

NCL observes no go slow with ScoMo

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has noted a “last minute boost to sales for its 2019 departures” following the Morrison Government being returned to office in the last Federal Election.

NCL Senior Vice President and Managing Director Asia Pacific Steve Odell told **Cruise Weekly** the perceived hit to its key retiree/baby boomer demographic under proposed Labor Party policies caused a “slowdown” in the lead up to the election, as potential cruisers tightened their purse strings.

“The return of the existing Government means that from an economic outlook stand point the perception is things will remain ‘business as usual’, giving customers confidence to move forward with their travel plans,”



PICTURED: Norwegian Encore.

Odell said.

“Bookings have now spiked... especially for our Hawaii and Europe itineraries,” he added.

Odell said that the brand had also seen forward bookings firm up for 2020 and 2021 seasons across all three of its sectors; contemporary, upper premium and luxury.

The rebound coincides with

NCL’s recent push on the Asia Pacific market, expanding its regional operations from one office in Sydney to eight across Asia Pacific, now employing close to 200 staff.

MEANWHILE NCL is advising local trade partners there will be a booking system upgrade this Sun 02 Jun from 11am (AEST) until Mon, 03 Jun at 1am.

Cruise Weekly today

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

AC secures wreck

EXPEDITION cruise line Adventure Canada has formed an exclusive partnership with Parks Canada, securing access rights to the wreckage site of the *HMS Erebus*.

The agreement will allow the company to integrate visits to the site into its “Into the Northwest Passage and Out of the Northwest Passage 2019 expeditions”.

“Our guests may be some of the first members of the general public to see the *Erebus* wreck,” said Adventure Canada’s CEO Cedar Swan.

Danube tragedy

VIKING Cruises’ river ship *Sigyn* has been involved in a fatal collision with a smaller tour boat on the Danube in Hungary - leaving seven dead and 21 missing.

The Captain of Viking’s ship has reportedly been arrested by the Hungarian authorities for “reckless misconduct in waterborne traffic”, with no further details of the incident available at this stage.

Commenting on the tragedy, Viking Cruises said “we offer our heartfelt condolences to those affected by this tragic accident”.

There were no reported injuries to Viking crew or guests during the impact, with the cruise line stating it would “continue to cooperate fully with the authorities while they undertake their investigations”.

The tour boat hit by *Sigyn* was carrying 30 South Korean nationals, including three South Korean tour guides, as well as two Hungarians.

Coral PNG sailing

CORAL Expeditions has launched a new 35-night Circumnavigation of New Guinea setting sail in 2020.

The new addition will take place aboard the 120-passenger *Coral Adventurer*, visiting Raja Ampat and the Gumdrop Islands, the Spice Islands, The Sepik & Mamberamo Rivers, Dei Dei Hot Springs on Fergusson Island, the Fly Islands and Tufi Fjords.

“With the sophisticated expedition capabilities of the *Coral Adventurer*, we are able to bring guests up close to the region’s natural habitats and hidden communities in comfort and safety,” said the cruise line’s Group General Manager Mark Fifield.

Prices for the circumnavigation start at \$25,150ppts, with the itinerary also available as half segments from Darwin to Madang.

For more information on the sailing, call 1800 079 545.

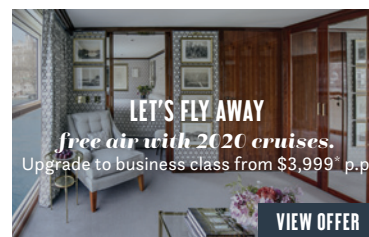
RIVERNotes
May 2019

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2020 in Full Swing

Our 2020 brochure is out, and we couldn’t be more excited to share it with you! Featuring the yacht-like finishes and nautical hues of the S.S. *Beatrice* on the cover, and packed-full of enhanced itineraries and our newly released *Rhine, Moselle & Blissful* Baden-Baden cruise, there is inspiration galore for your client’s next luxury holiday. Brochures will be arriving in-store over the coming weeks, happy reading!

HIGHLIGHTS



THERE’S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM »

For more information visit uniworld.com or call 1300 780 231.

CRUISE

WEEKLY

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See why NCL's new *Joy* is perfect for Aussies heading to Alaska in June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read *travelBulletin*



Regent ups 2020

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has created several extended voyages for the 2020 season, visiting destinations such as Monte Carlo, Venice, Istanbul, Jerusalem, the Greek Islands and Barcelona.

Regent Seven Seas' all inclusive packages provide unlimited shore excursions, unlimited premium beverages, dining in speciality restaurants, an in-suite mini-bar replenished daily and free unlimited on-board wi-fi with concierge-level suites and higher.

For more information call 1300 455 200.

Carnival eyes growth surge



PICTURED: *Carnival Splendor*.

CARNIVAL'S VP and GM Australia Jennifer Vandekreeke believes the cruise line can reach the two million Aussie pax milestone in under three years.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* this morning, Vandekreeke said it was the company's upswing in capacity which would drive its increased growth rate.

"Not only are we getting a bigger ship in *Carnival Splendor* but she's also here year-round, so we're replacing *Legend* which was only here half the year with 2,600 berths, with a ship that will sail with 3,800 berths," she said.

"So if it took us six and half years to get to the first million, I think it will take us around half that to get to two million," Vandekreeke added.

Another boost to Carnival's futures sales will be driven by itineraries serviced out of The Brisbane Int'l Cruise Terminal for the first time in 2020.

"We are very excited that we

have the whole port coming in Brisbane, I think it's going to completely transform cruising out of Queensland, with people from the state actually having a higher propensity to cruise than people from NSW," Vandekreeke said.

"It's not just because they are close, if you live in the Sunshine State you love to be outside and that means you are going to love being on a cruise as well and really enjoy being on the water," she added.

Splendor is scheduled to go through a major dry dock in Nov before she arrives in Australia, where she will have a new water and splash park installed, five new bars added, and a redesigned pool area.

"This will be fun taken to a whole new level for this market," Vandekreeke enthused.

Bookings so far this year in Australia has also been kind to Carnival, with the cruise line up "double digits" from last year.

Silversea Polar brox

SILVERSEA has released its new polar voyages catalogue, *Get Polarised*.

The brochure highlights all Antarctica sailings from 2019 until 2021, Arctic expeditions in 2020, voyages exploring the North East and North West Passages, and new destination offering called the Australian and New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands.

Silversea has also highlighted a number of special offers available, including complimentary Economy airfares, with one-night pre-cruise accommodation, select charter flights and free international transfers.

To access and download the *Get Polarised* brochure online, **CLICK HERE**.



YOU can't blame a landlocked state for being slow on the uptake with cruising can you?

Well Virgin Voyages certainly thinks so, with Richard Branson taking the time to pen a letter to the people of South Dakota in *The New York Times*, urging them to book a spot on *Scarlet lady*.

Branson said "for a state home to the Rapid City, you're really taking your time".

The brand has also paid for a number of not-so-subtle billboard ads around the state.



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