



CMV endures *Vasco da Gama* drama

A **PRECAUTIONARY** two-hour power outage aboard Cruise & Maritime Voyages' (CMV) *Vasco da Gama* off the coast of Adelaide last Fri escalated into a major media storm, with mainstream reports variously describing the incident as "leaving hundreds of passengers stranded" as well as repeating claims the vessel "appeared to be listing".

Despite the best efforts of the CMV team to highlight the reality of the situation, the ABC, News Limited and talkback radio breathlessly reported on the issues, citing stories from cruisers on board including one man who was caught in the shower when the power went out, and another who was forced to miss a doctor's appointment because of the late arrival into port.

CMV was transparent in providing updates, confirming that officers initiated a controlled



blackout to protect systems on board from damage, after an alarm light on the engine control room's instrument panel.

As per standard maritime safety practice, local authorities were also informed, while guests were updated via on-board announcements.

Power was fully restored after precautionary checks identified no causes for concern.

The vessel resumed sailing towards Adelaide and arrived about two-and-a-half-hours late.

CMV Australia National Sales Manager Darren Chigwidden assured the line's trade partners that the delay was due to the company putting safety first.

"No changes have been made to future itineraries...we look forward to a fantastic season of cruising for all of our guests."

Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Kahului, Hawai'i

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is this week hosting its 2019 Legends fam in Hawai'i.

TODAY, guests arrived into Maui aboard *Pride of America*, docking in Kahului Harbor, where the ship will stay overnight.

In addition to a hosted lunch at Kula Lodge & dinner at Fleetwood's, guests visited the Maui Ocean Center, the Aquarium of Hawai'i, and Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm.

NCL's Legends also explored the town, hitting the beachside boutiques, with keener shoppers venturing out to Lahaina Outlet.

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Check out everything *Norwegian Encore* has to offer in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.



Happy b'day deals

BLUE Lagoon Cruises is turning 70 next year and to help celebrate the milestone, the cruise line has introduced several special offers.

These include a free anniversary package featuring a candlelit dinner for two, a celebration cake, and a bottle of French wine, as well as custom seven-night cruises that feature bonus destinations such as Champagne Beach.

Other deals include a four-night wine cruise and a seven-night photography sailing.

Blue Lagoon is also offering 25% earlybird discounts for most of the special deals when bookings are made more than six months in advance.

Reimagining Oceania Regatta



OCEANIA Cruises Vice President and General Manager, Australia and New Zealand Jason Worth hosted a trade media tour of the brand's refurbished *Regatta* vessel in Sydney last Fri, with the ship debuting a range of new updates in the Australian market.

The refresh was completed in Sep this year and forms part of the cruise line's OceaniaNEXT initiative, towing close behind similar changes made on sister ships *Insignia* and *Sirena*.

Among the transformations on board were revamped menus to reflect more "authentic regional flavours", refurbished furniture and upholstery in restaurant and lounge areas, and upgrades across all suites including new bathrooms, closets, desks, lighting and technology.

Worth told **CW** that the latest refurbishment represented a significant investment on behalf

of the line.

"Typically Norwegian Cruise Lines likes to do two dry docks every five years, sometimes it's maintenance at a lower cost but this was more of a tear it down and build it up again kind of a thing with the company investing more than US\$100m," he said.

Also in attendance on the ship inspection was Oceania's SVP and Managing Director APAC Steve Odell, who said it was "very exciting" for the brand to introduce its latest changes to the local market.

"It's these kind of enhancements to the guest experience that sees Oceania have one of the highest repeat cruising rate of any line," he said.

Regatta is also set to debut a new Aqua Spa + Vitality Centre on board when she visits Sydney for the second time on 06 Jan.

Pictured: *Regatta's* pool deck.

Yangtze solo offer

SANCTUARY Retreats is waiving the single supplement on shoulder season bookings of its *Yangzi Explorer* for 2020.

The offer means prices start at US\$1,325 per person for three- and four-night sailings from 08-26 Mar 2020 and 31 May-03 Sep 2020.

Bookings confirmed and paid in full three months before any 2020 sailing will also receive a 25% discount along with a free cabin upgrade.

The 25% discount offer is not applicable to Jade, Mandarin, Celestial and Imperial Suites.

US agent group cruises to success

AMERICAN home-based travel agent franchise group Cruise Planners has reported healthy 19% annual growth in sales over the last 12 months.

The figures were released at the Cruise Planners conference in Florida over the weekend, attended by more than 700 members along with hundreds of supplier partners.

Europe, Alaska and the Caribbean were the top three destinations, with CEO Michelle Fee saying the annual sales group of the organisation "seems nearly impossible".

The event wrapped up with a three-night *Sky Princess* cruise.



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New Windstar Cruises PR Director

SARAH Scoltock is taking a new role as Public Relations Director for Windstar Cruises.

She joins Windstar after nine years at Seattle-based UnCruise Adventures, most recently as Senior Director of Communications.

UnCruise Adventures is now seeking a new PR Manager - for details **CLICK HERE**.

VIKING

12 CRUISES of CHRISTMAS

VIKING IS SPREADING THE CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH 12 CRUISE OFFERS

VIEW OFFERS

Ships forced to avoid Dominica

CRUISE lines have been forced to avoid making ports-of-call at Dominica due to "civil unrest" that has been taking place since mid-Nov amid the general election, which took place on Fri.

Violent protests have been occurring across the island causing road blocks and flight disruptions, with travellers urged to exercise a high degree of caution.

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit lamented the "unwarranted blotch on our otherwise pristine record of peace" and announced that ships would not dock at the island until after the general election period was over.

Azamara, Viking and Marella Cruises ships have been affected by the disruption, while Royal Caribbean, HAL and Princess Cruises are among the lines which feature port calls in Dominica.

Cunard's Food & Wine Festival

LUXURY cruise line Cunard has announced its "Festival of Food & Wine", which is set to debut on the Transatlantic Crossing over 07-14 Jun 2020 aboard the *Queen Mary 2*.

During the seven-night voyage, Michelin chef Michel Roux Jr will host a series of dinners in The Verandah restaurant, as well as a three-course signature gala menu in the Britannia Grill.

Le Gavroche Executive Chef Rachel Humphrey will join Roux Jr on-board for a cooking demo and Q&A, while wine critics and journalists will also be present to share their knowledge on the wine industry.

Guests will be able to join the Cunard Wine Academy and gain a WSET Level 1 award during the crossing.



CREATIVE Cruising and Dream Cruises teamed up to host agents on a famil aboard the *Genting Dream* for five nights on a journey to Singapore, where they made ports-of-call to Penang, Phuket, Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur.

The agents enjoyed bespoke shore excursions and dinner in specialty restaurants, including Mark Best and Umi Uma Teppanyaki.

A highlight of the cruise was the onboard Penfolds Wine Vault experience, which saw the group sampling lovely Penfolds wines.

Pictured: Sharon Andre, Nadia Kipping, Linda Hamilton, Bronwyn Zappelli, Josie Puglia, Katrina Katich, Captain Magnus, Andree

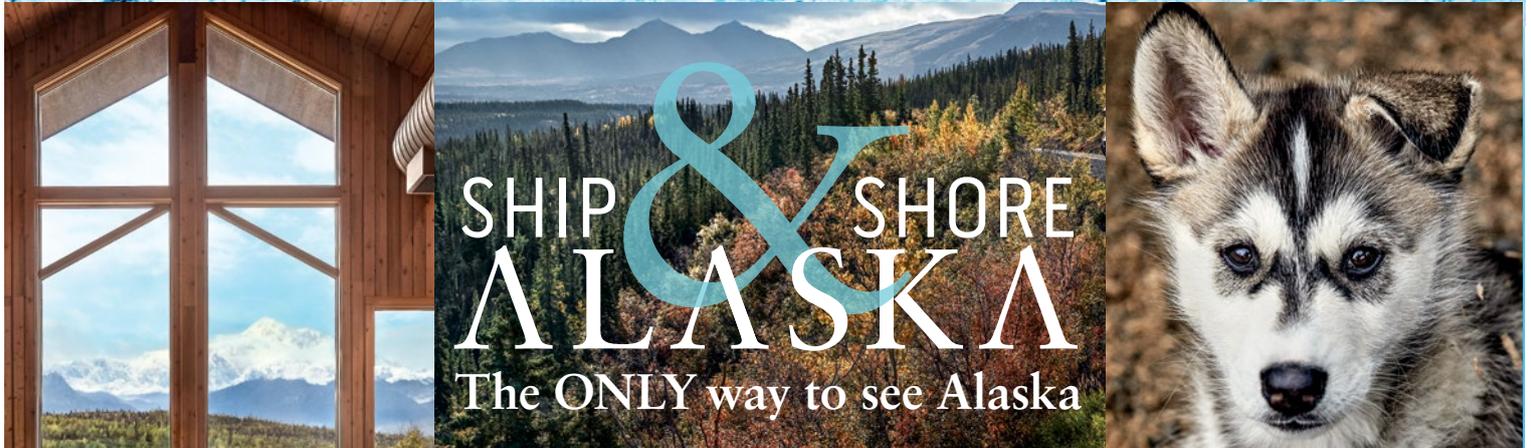
Haydar, Lara Anderson, Audrey Vanzyl, Robyn Pearce and Carolyn Oakley.

Celebrity savings

FOR a limited time, Celebrity Cruises and CruiseCo are offering guests a bonus onboard credit of up to US\$500 per stateroom on Europe 2020 Fly, Stay & Cruise Packages.

Among the itineraries included in the offer are the Iceland & Irish Sea Voyage aboard the *Celebrity Reflection* from AU\$6,680ppts, which departs 01 Jul.

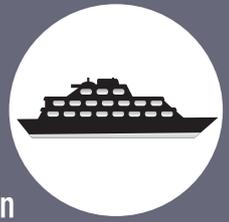
CLICK HERE for more info.



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Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	09 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	09 Dec
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	10 Dec
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	11 Dec
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	12 Dec
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	13 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	14 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	14 Dec
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	15 Dec

MELBOURNE	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	09 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	09 Dec
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	11 Dec
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	14 Dec
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	15 Dec

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	10 Dec
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	13 Dec
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	14 Dec

CAIRNS	
<i>Regatta</i>	11 Dec
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	13 Dec

DARWIN	
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	09 Dec
<i>AIDA Vita</i>	10 Dec
<i>Viking Orion</i>	15 Dec

ADELAIDE	
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	09 Dec
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	12 Dec

HOBART	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	10 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	11 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	11 Dec
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	11 Dec
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	12 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	12 Dec
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	12 Dec
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	13 Dec
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	13 Dec

Seabourn's Bow Lounge



SEABOURN Cruises has released renderings of the "Bow Lounge" aboard its new *Seabourn Venture* (pictured), which is set to make its debut in Jun 2021.

The Bow Lounge, located on Deck 6 on the forward-most part of the vessel, aims to "further enhance the perspectives that the natural world presents".

The lounge will feature large screens projecting live footage from cameras mounted outside the ship, as well as from a drone when conditions permit.

Touch screens will also show the ship's plotted location along with live weather information, while expedition staff will be on hand to interact with guests.

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Mississippi saving

THE American Queen Steamboat Company is offering savings of US\$1,000 per couple on a "Mansions, Music and the Mississippi" voyage from Minneapolis to New Orleans.

The 15-night cruise covers almost the entire length of the Mississippi, with the 16 Aug 2020 departure also offering a host of optional "premium shore excursions" including a visit to Graceland, live cabaret and Civil War experiences.

Agents can book through Cruise World in NZ ([CLICK HERE](#)), and via Cruise Traveller in Australia ([CLICK HERE](#)).



AUSSIES and Kiwis are well aware of beach-related dangers, from riptides to rogue sharks to bluebottles and... seaweed?

Last Thu, a man and his four-legged bestie were spotted on Old's Palm Beach struggling through a mass of "cornflake seaweed", officially referred to as the bloom of *Colpomenia*, while on Fri a passerby stopped to help a woman who was stuck in a knee-high pile of the stuff.

Marine biologist Pia Winberg said the amount of seaweed washing up was "unprecedented" and could take more than a month to decompose.

Gold Coast guests might want to visit the pools instead!