

# Seatrade

## Cruise Review

December 2018 Quarterly

### BALANCING ACT

China transitioning to build a sustainable future



Magellan Explorer is Antarctica21's first newbuild

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHE DUGUÉ-PONANT



Ocean-view sauna on Ponant's Explorer-class newbuilds

Yacht Expedition Cruises, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, Hurtigruten, Mystic Cruises, Lindblad Expeditions, Oceanwide Expeditions, Ponant, Quark Expeditions, Scenic, Silversea, SunStone Ships and Viking Cruises. These companies are based in Chile, Australia, the US, Germany, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, France, Monaco and Switzerland (Viking).

Operators/charters for some of these ships, year-round or seasonal, include Australia's Aurora Expeditions (Greg Mortimer), Denmark's Albatros Expeditions (Ocean Victory), Germany's Nicko Cruises (World Explorer), the United States' Victory Cruise Lines (Ocean Victory) and Quark Expeditions (World Explorer).

### Luxury players up the game

Formerly characterised by sturdy but utilitarian vessels, some of them converted research vessels or Russian icebreakers, expedition cruising is becoming increasingly upscale. Many of the new ships have well-appointed suites (some with butler service), balconies, multiple restaurants, spas and other niceties.

Crystal Endeavor, for example, will have spacious butler-served suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, king-sized beds, a cabinet to dry and warm parkas and dual-vanity bathrooms with heated floors and rain forest showers – touches that will make it a 'game-changer' for expedition cruising, according to Crystal president and ceo Tom Wolber. Generous public spaces, a full-service spa and salon, six restaurants including Nobu Matsuhisa's Umi Uma, mud rooms for expedition equipment and a helicopter lounge are other amenities.

Scenic Eclipse promises multiple dining venues including a Chef's Table, teppanyaki grill, Italian, Asian fusion, Japanese and French. A cooking emporium and Champagne Bar are some other features. The ship's nearly 5,000sq ft spa will offer indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis and plunge pools. A gym with a separate yoga and Pilates studio are planned, too.

### Polar operations

Lindblad's National Geographic Endurance has a Polar Class 5 rating, giving the ability to operate year-round in medium first-year ice, which may include old ice inclusions, vastly expanding the company's range. 'This means we can explore deeper into the pack ice, or further north to the unexplored reaches of the Arctic – for instance, northern Ellesmere Island, where only a relative handful of people have ever been, or some of the completely off-the-beaten-path Arctic islands that are remote, pristine and teeming with wildlife,' Lindblad says.

Hurtigruten broke out by ordering the first cruise ships with hybrid engines developed by Rolls-Royce that will be able to run on silent, emission-free batteries for short stints in sensitive areas.

Charting a new frontier in cruising, Ponant's Le Commandant Charcot is a luxury icebreaker with an electric hybrid system powered by liquefied natural gas.

It is the first electric hybrid cruise vessel with icebreaker characteristics and dual fuel propulsion, featuring high-capacity batteries and LNG storage on board.

The North Pole, northern Greenland and Antarctica's Ross and Weddell seas will all be accessible on this Polar Class 2 ship.

'You couldn't get to the North Pole before unless you wanted to go on an old Russian icebreaker,' says Edie Rodriguez, Ponant Americas brand chairman and corporate special adviser.

Viking hasn't made a peep about its two expedition newbuilds at Vard, but at a 2017 conference in Norway, a speaker said the company was looking at using liquid hydrogen as a fuel, adding: 'This would be a world sensation.'

### Shipyards

The shipyards are just as diverse as the operators and found across Europe, Asia and South America. They include

ASENAV (Chile), China Merchants Heavy Industries, Brodosplit (Croatia), De Hoop (Netherlands), Fincantieri Vard (Norway/Romania), Fincantieri/Vard Vung Tua (Vietnam), Kleven Verft (Norway), MV Werften (Germany), T. Mariotti/Damen (Italy/Romania), Uljanik (Croatia), Ulstein Verft (Norway) and WestSea Viana (Portugal).

The expedition boom highlights the expertise of builders like Vard that has decades of experience with ice-class ships, president and ceo Roy Reite notes. The good cooperation between its parent company, Fincantieri – which built Ponant's earlier four sister vessels starting with 2010's Le Boréal – and Vard facilitated Ponant's new Explorers series.

In some cases, more than one yard is used. For Ponant's Explorers, the hulls are being built at Vard Tulcea in Romania, while outfitting and delivery is from Vard Søviknes in Norway. And for Seabourn's ships, Italy's T. Mariotti is teaming with Netherlands-based Damen under the Mariotti Damen Cruise banner. Damen will build the hulls in Romania and Mariotti will handle the outfitting.

As for the yards, though, it's not all smooth sailing. Due to financial issues at Uljanik that led to a strike and management shake-up, Scenic Eclipse, originally scheduled for delivery last August, has been delayed twice and is now expected in April. Hurtigruten's owners first took a stake in Ulstein Verft then ultimately acquired the yard to bridge financial problems there. Roald Amundsen's delivery was pushed back from July 2018 to May 2019 and Fridtjof Nansen's from summer 2019 to 2020. Recently, however, a third sister ship was ordered, for 2021 delivery.

World Explorer at WestSea Viana is now coming in April, about six months later than planned, and missed its charter to Quark Expeditions for the 2018/19 Antarctica season.



Some of the 20 under 40 finalists: from left: Michael DeMeo, vp Cruise NYC EDC, New York City Economic Development Corp.; Rebecca Keeler, commercial manager, ABP Southampton; Amaury de Williencourt, country manager, France & Monaco, Intercoastlines Shoreside & Port Services; Barbara Buczek, director of corporate development and operational business, Port of Dover; 20<40 judge Craig Milan, vp itinerary planning and destination development, Virgin Voyages; Brian Whelan, staff captain, Star Princess, Princess Cruises; Mary Bond, editor, Seatrade Cruise News & Seatrade Cruise Review; Neil Palomba, president, Costa Crociere

## In pursuit of young talent

**T**he inaugural Seatrade Cruise News 20 under 40 sponsored by TVG Travel in Iceland, was launched earlier this year. The aim, to find bright talented young people from across the global cruise sector either based ashore or at sea.

A huge thank you goes to judges Craig Milan, vp itinerary planning

and destination development Virgin Voyages and Liz Gammon who recently joined TVG Travel, which targets land programs for small to mid-size cruise ships in Iceland.

Says Mary Bond: 'We had close to 100 entries from across the globe and of the 40 shortlisted they panned out as 15 ladies and 25 gents, 20 from cruise lines, 15 from

ports or port related services and five suppliers. Regionally we had roughly two thirds from Europe and the Americas and one third from Asia/Australasia. We also had two 28 year olds in the top 40 which is a nod to the fact young talent can thrive in the industry and that they have been recognised for their efforts so far.'

'Meet the 20 under 40 for 2018...'

### Barbara Buczek, director of corporate development & operational businesses, Port of Dover



Barbara (aged 35) joined the Port of Dover in 2010 and has since held several senior management positions within corporate affairs and

business development. Barbara is also a member of Women in Maritime Task force established in the UK to address fairness, equality and inclusion within the maritime sector.

### Andrew Carricarte, ceo of Tritan Software Corporation



Tritan has grown to become the most widely adopted provider of health information and incident management software platforms

in the industry supporting over 95% of the world's cruise ships and a rapidly growing presence in the commercial and oil/gas sectors. Andrew (aged 38) and his team have launched industry changing solutions that have positively impacted maritime organisations and millions of seafarers across the world.

### Shiky Chen, director market planning Princess Cruises



After three long years of staring at volumes of tax legislation, Shiky decided it was time for a sea change. Shiky joined Carnival Australia as the

local cruise industry was going through an exciting period of double digit growth.

In the last eight years, she's worked on various projects in the planning, revenue management and deployment planning space.



## A sprinkling of stardust

**C**ystal Serenity, built in 2003, underwent a major conversion during October and November at Lloyd Werft's big Kaiserdock II.

Interior refurbishment was carried out directly by Crystal Cruises and its partner companies whilst the German shipyard was responsible for shipbuilding work and for all the logistical requirements of the entire project.

Alongside routine operational maintenance work, the ship gained 36 new Seabreeze Penthouses and two new Seabreeze Penthouse Suites, reducing Crystal Serenity's capacity from 1,070 to 980 passengers.

Interior additions include The Stardust Supper Club (pictured) combining Crystal's culinary standards and style with the glamorous vibe of a different era.

The Stardust Supper Club can accommodate up to 108 diners per

evening, with reservations available upon embarkation with the shipboard restaurant manager.

Included is a new look for the Stardust Club, a central hub for bridge groups, enrichment speakers and night time dancing and drinks. A new dance floor, lighting, bar finishes and refreshed décor is featured, as well as several enhancements behind the scenes to the overall entertainment experience.

The Crystal entertainment team installed a new Broadway-style production, 'Crystal on Broadway, The Show,' featuring songs from the hit musicals 'Rent,' 'Something Rotten!' and 'West Side Story.'

Open-seating dining debuts aboard Crystal Serenity, and the Crystal Dining Room was transformed into Waterside, with increased seating capacity including more tables for two and four, and new décor and finishes.

Silk Road is rebranded as Umi Uma & Sushi Bar and Tastes is now Silk Kitchen & Bar serving Chinese comfort food; and Lido Café is now The Marketplace in the daytime and Churrascaria, a Brazilian steak house, in the evening. Prego, Crystal's Italian restaurant, will continue to serve regional Italian specialties.

The Computer University@Sea and adjoining classroom, as well as the multipurpose Studio, received new carpeting, seating and equipment, along with 70-inch televisions to enhance the programming of Creative Learning Institute and Crystal Visions Lecture Series.

After conversion, the ship headed to Lisbon from where it started an Atlantic crossing on November 10, bound for the Caribbean.

Last year the yard carried out the extensive refurbishment of 51,040gt Crystal Symphony.