



Cruiseeco acquired by Helloworld

HELLOWORLD Travel (HLO) this morning confirmed the acquisition of the Cruiseeco consortium (**CW** breaking news), with the operation set to be combined with Helloworld's existing Seven Oceans business.

Cruiseeco interim Chief Executive Officer Nic Cola has been confirmed as the new head of Helloworld's overall wholesale cruise division, including Seven Oceans Cruising, while Catherine Allison will take over all commercial responsibility for cruise contracts for the Helloworld Group.

HLO Executive Director Cinzia Burnes said "we believe the future of cruising is very bright and we are delighted at the opportunity to integrate Cruiseeco into our wholesale cruise operations as the 'cruise packaging' specialist.

"We have always admired the

unique propositions of Cruiseeco and its creative products...we look forward to working with all Cruiseeco members and our cruise line partners to ensure we maximise all future opportunities both in Australia and New Zealand," Burnes said.

Cruiseeco has been in business for 20 years, having been founded by Phil Hoffmann, Kevin Dale and its inaugural Chief Executive Officer Steve Lloyd.

A stake in the business was acquired by APT's parent company, Australian Pacific Holdings (APH), in 2005, with APH moving to a two-thirds majority ownership position in Mar 2017 following Lloyd's retirement.

Hoffmann and Dale said they believed that being part of a travel agent buying group would be the best fit for Cruiseeco when the cruise industry comes back.

"The COVID-19 crisis has forced

rationalisation of the travel industry which in particular has severely impacted cruising," the Cruiseeco co-founders said.

Cola said the consortium's management had undertaken a thorough reassessment of operations and service delivery during the cruise shutdown.

"We recognise that post-COVID it will be critical to have a robust and effective distribution network to make the most of business opportunities when cruising resumes, and Helloworld was the perfect fit for that," Cola said.

He added all key staff would be retained within Cruiseeco, which was "well placed to build upon its position as a leader in the cruise industry in order to capitalise on demand".

The acquisition will be funded from existing cash reserves, and the purchase price is not considered material, HLO said.

Cruise Weekly today

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

More suspensions

PRINCESS Cruises has confirmed its global pause in operations will now extend until 31 Mar 2021, as well as all cruises longer than seven days sailing in and out of the US through to Nov 2021.

Fellow Carnival Corporation brand Holland America has also confirmed its pause until 31 Mar, as well as all cruises of eight days or more that call in the US until Mar 2021.

Select longer Holland America Line voyages in Asia, Australia/NZ and South America have also been cancelled through until mid-Apr, with some rescheduled to comparable dates in 2022.


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Silversea reshuffle

SILVERSEA Cruises has reorganised its sales territories to create new portfolios to be looked after by its team.

Queensland, Western Australia & NT trade partners will be managed by Jacqueline Tufala, while New South Wales & the ACT will be managed by Christine Gardiner, who will also temporarily look after Victoria, Tasmania and SA.

New Zealand trade partners will be temporarily managed by Julie Golding, who will continue in her role as National Account Manager.

Inside Sales Account Manager Jo Bingham will support a dedicated portfolio of travel partners, who will be reached out to individually in due course, while Annie Weinert will provide sales and administrative support to partners and the sales team.

Breeze completes stretch



FOLLOWING its stretching (*CW* 12 Apr 2019), *Star Breeze* (**pictured**) has been delivered to Windstar Cruises from Fincantieri.

Breeze was the first of three to be extended and modernised as part of the Star Plus Initiative, with Windstar taking delivery of the ship last Wed.

The plan, valued at US\$250 million, will see *Star Breeze*, *Star Legend* and *Star Pride* given a

new 25.6-metre-long mid-body section, as well as new engines, and an extensive modernisation of public areas, staterooms and open decks.

Other enhancements include new restaurants, the new World Spa by Windstar, and a new pool.

After nearly a year at Fincantieri, *Star Breeze* is now 160 metres long and has capacity for 312 passengers.

Carnival updates

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has cancelled its Jan sailings as it works to meet Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) requirements.

Cancelled sailings include all embarkations from American homeports for the month of Jan, with Baltimore, Charleston, Jacksonville, Long Beach, Mobile, New Orleans and San Diego out until the end of Feb.

Embarkations on *Carnival Legend* out of Tampa will also be canx through to 23 Mar.

Carnival said it is in the process of building a gradual, phased-in approach to resume cruising, which will focus initially on Miami and Port Canaveral, followed by Galveston.

Ahead of preparations, *Carnival Horizon* arrived in Miami last week.

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RCI Caribbean '22

ROYAL Caribbean

International has announced its 2022 Caribbean program, which will see its three Oasis-class ships sail from Florida and the Northeastern United States.

Symphony of the Seas and *Harmony of the Seas* will sail Eastern and Western Caribbean seven-night itineraries from Miami and Port Canaveral, respectively, with *Symphony* to boast evening stays in Puerto Rico on select cruises.

Amplified sister ship *Oasis of the Seas* (CW 26 Nov 2019) will offer seven-night cruises to The Bahamas and Florida and from Cape Liberty, with almost every sailing visiting Perfect Day at CocoCay.

Mariner of the Seas will also introduce sailings from Florida to Bermuda.

Bingle didn't bungle it



PRINCESS Cruises' *Sun Princess* Third Officer Max Bingle (pictured) has become the youngest recipient of the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service, at 24.

Bingle was recognised for the courageous rescue of three men in the Caribbean on *Sea Princess'* world cruise from Sydney last year (CW 09 Nov 2017).

One of the world's most

prestigious maritime awards, Bingle commanded a fast rescue boat in heavy seas with two colleagues to save three men from drowning.

"Everybody on board acted in the highest maritime tradition by going to the aid of fellow sailors in peril on the sea," Bingle said.

"Saving lives is what we are trained to do as seafarers, and I'm grateful for this recognition."

NCL 2023 out

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has launched its 2023 itineraries, which will feature Caribbean island-hopping, Alaskan glacier viewing and European explorations.

The new itineraries include NCL's first visit to Nessebar on *Norwegian Jade*, with the ship to also make her maiden call to Bodrum and Paros, and the debut of *Norwegian Bliss* at the Royal Naval Dockyard during her seven-day roundtrip to Bermuda from New York City.

This is the furthest in advance that NCL has ever launched its itineraries, with the cruise line having also recently unveiled its Black Fri sale across all stateroom categories, and announced it will relaunch its Norwegian Central trade portal in the coming weeks (CW 19 Nov).

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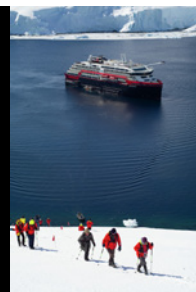
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Hear how Hurtigruten and Silversea are planning for future travel and more in the November issue of *travelBulletin*.

travelBulletin



Thomas Swans in

SWAN Hellenic has appointed Pierre Thomas as its Director of Expedition Operations.

Thomas possesses vast experience as an Expedition Leader for almost 30 years, working for cruise lines such as Lindblad Expeditions and Silversea Cruises, which has seen him lead expeditions on the water, under the water and overland by motorbike.

He has also led lectures in five different languages on topics from tropical fish, to the history of Africa, the Panama Canal and the Central American crisis.

Swan Hellenic Chief Executive Officer Andrea Zito said Thomas' tremendous experience and strong relationships with international experts in their fields would add a great deal to the Swan Hellenic experience.

"Nobody could be better placed to ensure our guests enjoy a unique cultural expedition experience, both on and off-board," he said.

Touch the Sky!



SEABOURN Cruise Line has revealed details of The Club and Sky Bar (pictured) for its new expedition vessels.

The cruise line said The Club will be an "idyllic setting for guests to mix and mingle, eat and drink, and tap their toes".

The Club is being designed by hospitality designer Adam Tihany, and will be first available on *Seabourn Venture* in 2021 (CW 19 Oct), and will follow on the yet-unnamed sister expedition ship in 2022 (CW 21 Sep).

It will feature expansive windows, and will include a sushi experience, offering a variety of hand-prepared bites freshly

made to order every evening, paired with sake, custom-crafted cocktails and fine wines.

Other distinctive details include a water-vapor fireplace set at the centre of the venue, and a dedicated stage and dance floor for live performances.

Outside, the aft deck of the lounge will feature the Sky Bar, where there will be two whirlpools for taking a dip at each corner of the deck, providing views of the surrounding environment, as opposed to its location overlooking the pool deck on other Seabourn vessels.



NORWAY'S original Vikings founded an incredible seafaring tradition, so when a sacred ancient burial ground in the Norwegian town of Oppdal was looted there was plenty of outrage at the alleged attack.

The desecration involved deep holes drilled into 17 of the centuries-old Viking graves at the Vang site, which is Northern Europe's largest-remaining Viking graveyard from the Iron Age.

Local newspapers in Trondheim suggested the holes had been dug using specially created drills, amid a detailed police investigation to find the perpetrators.

However that probe was abruptly terminated last week, with officers now believing there was a more innocent explanation - in the form of a badger, which is believed to have tunneled into the site.

Nature desecrating nature seems like a far fairer result.

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Contributors – Myles Stedman, Adam Bishop, Nicholas O'Donoghue
info@cruiseweekly.com.au
info@cruiseweekly.co.nz

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au
advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8213 6350 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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