

Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruise's big night

THE cruise industry is gearing up to praise its top achievers this Sat, with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia to host the 19th annual Cruise Industry Awards at The Star Sydney.

A total 71 finalists from across Australia and New Zealand have been selected to be in the running to win one of the 18 awards on offer.

"The level of commitment we see among travel agents in Australasia is exceptional and that's one of the key reasons for our industry's strength in this region," said CLIA Australasia MD Joel Katz.

Royal and TUI restructure Hapag-Lloyd

TUI Group has announced it is selling its luxury expedition brand Hapag-Lloyd to its 50:50 joint venture with Royal Caribbean Cruises for US\$1.3 billion, to help facilitate "stronger, faster and capital-light growth".

Hapag-Lloyd will now be incorporated into the TUI Cruises combined enterprise, a partnership established by TUI and Royal Caribbean in 2008, with the transaction expected to be finalised later in the year.

TUI Group CEO Fritz Jousen said the agreement, which was signed in Hamburg last Fri, would allow the company to expedite its expansion plans at "a low level of capital expenditure".

However, Jousen also stressed that the ownership restructure would not compromise Hapag-Lloyd's current brand identity.

"The merger of TUI Cruises and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises under the



Pictured: Hanseatic Inspiration.

umbrella of the joint venture will create a leading European cruise company with a current combined fleet of twelve ships," he said.

"TUI Cruises and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises will continue to operate their successful product concepts in the future...and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises will continue to have an exclusive presence in the luxury and expedition ship segment.

"The ships' identities, service, quality and customer experience will remain as individual and unique as they are today, this will create significant advantages for the group, for our expansion and for our investments," he added.

TUI Group said it would use the funds generated from the deal to strengthen its balance sheet and to drive its transformation into a digital organisation.



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CLIA plays it safe

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) members have strengthened protocols based on advice from health bodies in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

These include denying boarding to pax who have travelled from, or transited via airports in China, including Hong Kong and Macao, within 14 days before embarkation, & anyone who has had contact with a person suspected of having the coronavirus.

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) and MSC Cruises have implemented even tighter regulations, denying pax who have transited through Chinese airports in the 30 days prior to entry, while Royal Caribbean is blocking any person with a Chinese, Hong Kong, or Macao passport until "further notice".

Amy shows us more



THE first details of Cruise & Maritime Voyages' (CMV) inaugural voyage on board *Amy Johnson* have been revealed, with the ship set to depart Singapore on 14 Apr 2021 on a 43-night voyage via the Suez Canal.

Following this, the adults-only vessel is scheduled to homeport in London from 27 May 2021, where she will service 32-night Grand Black Sea & Mediterranean Voyages, visiting destinations

such as Portugal, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, Malta and Gibraltar.

The itinerary will also boast three different ports in the Black Sea, including a maiden call to Constanta in Romania.

Prices for *Amy Johnson's* maiden voyage lead in at \$5,169ppts, while prices for the Mediterranean sailings start from \$4,369ppts.

P&O back to Eden

P&O Cruises has added three more cruise calls to the troubled town of Eden on NSW's far south coast, providing a much needed boost to the town's economy.

Pacific Explorer is scheduled to make three calls on 29 Mar, 10 May and 16 May, collectively adding 6,000 visitors to the region.

The NSW State Member for Bega, Andrew Constance, who has been vocal in his call for more financial support, welcomed the cruise line's decision to add more dates.

"Our region has been rocked to its core and we need people now more than ever to visit," Constance lamented.

"I am grateful for the commitment by P&O Cruises, this will provide an economic injection that many of our local businesses...need."



2021 Polar Luxury Expeditions out now!

DISCOVER ►

Cruise Calendar

The next few port calls
of cruise ships at various
destinations around
Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	10 Feb
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	11 Feb
<i>Viking Sun</i>	11 Feb
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	12 Feb
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	13 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	10 Feb
<i>Golden Princess</i>	12 Feb
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	13 Feb
<i>Silver Muse</i>	13 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Europa</i>	10 Feb
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	10 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	11 Feb
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	11 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	12 Feb
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	12 Feb
<i>Maasdam</i>	13 Feb
CAIRNS	
<i>The World</i>	12 Feb
FREMANTLE	
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	12 Feb
GERALDTON	
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	13 Feb
<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	13 Feb
AUCKLAND	
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	10 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	11 Feb
<i>Sea Princess</i>	12 Feb
<i>Noordam</i>	13 Feb
WELLINGTON	
<i>Noordam</i>	10 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	11 Feb
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	12 Feb
<i>Regatta</i>	13 Feb
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Albatros</i>	10 Feb
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	12 Feb

Reaching for the Moon



GAIA Gaja has been named the godmother of Silversea's upcoming luxury ship *Silver Moon*, with a special naming ceremony set to take place in Trieste, Italy on 05 Aug, 2020.

The manager of the family-owned Gaja winery located in the small Italian town of Barbaresco, Gaja was selected by the line as a result of the company's international reputation as a producer of fine Italian wines.

Silversea has also positioned itself as a culinary-focused cruise brand, a fusion that Gaja believes works well for cruising, stating that "food and drink facilitate profound discovery".

"I feel great pride and honour to have been selected by Silversea Cruises as the godmother of the beautiful *Silver Moon*," she said.

"My own experience with wine-making has taught me that culinary discovery possesses limitless potential; here's to the curious travellers who seek to unlock it," Gaja added.

Silversea's Executive Chairman

Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio said Gaja was a great choice to honour the ship's Italian history.

"Given this culinary focus and *Moon's* proud Italian heritage, I can't think of a better godmother than Gaia Gaja who personifies Italian elegance, innovation and good taste," he said.

The ship's maiden voyage between Trieste and Rome is scheduled to depart 06 Aug.

Nominations open

CRUISE Weekly's sister publication **Travel Daily** has opened up nominations for its second annual Travel & Tourism Sustainability Awards, which will take place on 22 Apr at Doltone House in Sydney.

Categories include Best Sustainable Travel or Tourism Initiative – River or River-Based Cruise Operator.

Entry is free and includes answers to five questions.

Submissions are due by 27 Mar - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Going, Going Gone!

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has introduced discounts on two itineraries as part of its Going, Going Gone promotion.

Sailings on offer include a 10-night South Pacific cruise departing Sydney on 18 Mar and calling at Lifou, Mystery Island, Port Vila, and the Isle of Pines, priced from \$999ppts.

Also available is an 11-night South Pacific & New Zealand voyage leaving Syd on 12 Mar.

Call 1800 754 500 for details.



WELL it might not exactly be cruising per se, but it was certainly a unique way to cross the Cook Strait in NZ.

The idea of converting an old burnt-out van into a boat was credited to "too many beers and dumb ideas", say owners Dan Melling and Adam Turnbull.

And now the unusual crossing, which took place in 2009, is being remembered fondly by staff at the Edwin Fox Museum, where the van nicknamed "roofless" spent many years after her four-wheeled sailing.

The van has since been bought by Turnbull's mum so the museum can display more about *Edwin Fox*, the second oldest surviving merchant sailing ship.

