

FROM THE BRIDGE

Venice of the north

Stockholm sparkles
with old-world charm

Enchanted islands

Silversea cruises
the Galápagos

EXCLUSIVE

Dine at Jamie's Italian on
CruiseCo's charter of
Ovation of the Seas



PRESENTED WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF:

STANDING *Ovation*

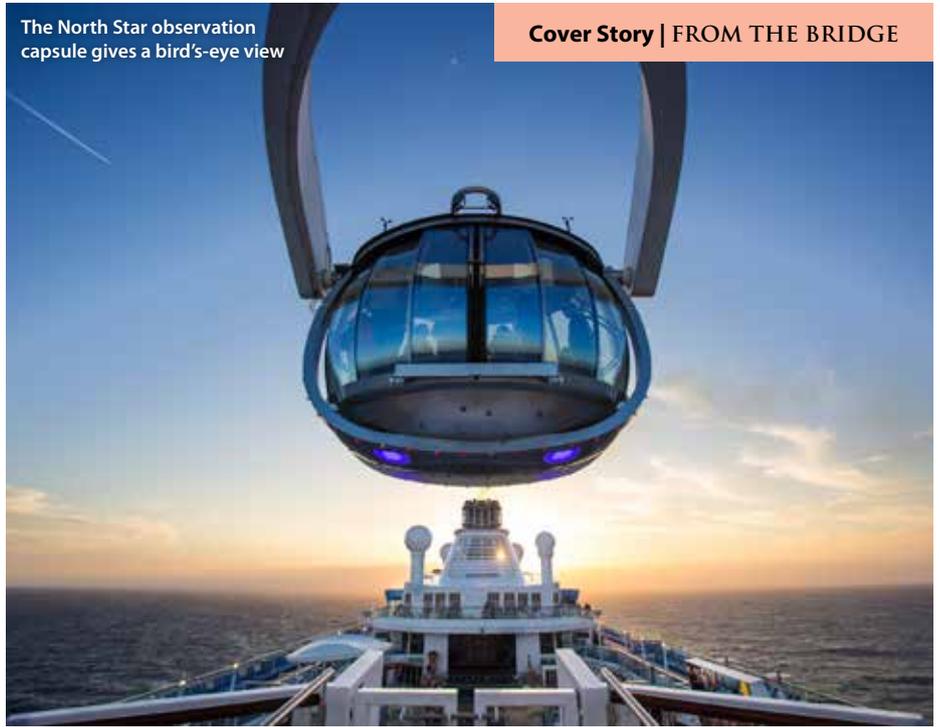
Join CruiseCo's exclusive Singapore-to-Australia cruise
on Royal Caribbean's new megaship, *Ovation of the Seas*.

WORDS: LIANI SOLARI





The North Star observation capsule gives a bird's-eye view



Never ever thought I'd open a restaurant on the high seas," popular British chef Jamie Oliver once said. However, when *Ovation of the Seas* sets sail next year, Jamie's Italian will be the chef's third restaurant on a Royal Caribbean ship. His restaurant is among the 18 dining venues on board, but if you think the range of food choices is unfathomable, that's just the start—*Ovation of the Seas* is among the smartest ships in the world.

CruiseCo is offering you the chance to experience *Ovation of the Seas* on an exclusive charter from Singapore to Sydney, departing November 30, 2016. What's more, you have the flexibility to choose the 15-night sailing to Sydney or a segment to suit.

From Singapore, 6 nights will deliver you to Fremantle, 11 nights will see you in Adelaide, and 13 nights will allow you to disembark in Hobart (where guests can transfer by plane to Melbourne). Whichever segment you choose, you'll be able to explore South-East Asia's shopping mecca of Singapore before embarking on your cruise.

When *Ovation of the Seas* sails through the Heads into Sydney Harbour in December 2016, she will catch her first glimpse of her new homeport. So, if you choose to cruise to Sydney, you'll enjoy a spectacular bird's-eye view of the harbour when you arrive, thanks to the sheer size of the new megaship and its distinctive North Star observation capsule.

In fact, *Ovation of the Seas*—the Quantum Class sister ship of *Quantum of the Seas* and

Anthem of the Seas—will be the largest cruise liner to visit Australia, weighing an impressive 168,666 tons and carrying up to 4180 guests.

While CruiseCo's full-ship charter takes guests on an unforgettable pre-Christmas cruise from Asia to the Antipodes, Royal Caribbean's Quantum Class ships are sailing into the future with high-tech features new to cruising. From the moment you embark, Royal Caribbean's clever innovations are evident. The SMART Check-in system, whereby you upload your >

CRUISE ITINERARY

CruiseCo's exclusive charter of *Ovation of the Seas* departs Singapore on November 30, 2016.

6-night Singapore to Fremantle: Fares start from AU\$979 per person, twin share.

11-night Singapore to Adelaide: Fares start from AU\$1879 per person, twin share.

13-night Singapore to Hobart: Fares start from AU\$2239 per person, twin share.

13-night Singapore to Melbourne (disembarking in Hobart): Fares start from AU\$2339 per person, twin share, including flight to Melbourne.

15-night Singapore to Sydney: Fares start from AU\$2599 per person, twin share.

Ovation of the Seas will be homeported in Sydney

FACT FILE

Cruise line: Royal Caribbean

Vessel: *Ovation of the Seas*

Star rating: 4

Maximum guest capacity: 4180

Crew: 1500

GRT: 168,666

Entering service: April 2016

Facilities: Virtual balcony staterooms, family connected staterooms, SeaPlex zone with bumper cars, circus school, disco rollerskating and basketball court, Xbox One Lounge, RipCord by iFLY skydiving experience, FlowRider surf simulator, rock climbing wall, North Star observation capsule, 4 pools (1 with retractable roof and 1 with giant outdoor movie screen), adults-only solarium, full-service Vitality Spa, 18 dining venues including specialty restaurants by Jamie Oliver, Michael Schwartz and Devin Alexander, Bionic Bar with robot bartenders, Two70° venue with evening aerial entertainment.



Onboard entertainment sure has the wow factor

Enjoy the luxury of spacious suites



particulars online before boarding, eliminates queuing at a check-in counter and enables you to “go from sidewalk to ship in 10 minutes”.

Radio frequency identification (RFID) tags mean you can track the delivery of your luggage to your stateroom with the Royal iQ app while you relax in Bionic Bar, where robot bartenders take Bryan and Tom’s cocktail-making antics to the next level. You can download the Royal iQ app to your iPad or phone or access it at iQ stations located around the ship. It enables you to book shore excursions and evening entertainment, manage dining reservations and schedule onboard activities during your cruise.

The thought of wearing a lanyard like an albatross around your neck for two weeks is so yesterday, so the cruise line’s nifty RFID-enabled wristbands—WOWbands—allow you to make onboard purchases and easily access your stateroom.

Being on a ship that is so ‘switched on’ is also a lot of fun, especially when you’re trying to beat your best score (and your rivals) in the Xbox One Lounge. That said, the innovative



During the day Two70° is a spacious lounge framed by floor-to-ceiling glass; at night this airy venue is transformed by multimedia effects and incredibly agile performers.



Retreat to the adults-only solarium



Experience Jamie's Italian on board



SeaPlex is the largest indoor sports complex at sea

“smartship” also invites you to go back to the future; retro pastimes such as bumper cars and disco rollerskating have been given a modern twist, including a floating DJ booth that hovers over the action. These onboard amusements are part of SeaPlex, the largest indoor sports and entertainment complex at sea, which also includes a basketball court, dance floor and trapeze circus school.

For a break from the onboard action, the Vitality Spa is a chilled-out space offering the full complement of services, from body wraps to massage and even acupuncture. Being on a cruise holiday should naturally iron out a furrowed brow and any stress lines; but, failing that, the spa's facial treatments can give nature a helping hand.

Out on deck, over-the-top activities exclusive to Royal Caribbean are a breath of fresh air for cruisers. Have a gnarly time riding the waves of the FlowRider surf simulator or hang out with the seagulls in the North Star aerial observatory—an engineering flight of fancy with 360-degree views over the ship from

a height greater than the Sydney Harbour Bridge pylons. At the aft of the ship, RipCord by iFLY simulates the sensation of skydiving without a parachute (safely, of course). For a touch of authenticity, you don the same gear you'd wear if you were jumping from a plane, before you ‘let fly’ your inner thrillseeker in a see-through 2.5m-diameter wind tunnel.

While you're finding your sea legs, you can enjoy the flexibility, freedom and variety of Royal Caribbean's Dynamic Dining concept. Put simply, it means there are no set dining

times, no assigned seats and no required formal nights at the 18 dining venues on board. It's a well-conceived approach that considers *Ovation of the Seas* as a floating city of sorts. If you were visiting a major city, you'd have the choice to dine at a different restaurant each night, experiencing a range of cuisines, trends and venues. So why not at sea?

In addition to five complimentary, full-service restaurants, *Ovation of the Seas* offers specialty dining in the onboard restaurants of chefs Jamie Oliver (Jamie's Italian), >

Test your wings with onboard skydiving



You don the same gear you'd wear if you were jumping from a plane, before you 'let fly' your inner thrillseeker in a see-through 2.5m-diameter wind tunnel.

Michael Schwartz (Michael's Genuine Pub) and Devin Alexander (Solarium Bistro), along with the whimsical Wonderland, which surprises even the most intrepid palates with dishes such as pork belly topped with flash-frozen ice-cream.

It's no secret that Jamie Oliver is chuffed about his third restaurant at sea. "I'm super-excited that *Ovation of the Seas* will be sailing out of Australia, and with a Jamie's Italian on board!" he said. His onboard restaurant is all about guests savouring good, honest, authentic Italian staples such as antipasti (cured meats, olives, bruschetta), risotto, slow-roasted meats and, of course, freshly made pasta.

The temptation to overindulge while cruising is ever present, even for the most disciplined cruiser, but on *Ovation of the Seas* looking after your waistline is easy with American celebrity chef and weight loss champion Devin Alexander's 'Devinly

Decadence' menu. Redefining 'comfort eating', each dish is comfort food designed to amount to less than 500 calories without skimping on deliciousness or decadence.

After dinner *Ovation of the Seas* literally takes cruise entertainment to new heights. During the day Two70° is a spacious lounge framed by floor-to-ceiling glass; at night this airy venue is transformed by multimedia effects and incredibly agile performers into a spectacle of aerial brilliance.

When you've had a day of action on the high seas, recharge and relax in your choice of the ship's four main categories of staterooms. Balcony, ocean view and interior staterooms offer good value for couples, solo cruisers and smaller families. Guests travelling with extended family are well catered for with Royal Caribbean's Family Connected Junior Suite staterooms, which are ingenious modular rooms connected by a vestibule. The kids will



Singapore's Chinese culture is celebrated

absolutely love it! A limited number of light-filled Loft Suites, with two storeys of sheer space and luxury, is also available.

Technology really comes to the fore in this smartship's interior staterooms, where guests can now enjoy a room with a view thanks to Royal Caribbean's 'virtual balconies'. Conjuring the illusion of a window, high-definition footage of the view outside, complete with sound, is projected onto a floor-to-ceiling screen in real time. Very cool!

Cruiseco's charter of *Ovation of the Seas* will sell quickly, so make sure you get in early for a slice of the action. ■