

## Virgin says g'day to its mates

**VIRGIN** Voyages has launched a new e-learning platform for its "first mates" called Seacademy.

An extension of its Brilliant to do Business With approach, Seacademy will incorporate Virgin's face-to-face meetings, Facebook Live meetings, webinars and more, Associate Vice President North American Sales John Diorio revealed.

Seacademy will feature four learning levels, ranging from Violet to Gold, and are designed to build on the brand confidence of first mates.

Violet tier is available now on [FirstMates.com](http://FirstMates.com).

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Swan rejoins with TTW

**THE** newly relaunched Swan Hellenic (**CW** 24 Jul) has expressed its confidence in the "immense potential of the Australian market," yesterday announcing the appointment of Travel The World (TTW) as a local preferred partner.

The announcement marks the rebirth of the previous partnership between the two, which existed over 10 years ago, before Swan Hellenic's British parent company All Leisure Group collapsed (**CW** 05 Jan 2017).

Tasked with promoting and selling Swan Hellenic in Australia, TTW will work closely with agents across the country to help them introduce the cruise line to their knowledge base, offering product training, special offers and "industry-leading" commission.

Swan Hellenic Senior Vice President Global Sales and Marketing Alfredo Spadon

welcomed TTW as a preferred partner, expressing his optimism for the opportunity that existed for the pair in Australia.

"Thanks to the incredible experience of TTW Group, we'll be able to offer our guests the benefits of full sea-sky integration to carry them from their cities to our ships and back again around the world," he said.

TTW Group Chairman Andrew Millmore said the partnership was well-timed, given the resurgence in interest for travel the company was beginning to witness.

"We will leverage our longstanding knowledge of Swan Hellenic, our passion, our strong industry relationships built over 40 years and wealth of travel experience to help our agent partners deliver truly bespoke expedition experiences to their clients," he said.

## Carnival extends Splendor pause

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has further extended its rolling pause in operations aboard *Carnival Splendor* through to 19 Apr.

Those who have clients booked on a *Carnival Splendor* cruise that is impacted by this change will be communicated with by Carnival.

Full details of the changes and specific offers available to clients are available at [www.carnival.com.au/travel-advisory](http://www.carnival.com.au/travel-advisory).

Advisors and their clients are asked to review this information, which will also be sent directly to travellers.

Commission on all fully paid bookings will be protected, and will also be paid when a rebooking is fully paid for through a future cruise credit.

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**THE** COVID-19 pandemic will not stop Santa Claus from delivering presents, but before he sets out, the big man took a moment to test out the rollercoaster aboard Carnival Cruise Line's new ship *Mardi Gras*.

Not far from his home at the North Pole, Santa headed down to Finland to take a test run on BOLT - presumably to make sure it was fun enough to ride.

*Mardi Gras* is scheduled to be delivered later this week, Carnival said, and Santa confirmed the contraption's enjoyment levels are beyond doubt, as he zipped along the nearly 250-metre track, which features a hairpin curve around the iconic Carnival funnel.

Santa achieved speeds of more than 60kmh, which while not quite as fast as his famous reindeer, is not far off.

## We wish you a merry Xmas



**P&O** Cruises Australia is going all-out planning next year's Christmas season festivities, following the disappointment of Xmas 2020 for avid cruisers.

With a three-ship fleet in Australia for Christmas next year, legendary P&O Cruise Director Zoltina-J Medwik-Daley (**pictured**) is preparing to spend her first Christmas ashore in Australia in 23 years.

Fortunately there will be plenty of Xmas cheer to go around next year, with P&O's Christmas and New Year 2021 cruises having more bookings compared to this time during previous years.

"Like our guests, I can't wait to get back on the water and I am really missing not being at sea for the Christmas-New Year celebrations," Medwik-Daley said.

"I know we have to be patient until the time is right to cruise again but it's hard knowing what we are missing out on.

"The crew love the Christmas cruises just as much as the guests. There is a really special atmosphere on board.

"Families love it, parents are relaxed and happy and the

kids love the magic of Santa, Christmas decorations and carols not to mention the food and entertainment.

"Everyone goes to bed each night thinking that cruising doesn't get better than this."

## Cruiseco Azamara

**CRUISECO** is featuring an Australia intensive voyage with Azamara for 2022 from Sydney to Singapore.

Cruisers will have the opportunity to explore Eagle Street Pier in Brisbane, Airlie Beach and its 74 nearby Whitsunday Islands, Darwin's history, and Tanjung Benoa, in South Kuta.

Departing 22 Feb aboard *Azamara Journey*, the 18-night holiday includes the 17-night cruise, all main meals and entertainment while on board, a one-night stay in the York Hotel Singapore including breakfast, transfers between the port, the hotel and the airport and airfares.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

## See you in 2021!

**THE Cruise Weekly** team is going on holidays a bit earlier this year, taking a well-earned break after reporting on a year of unprecedented cruise news.

Today will be our last issue for 2020, and our first for next year will be published on Mon 04 Jan.

From everyone at **Cruise Weekly**, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy new year, and most sincerely, better tidings for 2021!



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