



Cruise Weekly today

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

Costa sets sail

COSTA Cruises has become the first Carnival Corporation brand to resume sailing, with *Costa Deliziosa* departing from Trieste last night for the first of a series of week-long voyages.

The cruises will only visit ports in Italy and exclusively carry Italian residents, with the trips governed by a new Costa Safety Protocol involving online check-ins, health assessments, staggered boarding times, reduced occupancy and venue limits.

Masks must be worn in public areas, dining times have been extended and guests can only go on Costa Safe Excursions.

Hurtigruten enhancing safety policies

HURTIGRUTEN has committed to improving its internal routines and procedures, after the release of an investigation by Norwegian authorities into the outbreak of coronavirus on *Roald Amundsen* as it resumed cruising last month (**CW** 03 Aug).

In line with Hurtigruten's dedication to transparency, the full report from the Norwegian Maritime Directorate (NMD) has been published on the cruise line's website, along with commentary from Chief Executive Officer Daniel Skjeldam, who said "what the NMD points out is serious and shows that we must improve".

The audit was conducted alongside other ongoing investigations, including a police probe and a separate report commissioned by Hurtigruten and being undertaken by maritime safety experts DNV GL & Oslo law

firm Wiersholm.

The NMD report found a risk assessment was not carried out before the start of the *Roald Amundsen* cruise in Jul, which it said should have been done due to the ongoing pandemic, reduced staffing, the consequences of an outbreak and the major routine changes which COVID-19 had necessitated.

Hurtigruten's "reporting culture does not seem to have worked as it should in connection with the incident," the NMD said, with staff apparently aware of coronavirus symptoms on 29 Jul, two days before the ship arrived in Tromso with suspected infections on board.

The NMD noted company management said they had not received an official report there was a suspicion of infection on board before the outbreak was confirmed on 31 Jul.

The NMD also criticised the "emergency preparedness" of Hurtigruten after the outbreak was confirmed, saying plans for dealing with the incident did not work as expected.

However "it emerged during the audit that in the aftermath of the incident, Hurtigruten has worked well to update its procedures and contingency plans in relation to outbreaks of infection on board," the report found.

Asta Lassenes, who since early Aug has been acting Operations Director and General Manager of Hurtigruten AS, said following the outbreak, the cruise line had deployed all available resources to strengthen and improve procedures at all levels, involving a "formidable effort" by staff.

"Our employees and guests can be confident that safety is the most important thing for us at Hurtigruten," Lassenes said.

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Travel Daily

Masters coming

MSC Cruises Australia & New Zealand Sales Director Lisa Teiotu has revealed the cruise line's MSC Masters platform (CW 20 Aug) could launch as early as next month.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* last week, Teiotu said the travel agent learning platform was part of an ongoing refocus on the trade to support it during the pandemic.

"We took the time over the past five-to-six months to reassess our platforms and tools ahead of that recovery period to ensure we have the right tools to support the travel partners to rebuild their business when the demand returns," Teiotu told *Cruise Weekly*.

RCI's Wonder-ful news



NEW Royal Caribbean International (RCI) ship *Wonder of the Seas* (pictured) has

floated out at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in France.

Wonder of the Seas is the fifth Oasis-class ship, and has capacity for over 5,000 guests.

The vessel will now move to an outfitting pier as work continues ahead of a projected delivery in 2022, slightly later than scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic (CW 20 Jul).

Wonder of the Seas is set to operate in the Chinese market, and will feature new interior designs and concepts to appeal to its intended guests.



MANY look for ways to justify their drinking habits, a task which just got a whole lot easier thanks to Australian wine brand The Hidden Sea.

The vintner's slogan is "wine for good", which it lives up to, having joined the fight against ocean-based plastic pollution through a partnership with global organisation ReSea Project.

Committed to removing one billion plastic bottles from the world's oceans by 2030, ReSea and The Hidden Sea will remove the equivalent of 10 plastic bottles from the ocean in a verified, trackable process.

ReSea will send consumers a QR code allowing them to see the difference their purchase has made.

Advertising a chardonnay, a rose and a shiraz on their website, it is hoped to be determined through field work just how yummy The Hidden Sea's wines are.



VOTE FOR THE FINALISTS NOW!

There have been a massive number of nominations for the Travel Daily Awards and voting for the finalists in the supplier categories is now open until 14 September.

Vote now for those who you believe deserve to be recognised for their support.

**Click here to vote for
the finalists now**

Edge virtual cruise

CELEBRITY Cruises' *Celebrity Edge* is embarking on a virtual voyage, beginning today.

The 11-night sailing will take virtual travellers though the Greek Islands, Italy and Turkey, and will be able to be accessed through Celebrity Cruises Travel Partner Facebook Group - **CLICK HERE**.

RSSC upgrade

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is offering travellers a suite upgrade through its Elevate Your Experience offer.

Guests can choose to sail Alaska, Mediterranean or Northern Europe with a free two-category suite upgrade, up to a penthouse suite, on select 2021 voyages.

For more, call Regent Seven Seas on 1300 455 200 or **CLICK HERE**.