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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY



Cruise Weekly today

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

Subs for *Sylva*?

AURORA Expeditions' next purpose-built expedition ship, *Sylva Earle*, will likely feature submersibles, MD Robert Halfpenny revealed to **CW**.

The design of the ship, named *Sylva Earle* after the marine biologist and oceanographer (**CW** 07 Jan), will draw on the experience and knowledge of its namesake.

"She's talking us into getting submersibles – either unmanned or manned submersibles and so we're taking that into consideration," Halfpenny said.

Aurora named its first purpose-built expedition ship *Greg Mortimer*, after its founder, an accomplished mountaineer.

"To have them named after somebody like these two individuals, you really want to build that into the characteristics and offerings of that ship," Halfpenny said.

One big sale!

ROYAL Caribbean International is today advertising its "one big sale", offering up to 40% off every guest, and up to US\$400 to spend at sea.

For full details of the promotion, see the **cover page** of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Viking chief slams LNG propulsion

VIKING'S revolutionary new expedition vessels (**CW** 17 Jan) will not be powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) because the company's Chairman, Torstein Hagen, believes there are significant environmental issues associated with the fuel.

Hagen discussed the issue in Los Angeles last Thu after unveiling the groundbreaking Viking expedition fleet (**pictured**), saying that originally the company had planned that the two new ships would have LNG propulsion.

"But since then we've looked at the science, and we believe there are big problems with LNG.

"LNG is another word for methane, a greenhouse gas.

"It's 30 to 80 times as damaging as CO2, and that's something nobody has talked about," he said.

Hagen said there was also often incomplete combustion when LNG is used in an engine.



"And then some goes straight into the sky...when you add up all the emissions it is worse than any of the other fuels."

Hagen's comments fly in the face of a number of other cruise lines which are actively touting their environmental credentials as they commission and launch new LNG-powered ships.

But he insisted that Viking had looked closely at the science.

"It's a fact, like it or not, so we came to the conclusion it would be ridiculous to follow everyone else and not do what the scientific facts dictate."

Hagen also decried claims made by competitors about hybrid battery-powered ships.

"They can operate for just 30 minutes on battery, and claim they save 20% on fuel? It's just propaganda."

Uniworld commences MSC legal action

UNIWORLD has filed a lawsuit in the English High Court of Justice against MSC Cruises over the last year's collision in Venice (**CW** 03 Jun 2019).

MSC Opera collided with *River Countess* while the latter ship was docked at San Basilio Cruise Terminal, with Uniworld Chief Executive Officer and President Ellen Bettridge calling out MSC for its "unproductive" compensation dialogue.

"We are extremely disappointed with the unprofessional manner in which MSC has decided to ignore the gravity of the situation, which has disrupted our guests, our partners and our team," she said.

"Aside from the severe damage to our ship, we were forced to cancel 14 voyages, frustrating our guests and travel partners."

Uniworld estimates its losses to date are more than €11.5 million, which includes reimbursing passengers, ship damage, lost revenue and the protection of travel agent commissions, without taking into account potential claims from customers and other damages.

In a statement, MSC said it had been working constructively with all parties, and has been facilitating "close cooperation".

Viking drops word

VIKING has dropped the word "cruise" from its name and website, citing a desire to focus on destinations, and a recognition of its variety of different types of sailings.

The move was announced by Chairman and founder Torstein Hagen in Los Angeles last week.

No CW on Mon

CRUISE Weekly will not be published on Monday, due to the Australia Day long weekend.

The next edition of **CW** will be Tue 28 Jan.

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Cruise returns to Eden



NORWEGIAN Jewel today became the first ship to visit Eden since the recent bushfires.

The visit marks a milestone in recovery efforts for the New South Wales South Coast, with Cruise Lines International Association MD Australasia Joel Katz saying the ship's visit was an important step in returning tourism to the region.

Pictured are Norwegian Cruise Line VP and MD APAC Ben Angell, *Jewel* GM Rumi Khato, NSW Minister for Tourism Stuart Ayres, *Jewel* Captain Giorgio Voussolinos, Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor Kristy McBain, Port Authority of NSW Cruise Development Manager Natlie Godward and Port Authority CEO Philip Holliday.

Paul Gauguin new 14-night Pacific sailing

PAUL Gauguin Cruises will debut a 14-night Marquesas, Tuamotus & Society Islands Voyage in Aug.

The 14-night round trip aboard *Paul Gauguin* from Papeete will focus on "culture, diversity and the rugged beyond", the cruise line claims, and will feature visits to Fakarava, Fatu Hiva, Hiva Oa, Tahuata, Nuku Hiva, Huahine, Bora Bora, Taha'a and Moorea.

Priced from US\$6,850 (A\$10,009) per person, voyages depart 29 Aug and 21 Nov 2020, and 13 Mar, 28 Aug and 20 Nov 2021.

Inclusions feature all shipboard meals, complimentary 24-hour room service, and all shipboard amenities and activities.

In a good position: CLIA



CRUISE ships are in a better position to minimise the risk of coronavirus infection than other forms of travel due to their stringent health procedures, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) claims.

"Cruise lines take precautions to screen passengers for illness prior to boarding, and all ships are fitted with medical facilities and onboard medical personnel 24/7 to treat passengers swiftly in the event of illness and prevent further transmission," the industry body said in a statement.

"CLIA cruise lines maintain close contact with health professionals and regulators around the world, and are one of the most well-equipped and experienced industries when it comes to managing and monitoring health conditions," CLIA added.

Although in a stronger position than most of the travel industry, CLIA also stressed it would continue to monitor the status of the outbreak in Wuhan, China "closely", and cautioned that "with any trip, whether by land, air or sea, travellers should check with public health authorities to be informed regarding health

matters at the destinations they will visit, and exercise appropriate precautions".

Major cruise lines are taking a similarly watchful approach, with Royal Caribbean Cruises telling **Cruise Weekly** it was continuing to "monitor developments in the region and are in consultation with health officials to assess the situation", also indicating that it had implemented "precautionary measures" at the terminal and on board its ships to ensure the health and safety of its passengers and crew.

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) also informed **CW** that it had implemented tougher screening protocols to mitigate the risk of the virus infecting its ships.

"Due to the growing concern regarding coronavirus infections in China, we are implementing non-touch temperature screenings for all guests embarking from Chinese ports," the cruise line said.

"Guests who register a body temperature screening of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius) or higher will not be allowed to board".

NCL will also deny a person aboard if they have visited Wuhan in the last 30 days.

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Cruise Calendar

The next few port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	24 Jan
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	24 Jan
<i>Viking Orion</i>	24 Jan
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	25 Jan
<i>Sea Princess</i>	25 Jan
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	25 Jan
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	26 Jan
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	26 Jan

BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	24 Jan
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	25 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	25 Jan

MELBOURNE	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	24 Jan
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	25 Jan
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	26 Jan

FREMANTLE	
<i>Sun Princess</i>	24 Jan
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	25 Jan

HOBART	
<i>Ocean Dream</i>	24 Jan

ADELAIDE	
<i>Golden Princess</i>	25 Jan
<i>Golden Princess</i>	26 Jan

DARWIN	
<i>Europa</i>	24 Jan

GERALDTON	
<i>Vasco da Gama</i>	24 Jan

AUCKLAND	
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	24 Jan
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	25 Jan
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	26 Jan

WELLINGTON	
<i>Noordam</i>	24 Jan
<i>Regatta</i>	24 Jan
<i>Seven Seas Voyager</i>	25 Jan

Growth on NCL's horizon



BRINGING capacity down under will be Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) biggest focus over the coming years, the company's Vice President and Managing Director APAC Ben Angell has told **CW**.

Aboard *Norwegian Jewel* yesterday ahead of her departure for Eden - the first call by a cruise ship since the bushfires - Angell called out recent and ongoing fleet refurbishments as a key driver of growth.

"We've had the office here now for about five years and we've delivered consistent high growth since then, and so we're set up really nicely to capitalise as we go forward," he said.

"[*Norwegian Spirit* is] part of a fleet that is the most consistent in cruising...(Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings President & Chief Executive Officer) Frank Del Rio has spent over half a billion dollars on renovations over the past few years, and that's given

us a fleet that is so consistent, and whichever ship of ours you get on, it's got that newbuild feel.

"It's a fantastic product, and *Spirit* is the last to undergo the refurb, but she's benefitting from that."

Angell also hailed the importance of the trade in driving growth, with the cruise line to double-down on its trade focus.

"We've always been an avid supporter of the trade, as they are of us," he said.

"As more ships come into Asia-Pacific waters, more of our focus will go to filling those ships and sourcing guests for those ships.

"Whereas historically we've been sourcing from Europe, or Hawaii, or Alaska, a little bit more of our focus will be sourcing for the closer-to-home product, so those are the main things we're working on."

Pictured is Angell with Senior Sales Manager Angela Middleton.

Silversea Grand

SILVERSEA has opened sales on its new Grand Voyage Mediterranean in 2021.

Travelling between 08 Sep and 05 Nov, the journey visits 45 destinations in 17 countries over 59 days.

Travelling aboard *Silver Shadow*, inclusions feature roundtrip Economy class airfare and US\$1,000 onboard credit - **CLICK HERE**.



THE celebrity branding industry is littered with the carcasses of VIPs who failed to move the needle for a company or product, and Gwyneth Paltrow may just have joined the club.

The actress was recently promoting her Goop brand on a popular American late-night talking head show, when she identified the wrong cruise line collaborating with her.

"We were approached by Royal Caribbean to do a collaboration with them — a wellness one — and so we're really excited about it," Paltrow said, when she instead should've reached for Celebrity Cruises.

The gaffe is not as serious as faux pas come, with Celebrity owned by Royal Caribbean, but the entertainer went on to attribute her blunder to being under the influence of "mushrooms" - which we assume explains most of her work from the last 20 years.