



Vance, Temple ex Cruiseco

EXCLUSIVE

TWO of Cruiseco's most senior executives will not transition with the business to Helloworld Travel's ownership (**CW** 23 Nov), according to an update released to Cruiseco members last week.

Cruiseco's highly respected Operations Manager Jeff Temple, who has been with the wholesaler for almost 16 years, has been made redundant, along with Adam Vance, who had been General Manager Sales & Marketing since early 2018.

Both have confirmed their departures on social media, with Vance saying he will not be making the transition to Helloworld because there is no suitable position within the organisation's new structure.

Helloworld did not provide confirmation of the redundancies, with Executive Director Cinzia Burnes noting only that "our

acquisition of Cruiseco was an asset purchase".

"We are retaining most of the staff; Nic Cola remains the person in charge and the final structure is being worked out," she said.

Catherine Allison will be responsible for Commercial & Product for the overall Helloworld cruise wholesale operations, which will see Cruiseco operate alongside the company's existing Seven Oceans business.

"We don't really have anything else at the moment to announce," Burnes told **Cruise Weekly** on Fri.

When the Helloworld deal was announced, Cruiseco interim CEO Nic Cola said all key staff had been retained, meaning the organisation was "well placed to build upon its position as a leader in the cruise industry in order to capitalise on demand when cruising comes back".

New NCL program

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will next year launch a new rewards program, Partners First Rewards, designed to recompense travel advisors for booking with NCL.

Partners First Rewards will cover regular incentives that will be exclusive to members of the rewards program; NCL Legends, which will reward top sellers from each region across Australia and New Zealand with a ship-board famill; and an awards ceremony, which will annually celebrate top advisors in each region.

NCL will announce the full program details once it is launched in early 2021, and in the meantime, partners can sign-up to NCL's newly improved trade portal Norwegian Central, where the line will track and reward partners for their bookings.

Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC Europe pause

MSC Cruises has confirmed the temporary operational pause of *MSC Grandiosa* to be instituted later this month, under a directive from the Government of Italy.

New restrictions will also see the previously planned restart of *MSC Magnifica* (**CW** 23 Oct) postponed until Jan, with a shutdown of travel in Italy likely to severely impact the ability of any guests to reach embarkation ports.

Movement across Italy will be limited between 21 Dec and 06 Jan, resulting in the cancellation of three *Grandiosa* and three *Magnifica* departures.

MSC is set to resume cruising in early Jan.

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AS CRUISE lines attempt to compete for the affections of passengers, startup Atlas Ocean Voyages has stepped over one of the steepest roadblocks to Antarctica cruising, announcing chartered private jet services for its passengers.

Available for United States-based pax, guests will be flown to Ushuaia from the US, shortening the travel time it takes for guests to reach and return from the Antarctic embarkation port, and avoiding layovers and inconvenient scheduling, common with commercial flying.

Upon arrival at Ushuaia, guests will be escorted through immigration and transferred to *World Navigator*, while their checked luggage is delivered to their suites and staterooms, and at the conclusion of their expedition, guests will be hosted at a Patagonian Gaucho ranch for a farewell meal prior to boarding Atlas' jet home.

InterCruise shorex pact



INTERCRUISES Shoreside & Port Services is diversifying its shore excursions with new positive impact product provided by Intrepid Urban Adventures.

An agreement between the two will see the tour provider grow Intercruises' shore excursion product in more than 50 cities around the world.

Focuses of the agreement will be unique and authentic small group walking tours, as well as sustainable tourism development and positive destination impact.

The agreement will ultimately give Intercruises access to Intrepid's product portfolio of more than 1,000 experiences, with teams from the two also collaborating to develop new cruise industry-specific products.

Intercruises will also work with and provide cruise industry training to more than 1,700 Intrepid guides for Intercruise shore excursions.

"We have been using the recent downtime to further look at cruise guests' needs and the latest travel trends, with a

focus on developing products that have a positive impact in the destination," Intercruises Global Shore Excursions Manager Carmen Morosan said of the nature of the agreement.

Vaccine the key?

RESEARCH from London-based travel agency Mundy Cruising has confirmed 81% of luxury passengers are planning a cruise next year.

However, a high proportion of passengers (47%) will wait until they and the majority of the United Kingdom's population are vaccinated first.

A further 39% of keen cruisers said they would cruise once they had been vaccinated, even if the majority had not.

The results also revealed 9% of respondents would go on a cruise regardless of a vaccine, and 3% would go on a cruise without being vaccinated, provided the majority of the population had been.

Osaka COVID drill

THE Port of Osaka has run a cruise ship coronavirus drill, with the Japanese cruise market coming back online with domestically-operated ships sailing short itineraries.

The joint training exercise involved port officials, town and city gov't authorities, executives and the shipboard team from Venus Cruises.

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