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CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Friday 6th March 2020

Cruise Weekly today

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

Goldstein is gone

ROYAL Caribbean Vice-Chairman, Adam Goldstein, has abruptly departed the company after 32 years, with CEO Richard Fain paying tribute to Goldstein's "countless contributions".

Viking is flexible

VIKING Cruises is reminding agents it now offers your clients the option of cancelling or postponing a cruise up to 24 hours before any departure. For more information on the updated cancellation policy - see the **front page**.

Breathing new spirit into Geelong

TOURISM Greater Geelong and The Bellarine's Executive Director, Brett Ince, believes the *Spirit of Tasmania* would represent a "great opportunity" for the region's tourism industry if she were to be redirected to the area from Melbourne.

Addressing comments made in Victorian State Parliament this week that the vessel could be "shifted" to Geelong amid "price gouging" claims at Melbourne's Station Pier, Ince told **CW** the city's economy would benefit greatly if it were to happen, but cautioned that a significant level of planning would be needed for it to become a reality.

"With the large capacity of visitation from both pre-embarking and disembarking passengers on the *Spirit of Tasmania*, it would be a fabulous boost to our region," he admitted. "However, it's hard to



understand at this point whether it could be an opportunity, a lot of discussions would need to take place with both the *Spirit of Tasmania* and the Tasmanian Government," Ince added.

Victorian Ports Corporation CEO Rachel Johnson confirmed discussions were underway with *Spirit of Tasmania's* parent company TT-Line, telling **CW** the goal is to create "an efficient infrastructure solution" to accommodate the company's new ships coming into service

over the next two years.

"Nearly half a million people travel on the *Spirit of Tasmania* each year and we look forward to continue working with them to ensure the interests of both Victorians and Tasmanians," Johnson said.

TT-Line signed a new agreement last month with Finnish shipyard RMC to construct two new vessels, after it cancelled a contract with shipbuilder FSG, citing financial issues at the German company as the reason.



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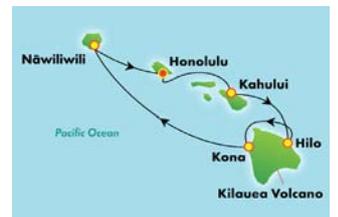
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*Offer correct as at 3 March 2020 and subject to change or withdrawal. Offer ends 17 March 2020 unless extended. For full terms and conditions click here.



Discover how RSSC's new ship *Splendor* is defining luxury in the March issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin

Cruise Calendar

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

SYDNEY	
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	06 Mar
<i>Spectrum of the Seas</i>	06 Mar
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	07 Mar
<i>Amsterdam</i>	07 Mar
<i>Spectrum of the Seas</i>	07 Mar
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	08 Mar
<i>Amsterdam</i>	08 Mar
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	08 Mar
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	07 Mar
<i>Sea Princess</i>	08 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	06 Mar
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	07 Mar
<i>Queen Mary 2</i>	08 Mar
HOBART	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	08 Mar
<i>Costa Deliziosa</i>	08 Mar
ADELAIDE	
<i>The World</i>	07 Mar
CAIRNS	
<i>Artania</i>	06 Mar
<i>Wind Spirit</i>	07 Mar
EDEN	
<i>Seabourn Encore</i>	07 Mar
TOWNSVILLE	
<i>Artania</i>	07 Mar
AUCKLAND	
<i>MSC Magnifica</i>	07 Mar
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	08 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	08 Mar
BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	08 Mar
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	09 Mar
WELLINGTON	
<i>Carnival Spirit</i>	06 Mar
<i>Noordam</i>	08 Mar

Grand Princess scare



PRINCESS Cruises has confirmed that it is working with the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention to determine if a small cluster of COVID-19 cases in California originated from its recently completed *Grand Princess* Mexican voyage, which sailed between 11-21 Feb.

The small batch of cases included a former passenger on the sailing who has since passed away from the virus.

"We have shared essential travel and health data with the CDC to facilitate their standard notification to the State and County health authorities in order to follow up with individuals who may have been exposed to

the people who became ill," a spokesperson for the line said.

"The CDC is continuing to actively collect information and is collaborating with us to determine what, if any, actions need to be taken during the current Hawaii cruise and upon her return to San Francisco".

Grand Princess has also cancelled a call to Ensenada in Mexico so that she can arrive back in San Francisco early, a decision Princess said was driven by an "abundance of caution".

The cruise line said all guests on the previous voyage had been alerted to the situation, and is also providing free phone and internet services for guests to communicate with their families.

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Silversea update

SILVERSEA Cruises has issued a temporary change to its new booking and cancellation policies, giving cruisers more time to evaluate their travel plans in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

Those who make new bookings on sailings between 01 Jun and 31 Dec 2020 can cancel up until 30 days before departure and only incur a US\$200 administrative fee.

However cancellations of Silversea trips within 29 days of departure will continue to incur a 100% penalty.



CRUISE enthusiasts would be well aware of just how huge cruise ships are these days, but sometimes it takes an historical perspective to really appreciate the massive evolution.

Twitter has been furiously sharing this image, pictured below, comparing Royal Caribbean's giant *Oasis of the Seas* with the ill-fated *Titanic*, hailed as the largest ship afloat at the time she entered service.

Given the industry's successful growth trend, we look forward to how big the next ship will be.

