few better spots to find total peace and tranquillity than the middle of the ocean, and Star Clippers agrees.

The cruise line has invited life and self-expression coaches Kori Burkhart & Marcy Clark and yoga teachers Catherine Derrow & Liliana Skinner aboard its vessels for a range of themed sailings.

Two of Star Clippers' highlighted options for its Yoga, Culture & Wellbeing Cruises are a seven-night Roundtrip Phuket aboard *Star Clipper*, sailing from \$1,440 per person, departing 02 Nov, and a nine-night Malta-Malaga adventure aboard *Star Flyer*, from \$2,120 per person, leaving 22 Oct.

Classes on board are free of charge, and other themed cruises are also available for the season.

For full details, and more information on Star Clippers' full list of themed cruises, **CLICK HERE**.

US river discount

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company is offering exclusive Australian savings of up to US\$1,000 per couple on a Pacific Northwest river cruise in the United States in 2020.

The eight-night cruise packages depart from Vancouver aboard *American Empress* and travels along the Columbia River, taking in the scenic gorges and canyons of the region, and ending in Clarkston, Washington, in the state's wine region.

Guests who book by Dec 31 are eligible to receive the offer, which includes a pre-cruise stay, dinner and drinks and shore excursions.

The deal is valid for a range of departures in Mar, Apr, May, Oct and Nov 2020 in selected cabins.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) and the City of Dubrovnik on Wed signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to preserve and protect the cultural heritage of the Croatian town through responsible tourism management, and to establish it as a model of sustainable tourism in the Adriatic and beyond.

The MoU outlined action to be taken immediately, including engaging key stakeholders such as the local community and international organisations through establishing a dedicated working group; collaborating on a destination stewardship

roadmap for the city based on United Nations sustainable tourism criteria; communicating and implementing the previously developed 2020 cruise ship berthing policy; and developing a "Respect the City" visitor education campaign.

The parties are also exploring the possibility of a Dubrovnik World Heritage Visitor Centre and Intermodal Transportation Centre in Gruz Port.

Pictured signing the Memorandum of Understanding is City of Dubrovnik Mayor Mato Frankovic and CLIA President & Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead.

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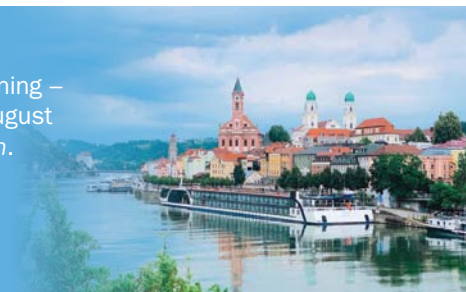
MAJOR PRIZE: 7-night Western Caribbean Princess Cruise, roundtrip from Ft. Lauderdale, in a Balcony stateroom for 2 on Regal Princess + AUD \$5,000 EZair credit.

MINOR PRIZES:
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*Conditions apply, click through for details. Open to AU & NZ res 18+ who are either; (a) employed as a travel agent for a WLCL registered travel agency in AU/NZ & are not a registered member of Princess Academy as at 1/7/19, or (b) the owner or manager of a travel agency eligible for WLCL registration in AU/NZ that is not a registered member of Princess Academy as at 1/7/19. Ends: 11:59pm AEST on 2/8/19. Limit 1 entry per person. Major Prize winner must take prize to coincide with cruise's departure on 1/12/19. Permits: NSW. LTPS/19/34710, ACT. TP19/03357, SA. T19/793

We were on hand at *AmaMagna's* christening – check it out in the August issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Famous women

CELEBRITY Cruises has launched a new video called *Crew Up with Women* to celebrate the cruise line's commitment to gender equality aboard its ships.

The company said that the number of women working on its ships had increased from 3% in 2015 to 22% fleet wide in 2019, with Celebrity Cruises President and CEO Lisa Lutoff-Perlo reinforcing the trend by encouraging parents to "teach your daughters to worry less about fitting into the glass slipper and more about shattering the glass ceiling."

Non-profit, female-focussed production company Pitch Her Productions produced Celebrity's latest video.

Watch the final cut [HERE](#).

Yamashita joins *Dream*



DREAM Cruises has announced that noted National Geographic photographer Michael Yamashita will join guests on board *Explorer Dream* for a 21-night sailing from Shanghai to Sydney.

The collaboration is part of the cruise line's Dreamscapes program, which provides passengers the opportunity to learn from experts in a variety of esoteric fields such as astrophotography, Chinese opera, and pizza acrobatics.

Sailing between 06-27 Oct, the Shanghai to Sydney cruise will see

Yamashita run a series of masterclasses on board called "Explore Through the Lens", with topics covered such as camera basics, essential equipment checks, shoot planning and lighting.

The sailing will also provide the photography backdrops of Shanghai, Hong Kong, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Jakarta, Bali, Darwin, Cairns and Gladstone, in the form of port calls along the way.

Learn more about Yamashita's workshops [HERE](#) and see further details of the cruise [HERE](#).

Low water levels

THE ongoing heat wave in Europe has lowered the water levels in major rivers systems across France, Hungary and Germany – affecting a portion of river cruise itineraries.

Viking Cruises released a statement confirming "some upcoming sailings will be impacted", responding by launching several contingency plans to bypass affected areas.

Water levels in the Danube are "much below normal", according to riverinfo.eu, with The Elbe River, which runs through Germany, also experiencing low levels.

Weather forecasts show that very little rainfall is predicted across much of the European regions affected.

European rivers are no stranger to low water levels in recent times, only last year several river cruise lines were forced to cancel cruises last Oct (*CW* 23 Oct 2018).



MANY believe Richard Branson is a man capable of doing anything, but with Virgin Voyages' *Scarlet Lady* set to debut in 2020, can the sexagenarian create a cruise for people who are disinterested in cruising – such as himself!

Branson has been on the record regarding his disdain for cruising, even mentioning he has never been on a cruise in his 69 years.

He doubled down this week, mentioning in the media he has never even been interested in going on one.

Riviera's Walk and Discover in Europe

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises has launched a new 'Walk and Discover' program of guided walks for active travellers.

Guided by local experts, the tours take up to 20 guests, and follow paths and trails through forests, meadows, vineyards and rivers.

Walks start at \$55 on the eight-day Medieval Germany sailing and the eight-day Blue Danube sailing, and lead in from \$75 aboard the 15-day Heart of Europe cruise.

The small-group walks will be available from Sep.

Mumbai savings

SAVINGS of up to \$1,000 per couple are available on Viking's 30-day Mumbai to Mediterranean Passage sailing when bookings are made by 31 Aug.

The cruise departs 03 Apr 2020 and features visits to 10 countries across four continents, with calls including Jordan, Egypt, Malta, Italy, Algeria, and Spain.

Prices for the voyage lead in at \$12,995 per person for a Veranda stateroom – for more information call 138 747.