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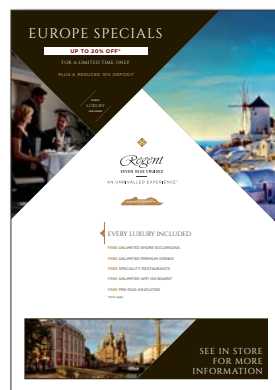


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Sustainability targets on track: CLIA

THE cruise industry has achieved “unprecedented year-over-year progress” in implementing sustainable technologies, according to a new report released by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

In pursuit of its target of reducing carbon emissions by 40% by 2030 (**CW 02 Jan**), CLIA’s third annual *Global Cruise Industry Environmental Technologies and Practices Report* showed a number of goals were on track, including a 17% spike in ships using Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS).

The uptake in vessels using the system, often referred to as “scrubbers”, means that 68% of global capacity now deploy the device that removes sulphur oxides from ship’s engine and boiler exhaust gases.

Another major area of progress is the use of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) fuels, with the report



Pictured: AIDA Cruises’ LNG-powered AIDAnova.

finding that 44% of new-build capacity will rely on LNG fuel for primary propulsion, a 60% increase compared to last year.

The focus for reducing the carbon footprint of the cruise sector however is not only at sea, with a major component of CLIA’s strategy to also reduce the impact of ships when they are docked in port.

The latest figures reveal that 30% of global capacity are now fitted to operate on shore-side electricity, allowing ships to switch off their engines in the

16 ports where that capability is provided, representing a 10% increase on last year.

CLIA Global Chairman Adam Goldstein said the figures showed the sector was serious about carbon reduction, and was willing to be pro-active in its approach.

“CLIA cruise lines are passionate about clean oceans and committed to responsible tourism practices and the highest standards of environmental stewardship - with policies and practices often exceeding those required by law,” he said.

RSSC Europe tools

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has launched a “2020 toolkit” for agents to use when promoting the luxury line’s itineraries for next year.

Discounts of up to 25% are available on select sailings, along with reduced deposits, with the line’s Marketing Central portal featuring a poster, video, flyers and digital assets - see the **cover page**.

\$17k HAL fine

HOLLAND America Line has agreed to pay a US\$17,000 fine after an accidental discharge of grey water from its *Westerdam* in Alaska’s Glacier Bay National Park.

The incident occurred on 11 Sep 2018, with a crew member mistakenly opening the incorrect valve leading to a 25 min outflow of about 85,000 litres of untreated runoff.

MSC adds Tampa

MSC Cruises is set to add a new US homeport, overnight confirming plans to deploy its *MSC Armonia* out of Tampa, Florida from Nov 2020.

The vessel will sail to the Caribbean, Mexico and The Bahamas year-round, with winter itineraries featuring 4-5 night voyages, followed by a summer season of week-long cruises to the region.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly Australia/New Zealand today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

There’s also a front cover wrap highlighting **Regent Seven Seas Cruises’** Europe offers.



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Viking considers coastal cruising

VIKING Cruises isn't commenting on a new trademark application which could indicate that a new Viking coastal cruising product may be in the offing.

Lodged by Viking River Cruises (Bermuda) Limited, there are several variants including "Viking Coastal Cruises" and "Viking Coastal Voyages," with the proposed ventures to provide "transport of passengers and of goods; cruise services; cruise ship services; travel agency services, namely, making reservations and taking bookings for transportation of passengers and goods; tour operating services; arranging of cruises; reservation services for transportation; cruise and cruise ship reservation services; organisation of excursions; provision of information and advice relating to all the aforesaid services".

Other recently lodged Viking trademark applications include "Viking Expeditions Exploring the World in Comfort," as well as "Viking Polaris" and "Viking Octantis" which may relate to the names of the line's new expedition vessels which are believed to be under construction, with a prospective 2021 debut.

Cruise taking over from air earlybirds

TRAVELLERS' booking patterns are no longer being governed by the release of earlybird airfares, with passengers increasingly booking earlier when cruise programs are released, according to Holland America Line (HAL) and Seabourn Director of Sales Tony Archbold (pictured).

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* on the sidelines of the Travel Associates 2019 Showcase in Qld last weekend, Archbold said: "I think for many years booking patterns in Australia were run by airlines...when they released their fares to destinations 12 months out, that's when the booking pattern happened to a large extent".

However as cruise lines and other products began to push their program release dates back to two, and even three years before departure, travellers are

now thinking further in advance.

Archbold said the airfare, which used to be "the driver of the initial purchase and the major purchase to a large extent, too," had shifted to often become a supplementary buy.

"People will book from the time you release," he said, acknowledging there would always be a segment of the market that will want to wait until the last minute.

Archbold said Europe in particular had shifted from Aug-Oct being the big selling period to Jun/Jul, which was once a very quiet time of the year.

He noted the competitive nature of the industry also had a role to play, as coach and river cruise operators also aimed to release their programs before their competitors.

Adventure World MD Neil



Rodgers, also speaking to *CW* last weekend, reinforced Archbold's observations.

"The cruise ships have moved the momentum by booking that far in advance so people are starting to expect that, even though with airlines you can only book 12 months," Rodgers said.

"So people are booking land trips and the air now afterwards, which is unheard of," he added.

NCLH Juneau buy

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings has been announced as the successful bidder for a three acre (1.2 hectare) parcel of land on the waterfront of Alaska's Juneau.

NCLH will pay US\$20 million for the land, outbidding rival Royal Caribbean which had made an offer of US\$13 million.

The cruise line has not unveiled its intentions for the site at this stage.

Sky Princess completes sea trials

PRINCESS Cruises new *Sky Princess* is back in the Fincantieri Shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy after successfully completing six days at sea to test its propulsion, steering and navigational equipment.

The 3,660-passenger vessel is a sister ship to *Regal Princess*, *Royal Princess* and *Majestic Princess*, and will feature the "Princess MedallionClass" experience along with Sky Suites and Take 5, claimed to be "the only jazz theatre at sea".

Sky Princess (pictured) is set to debut next month.



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ACA elects new committee



THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has announced new Executive and Management Committee appointments.

Two positions were replaced at last week's AGM, with Thor Elliott from Fremantle Ports stepping down at the end of his six year term and also vacating his role as ACA Treasurer.

Jay McKenzie from Bob Wood Cruise Group also finished her term, with new members including Karlie Cavanagh from

Inchcape Shipping Services & Matthew Carley, Port of Brisbane.

Tourism NT's Scott Lovett and Martin Bidgood from Intercruises were re-appointed.

Pictured are Matthew Carley, Port of Brisbane; Martin Bidgood, Intercruises; Anne McVilly, Port Arthur Historic Site; Jill Abel, ACA CEO; Karlie Cavanagh, Inchcape Shipping Services; Christine Cole, Tourism WA; and ACA Chair, Grant Gilfillan.

Club Orange rollout

THE "Club Orange" premium amenities program offered on some Holland America vessels will roll out fleetwide effective from next month.

Currently accessible on nine vessels, Club Orange is available to purchase for a limited number of non-suite staterooms on each sailing, offering upgrades within the category booked and access to a special "Captain's Choice" onboard event.

Club Orange gives guests an additional level of luxury and service with priority access, exclusive amenities and special events, the company said.

Guests in Neptune and Pinnacle suites also receive the benefits including a private dining venue and a dedicated concierge hotline.

"Club Orange is fast becoming a favourite on board with its exclusive services...so we're pleased to expand this program fleet wide so even more guests can take advantage of the benefits," said Holland America Line President, Orlando Ashford.

Club Orange costs US\$35 per person per day on *Nieuw Statendam* and *Koningsdam*, and US\$25 on all other ships, with the first and second guests in each stateroom both required to purchase the program.

Royal appoints PR

ROYAL Caribbean Cruise Lines has appointed creative agency Thinkerbell to look after its marketing strategy, creative executions and public relations for the Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara brands.

RCL Director of Marketing, Kathryn Valk said "our brands share a common passion for thoughtful innovation, inspiring us to go beyond what's possible for our guests."

"The Thinkerbell team has that same creative spirit, beautifully grounded in strong strategic marketing insight, and just as importantly are the kind of passionate people we want to work with," she said.

Other Thinkerbell clients include Journey Beyond, owner of Cruise Whitsundays.

Nobu on *Endeavor*

CELEBRITY Chef Nobu Matsuhisa will be on board the Oct 2020 "Indonesian Immersive & Great Barrier Reef" voyage aboard Crystal Cruises' *Crystal Endeavor*.

Nobu will host a variety of special events and dining experiences during the cruise.




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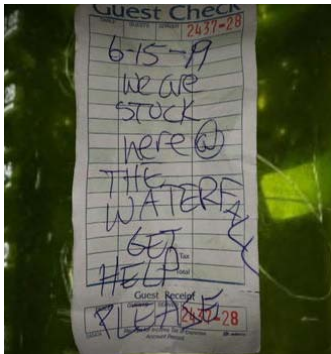


ANOTHER day, another message in a bottle story.

This time it comes from California, where a family has been rescued from a frightening predicament by putting a note inside a bottle and tossing it into a waterfall.

The incident occurred back in Jun, when a family was hiking in Big Sur State Park south of San Francisco and became trapped in the wilderness.

There was no mobile phone coverage, so the dad, Curtis Whitson, wrote an SOS note on a bar order pad (pictured) and put it in a water bottle.



Fortunately rather than the usual pattern where such messages take years to wash up, this time some sharp-eyed hikers spotted the bottle and retrieved it from the river after it floated downstream.

They alerted the California Highway Patrol Air Operations unit, which found Whitson and his companions and airlifted them to safety the next morning - you can't bottle that luck!

Genting cuts steel

GENTING Hong Kong Chairman and CEO Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay has officiated at the formal "steel cutting" ceremony for Dream Cruises' second Global Class ship, which took place yesterday at the MV Werften shipyard in Rostock-Warnemunde.

The company owns the shipyard, with the new vessel's milestone taking place almost a year after the keel laying of the flagship of the 208,000 gross tonne vessel series.

"We are delighted that our comprehensive investments at the three shipyard locations are bearing fruit and we can already celebrate today the first steel cutting for another technologically advanced vessel," Genting's CEO said.

The second ship is identical to *Global Dream* which is scheduled to enter service in 2021, with capacity to accommodate over 9,000 passengers along with a crew of 2,200 - making them the biggest ships to ever be built in Germany.

Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay is pictured below holding some of the newly cut steel with Harry Glawe, Germany's Minister for Economic Affairs of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.



Roald Amundsen milestone



HURTIGRUTEN Cruises' groundbreaking *MS Roald Amundsen* (CW 29 Jul) has this week made history as "the first ever battery-hybrid powered cruise ship to traverse the legendary Northwest Passage".

The momentous journey began in Greenland on 20 Aug, with the 500-passenger expedition vessel reaching Little Diomed Island in the Bering Sea, Alaska at 8pm on Tue 10 Sep.

Captain Kai Albrigtsen made a "monumental entry" in the ship's logbook to mark the achievement, saying "we have experienced gale force winds,

snow and ice.

"We have also witnessed spectacular sunsets and striking scenery and wildlife...however what has had the biggest impact on us is how warmly we've been welcomed by the local communities along the route, just as [pioneering Norwegian Arctic explorer] Roald Amundsen himself was," Albrigtsen said.

Having traversed the Northwest Passage, *MS Roald Amundsen* will now sail the coast of North and South America before spending the upcoming southern summer season offering a series of expedition cruises in Antarctica.

PONANT targeting solo travellers

PONANT is offering more than 90 itineraries with "no single supplement," with VP Asia Pacific, Monique Ponfoort saying the selection features a wide variety of destinations including Latin and Central America, Cape Verde, the Mediterranean, Iceland, Alaska, the Persian Gulf, Polynesia and even Antarctica.

"Our small ships provide a friendly, intimate experience, that solo travellers appreciate, so wherever possible we avoid penalising you with additional costs," Ponfoort said.

Some of the solo options are in partnership with National Geographic, with deals including a 10 Dec 2019 "Ancient Cultures of Northern Australia and Papua" departure from Darwin priced from \$7,550 for 10 nights - more information at au.ponant.com.