



Royal Caribbean looks to Oct relaunch

ROYAL Caribbean International believes there is a possibility of recommencing operations in Australia within the next two months, according to the brand's President & Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley.

Speaking to investors following the second quarter earnings announcement of parent company Royal Caribbean Group (RCG), Bayley noted the company's sailings are currently suspended across the globe, with potential for China and Australia to be first for a restart.

"It may well be possible that we'll resume operations in China, and potentially Australia, before the end of Oct but it's uncertain," Bayley said.

"I'm not making any statements that's going to happen, but there's some possibility."

Bayley also suggested Royal Caribbean was considering

compulsory COVID-19 swab testing for all passengers prior to embarkation in some markets.

"Testing seems to be very relevant and discussions are under way," he said, adding it was too early to release further info.

However "particularly as it relates to the Caribbean, that testing is very much at the front of how people are thinking of protocols for returning," Bayley added.

The comments about an Australian recommencement came as the group reported a US\$1.6 billion net loss for the three months to 30 Jun.

Royal Caribbean Group is currently burning between US\$250 million and US\$290 million in cash per month while operations are suspended, and is "considering ways to further reduce its average monthly cash burn under a further prolonged out-of-service scenario and

during restart of operations".

RCG Chief Executive Richard Fain noted the impact COVID-19 was having on shipyard operations, which will result in delivery delays for a number of newbuilds.

However Silversea's *Silver Moon* will still arrive this year, followed by Royal Caribbean International's *Odyssey of the Seas* in the first quarter of 2021 and Silversea's *Silver Dawn* in 2021.

Other ships previously scheduled for delivery next year, including *Wonder of the Seas* and *Celebrity Beyond*, are now expected to arrive in 2022.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is posing an unprecedented challenge to our industry and society," Fain said.

"Our teams are working tirelessly to return to service soonest and doing so by developing new health and safety protocols."

Cruise Weekly today

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

Oceania survey

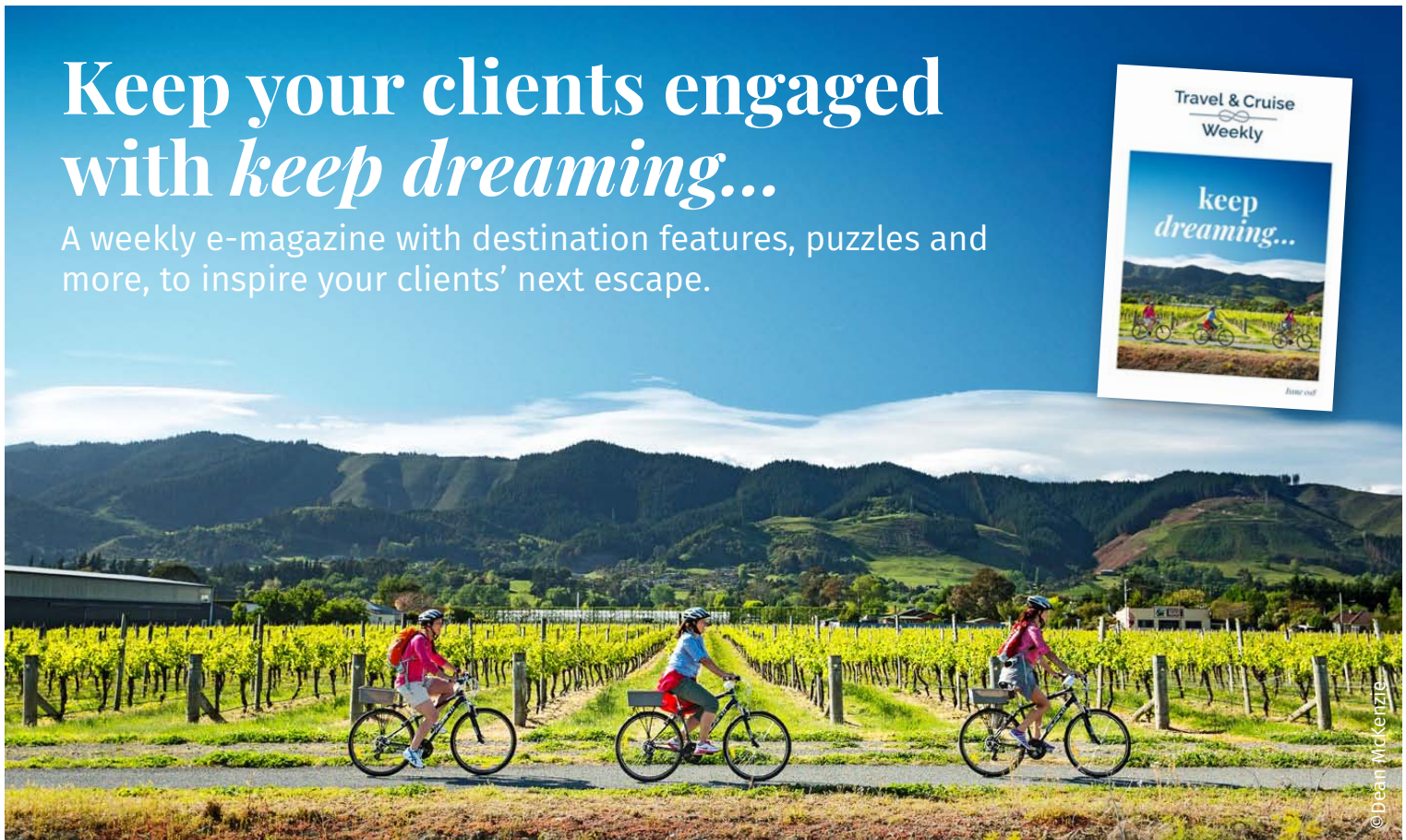
OCEANIA Cruises has launched a new trade survey, giving travel advisors in Australia and New Zealand the opportunity to provide feedback on the cruise line's trade initiatives.

The cruise line is also seeking advice on how it can best support travel agents in this time of need.

Taking approximately five minutes, all agents who also answer the question "where do you want to travel in 2021" in 25 words or less can go into the draw to win a premium case of wine - **CLICK HERE** to access the survey.

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WE ALL miss being out on the water, but this is a bit much!

A Chevrolet Impala crashed into a docked boat last week (pictured) in Niagara Falls, New York.

Supposedly, the accident was the fault of a spider landing in the lap of the driver, who then drove their automobile into a boat docked in a yacht club.



Pandaw's ANZ pact



PANDAW is aiming to strengthen its focus on Australia and New Zealand with the appointment of Complete Travel Marketing (CTM) as its local representation.

CTM will be responsible for raising the profile of Pandaw through a strategic combination of sales & marketing activities and acquiring more customers from Australasia.

"Australia has long been a key market for us and we have a loyal following of regular Australian travellers yet we are less well known to the Australian travel market at large," said founder

Paul Strachan.

"We are confident that our new partnership with CTM will change that and help get the message out that Pandaw is a very different river cruise experience."

Pandaw currently hosts a dedicated travel trade booking engine allowing agents to book exact cabin numbers and hold options for 14 days.

Pictured: *Kalaw Pandaw*.

Beirut tragedy

TWO crew members aboard Mehri Cruises' *Orient Queen* have been killed, and the vessel left shipwrecked, in the recent Beirut explosions.

Orient Queen was severely damaged by Tue's ammonium nitrate explosions while moored at her berth, after which she began severely listing.

A surviving crew member interviewed following the blast revealed the ship's interior had been totally destroyed, and later in the night, the vessel capsized and then partially sunk, after her list worsened.

Orient Queen arrived in Beirut on 27 Jun following a 22-day voyage from Saudi Arabia.

Seabourn pause

SEABOURN Cruise Line today announced further voyage cancellations as part of its global pause in operations.

Seabourn Sojourn will now not sail until 24 May 2021 with the cancellation of its 2021 World Cruise, while *Seabourn Encore* is now paused until 25 Nov this year, and *Seabourn Ovation* voyages have been cancelled through to 20 Dec.

UnCruise COVID

UNCRUISE Adventures' first sailing has returned to port early, after a passenger was notified by the state of Alaska they had tested positive to coronavirus.

Upon arrival back at Juneau, guests were placed in a local hotel where they are quarantining as prescribed in the company's state-approved COVID-19 contingency plan.

The infected guest tested negative at home before embarking on the cruise, with a second test taken on arrival at Juneau International later proving positive.

Coral Cairns comp

THE Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and Coral Expeditions have launched an online competition offering the chance to win a small ship expedition to Cape York and the Torres Strait Islands.

The competition launches this Fri, on day one of the Art Fair, and closes on 24 Aug.

For more on the competition and the event, **CLICK HERE**.

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