

Introducing the *Valiant Lady* in red

VIRGIN Voyages has announced that its second ship scheduled to join the fleet in May 2021 will be called *Valiant Lady*, and will sail three separate seven-night Mediterranean itineraries out of Barcelona, Spain.

All three options will offer overnight and late-night stops across popular port destinations in France, Italy and Spain, including the Spanish island of Ibiza, Toulon in France, and the coastal city of Olbia in Italy.

"We are thrilled to unveil the name of our second ship - *Valiant Lady* - and to deliver on our commitment to offer travellers a sea change in how they can experience cruising in this fantastic part of the world," said Virgin Voyages CEO Tom McAlpin.

"Our sailors will fall in love with the places we go and the moments and memories they will be able to create on our gorgeous



ship...there is no better way to sail the seven seas than doing it the Virgin way," he added.

The inspiration for the ship's name comes from the Latin word "valere", meaning bold, strong and courageous, and is designed to reflect the notion that women are leading the charge in the design and change taking place in the maritime industry.

No further details were provided regarding how features on board *Valiant Lady* will differ from those available on board *Scarlet Lady* when she debuts in Apr next year.

Bookings for the three featured itineraries departing Barcelona will open 19 Dec.

Pictured: A rendering of the upcoming *Valiant Lady*.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news and a full page from **Windstar Cruises**.

Half price Silversea

SILVERSEA Cruises is offering guests 50% off their second suite when booking select voyages departing in 2019 and 2020 to mark Black Friday.

The promotion is available for bookings made between 18 Nov and 13 Dec, sailing to a range of destinations such as Asia, Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and the Caribbean.

The select cruises to choose from depart between 01 Dec and 25 Apr 2020.

Offer is based on double occupancy and is applicable when booking a second suite of equal or lesser value.

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Five greener ways

A REPORT by U.S. News & World Report claims cruise lines are now more sustainable due to: greener power, reducing plastics, waste management, managing over-tourism, and better hull tech.

Scenic restructures river



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has revealed plans to reorder the management of its European river fleet operations, announcing it will take full control of its entire river ship fleet cruising the Rhine, Main, Danube, and Douro rivers from 2020.

Currently, the management of the cruise line's river fleet of 11 vessels in Europe is split between itself and G&P Cruise and Hotel Management, with Scenic handling operations for five ships, while G&P manages six.

However the flagged change will see the whole fleet come under the company's direct remit, with Scenic Group COO Rob Voss stressing the restructure had nothing to do with the quality of G&P's performance, and was more about the ability to deliver brand consistency from a global perspective.

"G&P...has done a marvellous job delivering the desired guest experience as can be seen by the very high guest satisfaction

survey results, regularly running at 95%," he said.

"Instead this decision is the next logical step in delivery on a global brand, and the necessity for absolute product consistency and delivery across the entire fleet".

Further benefits from the change will see Scenic increase its purchasing power of onboard ingredients, as well as unify training and development programs for its crew.

Pictured: *Scenic Jewel*.

New GM for Fiji

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises

Fiji has announced the appointment of Bob Speed to the role of General Manager, replacing Tony Acland in the position who relocates to NZ.

Speed will be based at the cruise line's head office at Port Denarau Fiji, and brings with him more than 34 years of travel industry experience, including previous stints at Denarau Corporation, Ramada Resort Port Douglas, Wyndham Resort Denarau Island, as well as Tanoa Hotels and Copthorne Hotels, New Zealand.

"I'm excited to be joining Captain Cook Cruises Fiji and working with a fantastic crew, they are a pioneer of the industry and it is an exciting opportunity to work for them and one which I am delighted to accept," Speed said upon taking on the role.

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Brazil looks to cruise



BRAZIL'S Tourism Minister Alvaro Antonio has identified the cruise sector as a key pillar of its future economic growth strategy.

According to an interview captured by the *2020 Brazil Market Report*, Antonio said that cruise ships are "a fundamental activity to the country", and that Brazil plans

to add "more than a dozen new cruise ports in the future".

"One of my concerns when I assumed the office was to understand why only seven cruise ships are sailing on our shores," Antonio said.

"We plan to build at least 15 new cruise ports," he added.

Pictured: The coast of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

MSC kicks goal in Qatar



MSC Cruises has signed an agreement with the Government of Qatar to charter two cruise ships to accommodate fans during the FIFA World Cup taking place in the country in 2022.

The vessels will be berthed at Doha Port to act like floating hotels during the tournament, offering a combined capacity of 4,000 cabins.

MSC Cruises Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago said the deal would allow the cruise line to promote what life is like on board its ships to a new international audience.

"The tournament is one of the world's most popular events and

this will be another opportunity for holidaymakers from across the globe converging on Doha to experience our ships and enjoy the unique international experience that only MSC Cruises can offer," he said.

Under the terms of the agreement, the State of Qatar will charter MSC Cruises' *MSC Europa* and *MSC Poesia* during the major sporting event, with shuttle buses scheduled to take fans from the ships to the matches.

Pictured: MSC Cruises' Pierfrancesco Vago signs the deal with Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy Hassan Al Thawadi.

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*Offers correct as at 13 November 2019 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 24 November 2019 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.

Wednesday 20th November 2019



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Travel Daily



22 April 2020

Anzac Day cruises

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises will operate special three- and seven-night Anzac Day sailings along the Murray River in South Australia in 2020.

Departing either 20 Apr or 24 Apr, the cruise will feature a traditional gunfire breakfast, games of two-up and a special Anzac trivia quiz.

Cruises depart Mannum, SA, & are priced from \$2,053ppts.

CLIA meets Cook Islands



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia recently met up with the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Henry Puna, to discuss how the cruise sector can help the island nation grow the industry in a sustainable manner.

Sailings to the Cook Islands are currently served by brands such as the Ponant-owned Paul Gauguin Cruises.

Pictured: Prime Minister of the Cook Islands Henry Puna, and CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz during the visit.



FACE the facts humble *Cruise Weekly* readers, this chartered cruise (pictured below) near Port Lincoln, South Australia was simply made for lov'n you.

The trip this week saw the legendary rock band Kiss belting out their most popular rock anthems to eight passengers on board an Adventure Bay Charters sailing.

But just in case you didn't think this was rockstar enough, the cruise then took guests on an adrenaline-fuelled cage dive with a few great white sharks!

We're still not sure who would have the worst bite though, Gene Simmons or the giant maneaters?

Hmmmmmmmm



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CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Smart sailing

THE Australian Government's annual *Consular State of Play* report for 2018-19 provides very interesting reading on the assistance given to Australians overseas.

Issued this week by DFAT, it outlines the 13,700 cases in which consular assistance was provided to Australians worldwide.

It also notes the 1.35m Australians who took a cruise last year, although a very safe form of travel with much lower rates of incidents than on land, still warrants precautions.

DFAT warns that Australians need to cover their own emergency costs if they travel overseas without adequate insurance.

This is especially important when you consider the remote locations cruises sometimes visit.

For this reason, it's essential to remind clients of their responsibilities and make sure they understand Medicare does not cover them at sea, even on a domestic cruise.

CLIA works closely with DFAT as part of our efforts to educate, and offers a training module on the government's Smarttraveller initiative.

We encourage all travel agents to refresh their knowledge and point clients towards the info it offers.

DFAT is revamping its Smarttraveller website, so it's worth keeping an eye on the changes and taking note of the new critical alert system.

See Smarttraveller.gov.au.



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