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*Offers correct as of 17 October 2019 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 30 October 2019 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.





Sydney solution “very close”: RCL

EXCLUSIVE

A SOLUTION for Sydney’s capacity constraints is “getting very close”, with talks of Royal Caribbean Cruises (RCL) contributing to the funding of a new terminal “very much on the table”, Chairman and CEO Richard Fain told **CW** this week.

“We have been working closely for the government and I’m not going to speak for the government, but we are hopeful that we are getting very close to a solution,” he said.

“I think we’re down now to pretty much the one choice...and we think that is actually a very practical solution for everybody and one that is good for the economy, good for tourism and attracting the newest and best ships,” he said.

Fain emphasised Botany Bay “was perfect”, due to its close proximity to Sydney Airport.

“We were hopeful that a decision will be taken quickly because frankly, already its impinging on the logistics and our ability to bring in the newest and



Pictured: *Ovation of the Seas*

sexiest ships.”

Fain confirmed Royal Caribbean Cruises would be willing to work with government and help fund a terminal, as the company has done in other parts of the world - including Miami.

“Yes, it is very much on the table that we would be having that conversation,” he said.

Fain said there was no “one-size-fits-all” solution when approaching a partnership arrangement for a new terminal and that the company remained “absolutely open” and “flexible”.

Currently Royal Caribbean International (RCI) can’t bring its

Oasis- or Spectrum- class vessels into Sydney Harbour, but in Sep the line flagged deployment of Oasis-class vessels was “only a matter of time” (**CW** 06 Sep).

Fain noted that Australia is one of the few places RCI sails to that can’t handle the Oasis class, adding “I don’t think anyone today would build a pier that wasn’t Oasis-compatible”.

“Physically, the bigger ships aren’t that much different, it’s not as if you need twice as big a berth for the larger ships, it’s actually relatively modest changes to make sure you can handle the very biggest ships out there.”

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

Take five for free

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is today promoting its Free at Sea deal, providing guests five free package offers including a beverage package, a speciality dining package, shore excursion credit, wi-fi package and a friends & family sail at a reduce rate offer, until 30 Oct.

With over 150 European sailings in 2020, NCL can also save guests up to \$430 per stateroom - see **cover page**.



NEW EXPLORATIONS BROCHURE



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NCLH changes

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has split the leadership of its brands in Australia, with Ben Angell taking the reigns of Norwegian Cruise Line from Steve Odell, becoming the line’s new Vice President & Managing Director (**CW** breaking news y’day).

The move will free up Odell to focus on the Group’s upper-premium and luxury brands, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises, as Senior Vice President & MD.

The alterations come with changes at head office in Miami, with Harry Sommer taking over the company’s leadership (**CW** 04 Oct).

The shuffle is “designed to provide a more distinct focus”.

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We are seeking a results-driven Senior Sales Manager to join the NCL Sales team. Reporting to the Director of Sales NCL Australia/New Zealand, you will lead a team 5 Business Development Managers. The role is accountable for delivering revenue growth and increasing passenger numbers for the region. The ideal candidate will be a strategic and commercial thinker and have had proven success leading and managing a sales team through transformation and growth. Your innovative approach to leadership, proven networking skills and relevant travel industry relationships and experience will see you thrive in this dynamic environment.

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Sky Princess joins Princess fleet



SKY Princess has officially joined the Princess Cruises fleet, with a handover ceremony taking place at Fincantieri Shipyard in Italy.

The first purpose-built Princess MedallionClass ship, *Sky Princess* was received at a ceremony attended by a multitude of Carnival Corporation executives.

She will begin her inaugural season in Europe on a series of Mediterranean voyages, kicked off by a seven-day Mediterranean & Adriatic sailing from Athens to Barcelona on 20 Oct.

Sky Princess will then debut in North America on 01 Dec for a season of Caribbean cruises from Fort. Lauderdale

"As our new flagship in the fleet, *Sky Princess* represents the

absolute best Princess Cruises has to offer our guests by connecting them with what matters most, unique destinations, loved ones, and new friends, while enjoying all the state-of-the-art experiences in comfort and style," enthused Princess Cruises President Jan Swartz.

Princess MedallionClass' experiences feature a slate of innovations for the line, such as expedited arrival, streamlining check-in; on-demand delivery for services such as food, beverage, retail and others; and a family and friends locator, allowing one to keep tabs on their travel companions wherever they may be on the ship.

Pictured is *Sky Princess*.

CRUISE WEEKLY on location on the Volga River

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, which is hosting a VIP Waterways of the Tsars river cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg.

VIKING Akun will arrive in St Petersburg this weekend after cruising past spectacular landscapes and regional highlights through central Russia's majestic waterways.

Ports visited have included Kuzino, Kizhi and Mandrogy, where locals have welcomed us into their homes and showcased some spectacular cultural artefacts.

In St Petersburg we will visit the stunning Hermitage and enjoy a ballet performance.

OE updates ships

OCEANWIDE Expeditions (OE) has made a number of upgrades to its three ships, *MV Hondius*, *MV Ortelius* and *MV Plancius*, ahead of its 2020 Antarctic season.

Hondius' gangways were updated to make them more user-friendly, *Ortelius'* dining room and crew area received a makeover, and *Plancius'* cabins were upgraded, with all ships receiving other minor changes.

Silversea opening

SILVERSEA'S new 2021/22 voyages are now open for booking.

The cruise line will sail to 528 destinations in 92 countries between Jan 2021 and Apr 2022.

The season offers 197 new itineraries and 28 maiden calls (*CW* 04 Oct).



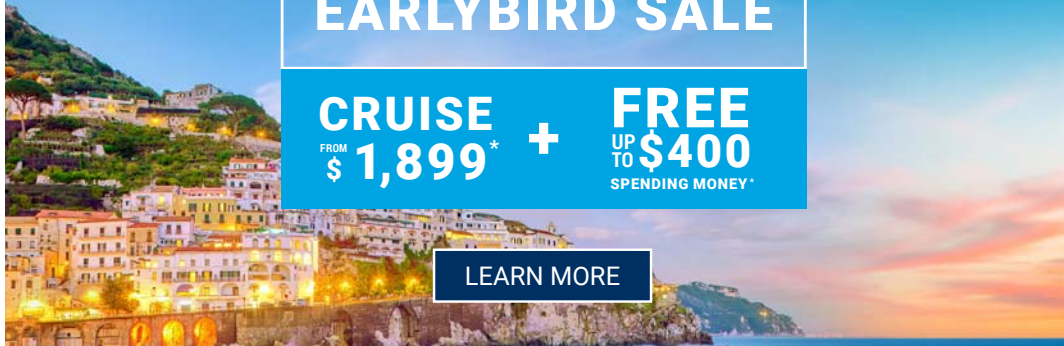
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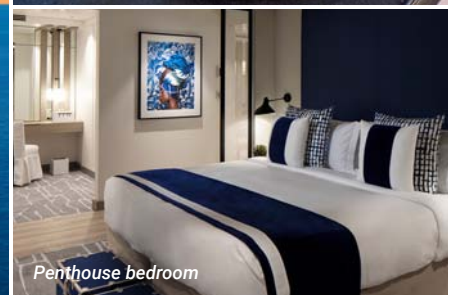
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Tapas Platter



Penthouse bedroom

Quark Antarctica

QUARK Expeditions is currently holding a flash sale, with up to 50% off remaining cabins on Antarctic voyages for its upcoming 2019/20 season.

Ending 22 Oct, the sale offers savings on departures between Nov and Mar, with prices now leading in from \$4,998.

“Savings are now possible for trips departing this Nov - which is a spectacular time to visit Antarctica as snow and ice are pristine, wildlife is abundant and we can offer more adventure options than any other time of year,” said Quark Expeditions Vice President of Sales Thomas Lennartz.

“We pride ourselves in offering the best experiences to our travellers and are delighted to make this exclusive flash sale available.”

AQSC savings

AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) is offering savings of up to US\$1,000 per couple on its American Music Cruise itinerary.

Including a free pre-cruise stay, shore excursions and unlimited drinks, the itinerary traverses the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers across eight nights.

Valid for bookings made by the end of the year on the 03 May departure, the package also includes onboard gratuities and port taxes.

Leading in at US\$2,898ppts, the voyage departs from Louisville aboard *American Duchess*, with a capacity of 166-passenger one of whom will be American country musician Lee Greenwood, who will also put on a special performance.

Revolutionary Russia with Viking



VIKING Cruises' VIP guests are continuing their exploration of Russia this week, journeying on the spectacular Volga River from Moscow to St Petersburg aboard *Viking Akun*.

Yesterday a visit to the remote regional town of Kuzino featured a unique drop-in on a local school, where one of the top pupils exercised her remarkable command of English to give guests an insight into the Russian education system.

This was followed by a tour of the massive Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery where a museum showcased the chequered history of the Russian Orthodox Church, which was significantly

repressed by the atheistic policies of the Soviet Union regime.

In St Petersburg, our group will be treated to a privileged access tour of the famous State Hermitage Museum behind closed doors.

The group is **pictured**: Tania Myles, TravelManagers; Jeff and Ruth Leckey, House of Travel; Karen Robinson, Travel View Avalon; Janette Wall, Travel Associates Balgowlah; Keira Smith, Viking Cruises; David Stafford, Magellan Travel; Michelle Black, Viking Cruises; Genevieve Thompson, Phil Hoffmann Travel and Michael Londregan, Virtuosos.



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FIND OUT MORE





The cruise survey results are in and the industry is still strong – read more in the October issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

An Ovation for Sydney



AUSTRALIA'S largest cruise ship, *Ovation of the Seas*, returns to Sydney Harbour Sun, which will precede her embarkation on her biggest season yet.

The largest and most technologically advanced ship to ever homeport in Australia, *Ovation of the Seas* will sail out of Sydney until 20 Apr.

Fresh off a season in Alaska,

travellers can choose between 21 itineraries, including nine New Zealand voyages, five New Zealand and South Pacific combination trips, and new 18- and 19-night sailings between Sydney and Hawaii, which will call in at the French Polynesian ports of Papeete, Moorea and Bora Bora.

Pictured is *Ovation of the Seas* in Sydney Harbour.

Riviera Travel Danube famil



RIVIERA Travel River Cruises recently treated six Australian travel agents to a seven-day famil travelling on the Danube River.

Hosted by Sales and Marketing Executive for Australia Gina Squirrell, the group was whisked away aboard five-star river ship *Thomas Hardy*.

The cruise embarked on a round-trip voyage from Budapest through Linz and

Vienna.

The itinerary is regularly available from \$2,059ppts.

Pictured are Kerise Neville, Globe Trotters; Anne-Marie Pauliuk, Travel Associates Southland; Julie Donaldson, Cruise Traveller; Gina Squirrell; Trish McManus, Travel Associates Balgowah; Meggan Barker, Travel Associates Chirn Park; Anne Williamson, The Travel Book.

Ponant ups Kimberley presence in 2021

PONANT has added additional voyages in Western Australia's Kimberley region for 2021 aboard *Le Laperouse* and *Le Bellot*, including three in conjunction with National Geographic.

There are now 12 voyages of 10, 12 and 13 nights scheduled between Darwin and Broome between Apr and Sep 2021, sailing in the prime time for viewing the Humpback whale migration.

Also highlighted on the departures are walks to the top of King George Falls to view rare Wandjina and Gwion Gwion rock art.

"To meet the growing interest in and demand for our Kimberley expeditions, we are increasing the number of departures in 2021," said Ponant Vice President Asia Pacific Monique Ponfoort.

Seabourn new collections for 2020-2021

SEABOURN has debuted its expedition cruise collection, alongside the release of the latest edition of its annual luxury cruise collection.

The debut of the Extraordinary Expeditions, *Seabourn Venture* 2021-2022 brochure features 85 pages of 25 voyages aboard *Venture*, which in total will visit over 150 destinations.

The Extraordinary Worlds, 2020-2021 Cruise Collection brox features 151 pages outlining over 200 voyages.

"From world cruises to our new expedition fleet, there is a wealth of excitement in store for Seabourn guests over the next few years," said Seabourn SVP Global Marketing & Sales Chris Austin.



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TAANZ revamp

THE Travel Agents Association of New Zealand (TAANZ) has named Brent Thomas from House of Travel as its new President, to take over from Andrew Bowman. Go Holidays General Manager Sarah Hunter, The Travel Brokers National Manager Jackie Bell and House of Travel Retail Director Jayne Alldred have also joined the TAANZ Board. A further Board member will be appointed from First Travel Group, Bowman confirmed, with the changes reflecting a focus on "succession and diversity".

Cruiseco sings in tune



THE Cruiseco team and *Radiance of the Seas* Captain Espen Been welcomed Australian country music singer Lee Kernaghan as one of 30 musicians on board for the ninth Cruisin' Country voyage. Cruiseco also operates a Bravo

cruise featuring David Hobson and Marina Prior, and a Rock-themed cruise headlined by Susie Quatro. **Pictured** with Lee are Lauren Vigenser, Cynthia Kazan, Kevin Dale, Jeff Temple, Steve Dodds and Captain Been.

Seabourn Asia

SEABOURN *Encore*, *Seabourn Ovation* and *Seabourn Sojourn* will all sail Asia from late 2019 through to early 2020. *Encore* arrives in Asia in late Nov to embark on a series of multi-day sailings, including the seven-day Orchid Isles Escape to Bali, travelling from 27 Nov to 04 Dec. *Ovation* will sail in the region from 21 Dec, with five separate voyages exploring Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. A highlight is the 14-day Holiday Thailand and Vietnam, which sails from 21 Dec to 04 Jan, spending Christmas Eve in Bangkok and featuring the Caviar the Surf Beach Barbeque on Koh Kood Island. *Sojourn* will visit Asia as part of its 146-day World Cruise.



SHIPWRECK discoveries are vaunted moments in the field of maritime archeology, but the latest discovery of this kind did not take any scientific background.

North Carolina man Charlie Hornfeck was walking his dog on a local beach when he spotted the wreckage of a ship which had supposedly been uncovered in a recent storm. It's unclear which ship the wreckage is from - check out all the photos **HERE**.



Murray new brox

THE new season brochure for luxury Murray River cruises with Murray River Paddlesteamers is now available.

The new year will see the debut of the new-look *PS Emmylou*, which is now an all en suite vessel, travelling on its three- and four-night Upper Murray River Cruises.

New group sizes and prices are also available as detailed in the new brochure, which also features new glamping experiences.

CLICK HERE to download the new brochure.

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