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### SOUTH PACIFIC ADVENTURE 9 NIGHTS • DEPARTS 18 JAN 2021



RADIANCE OF THE SEAS

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VOYAGER OF THE SEAS

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OVATION OF THE SEAS

### NEW ZEALAND JOURNEY 11 NIGHTS • DEPARTS 10 NOV 2020



SERENADE OF THE SEAS

\*T&CS APPLY





### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover from **Royal Caribbean International**.

### US cruise warning

**THE** United States Department of State is now advising citizens against Asia cruise vacations, and issued a generalised warning against the industry as a whole. "Citizens should reconsider travel by cruise ship to or within Asia," the update read. "Citizens planning travel by cruise ship elsewhere should be aware that, due to the current public health situation, many countries have implemented strict screening. "While the U.S. government has successfully evacuated hundreds of our citizens in the previous weeks, repatriation flights should not be relied upon". Responding to the update, Cruise Lines International Association has reminded travellers that the industry is business as usual outside of East Asia. "These precautionary measures have enabled cruise operations to continue as usual in other parts of the world, including Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific."

## Further delays for Ritz-Carlton Yacht?

**THE** Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection continues to maintain that its inaugural voyage will depart on 14 Jun 2020, despite reports in Spanish media that the line's first vessel, *Evrima*, is likely to take up to nine more months to be completed. A restructuring plan for the Barreras shipyard in Vigo, where the ship is under construction, was approved last week, meaning works are likely to resume shortly. The project ground to a halt in late Sep 2019, after the shipyard was placed in bankruptcy protection amid a significant cost blowout for the Ritz-Carlton ship. The court-approved plan allows for payments to be made to critical subcontractors who had ceased work on *Evrima*. A number of **Cruise Weekly** readers who have clients booked on *Evrima's* maiden season have raised concerns in recent days



about a lack of updates on the progress of the ship. The proposed Jun date "will not be possible," reports state, and was already four months later than originally planned, with Ritz-Carlton last year cancelling cruises departing from Feb 2020. A report in Spanish daily newspaper *La Vanguardia* says subcontractors will recommence work as soon as they receive an

initial 50% payment of monies outstanding, and that after that *Evrima* "can be delivered in about seven to nine months". However a spokesperson for Ritz-Carlton overnight assured **CW** "the Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection will be launching 14 Jun 2020". The vessel is **pictured** in the Spanish shipyard on 10 Feb 2020 - photo courtesy Javier Alonso Castro/skipsfarts-forum.net.

### Royal Caribbean free upgrades, savings

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) is today showcasing the upcoming Queensland deployment of *Radiance of the Seas*, which will cruise out of Brisbane from Nov 2020. Deals are available on voyages to the South Pacific and New Zealand ex both Brisbane and Sydney, with RCI vessels cruising locally for the 2020/21 season also including *Voyager of the Seas*, *Ovation of the Seas* and *Serenade of the Seas*. Free balcony upgrades and up to 40% off fares for every guest are on offer, for selected departures and itineraries - for details log into Royal Caribbean's Homeport travel agent website, and see the cover page of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

### Going Global!

**GLOBAL** Journeys now offers ocean cruises as part of its aggregation of land tours and river cruises. Offering in excess of 10,000 trips worldwide, Global Journeys said it now opens opportunities for land and cruise partners to work together, with the rollout being supported by nine lines.

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**THERE** may be bigger and better ships gliding through the water, but the Manly Inflatable Boat Race always seems to draw some of the most interesting.

This year's race was the biggest ever, drawing around 570 people for the one-kilometre sprint, with some fly-cruisers even coming out from Spain to Shelley Beach to partake in the event.

The race has been floating for 16 years, with one of the organisers, Dee Montague-Jones, hailing 2020 the most spectacular yet.

"We gave out 14 prizes mainly for people who made a lot of effort like the flamingoes and an elderly couple who drove all the way from Orange".



## P&O lends a hand



**P&O** Cruises UK's *Arcadia* has arrived in Australia as part of its 100-day World Voyage, and has come bearing a gift for the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

Captain Ashley Cook and Chief Engineer Chris Greatorex helped raise £8,845 (A\$17,315) from the ship's guests, who happily contributed through various fund-raising initiatives including an auction and a raffle.

Docking in Sydney on Wed, New South Wales Rural Service Chief Superintendent John Paarnaby was on hand to receive the donation from a number of the

ship's top brass, except Cook, who was unable to be present, as he handed *Arcadia* over to new Captain Wesley Dunlop in Auckland.

"Australia's terrible summer of bushfires had a powerful effect on our guests and, knowing that they were on their way to Australia, they wanted to help," said Dunlop.

**Pictured** flanking Greatorex, Dunlop and Parnaby for the presentation of the donation are Human Resources Manager Orla McCreesh and Hotel General Manager Alasdair Ross.

## Sun rises on NZ

**SUN** Island Tours has opened an office in New Zealand.

The Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern experts will be led at launch in the New Zealand market by senior staff Sarah Beedell and Kathy Peterson, with support from Greg Osborne.

Based in Auckland, the office will be ready to take calls and reservations from Mon.

Commenting on the market, Sun Island General Manager John Polyviou said, "Kiwis are known as some of the world's most intrepid travellers, always in search of and ready for their next big adventure".

## A-ROSA dining

**A-ROSA** is now offering new speciality dining on all Danube and Rhine cruises.

Beginning Mar, guests will now be served three-course meals with a wine accompaniment.

The new dining menu is now being offered for a service fee of €11.90 (A\$19.55) per person.



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