



CLIA lauds WA

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has welcomed the support for Western Australian travel agents provided by the Government of WA.

Western Australian has allocated \$3 million to support agents, with CLIA Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz saying the survival of the vocation was essential to the future recovery of Australia's travel industry.

Katz highlighted more than 80% of cruise holidays were booked and managed by agents, and called for a long-term plan for the revival of the travel economy.

2021 Super Cruise now open to all

THE 2021 Cruiseeco Super Cruise (CW 31 Jul) is now open to any travel agencies in Australia or New Zealand, rather than just to the consortium's members.

Cruiseeco said the decision was "hard but logical", and borne out of a will to ensure its partners and the charterer of the itinerary, Choose Your Cruise, could operate a viable and successful cruise of its size during the coronavirus downturn.

"The challenge for us is how we do this while maintaining price integrity...the best way to achieve both aims is to have the widest possible distribution for the product this year," Cruiseeco said in an update sent to members last week.

"Choose Your Cruise and Cruiseeco have determined the best outcome is to invite agents outside of the Cruiseeco network to offer the 2021 Super Cruise".



The itinerary will sail from 23-30 Nov 2021 aboard *Oasis of the Seas* (pictured) and combine the popular Rock Your Boat and Cruisin' Country cruises into a single voyage.

Cruiseeco also flagged its membership fees were being

waived until Jun 2021 "to assist members in their forward financial planning", and also announced National Product Manager Dean Sinclair would be departing on 02 Oct to pursue a new opportunity outside the travel industry.

Cruise Weekly today

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



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Diadema to return

COSTA Cruises has returned a second ship to service, with *Costa Diadema* departing Genoa over the weekend.

Including calls at ports in Italy and reserved for Italian guests only, *Diadema* will visit Civitavecchia, Naples, Palermo, Cagliari and La Spezia.

Two more ships are expected to enter and re-enter operation across the remainder of the year, which will include *Costa Smeralda* on 10 Oct, and the debut of *Costa Firenze* on 27 Dec, both of which will be available to European citizens who are residents of the countries listed in Italy's most recent Prime Ministerial decree.

"The initial response from our guests has been most encouraging," said Costa Group Chief Executive Officer Michael Thamm.

Seabourn a cut above the rest

THE first steel has been cut for Seabourn Cruise Line's second expedition ship.

Managing Director of T. Mariotti shipyard Marco Ghiglione presided over the ceremony (**pictured**) with Seabourn Vice President Newbuilding Cyril Tatar joining, and the line's President Josh Leibowitz tuning in virtually.

The second ship, which has yet to be named, is scheduled to launch in 2022, with sister and fellow Venture-class ship *Seabourn Venture* (**CW** 25 Nov 2019) slated to launch in 2021.

Both ships will be designed and built to PC6 Polar Class standards, and will include 132 oceanfront veranda suites, two custom-built submarines and 24 Zodiacs.

"The first steel cut for the second Seabourn expedition vessel, while *Seabourn Venture* is already under construction, enhances the enthusiasm even



more for the successful and long lasting cooperation with Seabourn," said Ghiglione.

Leibowitz added his enthusiasm, saying, "this milestone further

underscores our commitment to the expedition travel category and I'm confident these ships will deliver extraordinary expedition experiences."



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With the findings of the special commission of enquiry into *Ruby Princess* released, Bruce Piper traces how it all went down in the September issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read



Walk for Wellness

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is encouraging travel agents to register for its Walk for Wellness challenge.

The initiative aims to celebrate health and wellbeing in the travel industry, and agents will have the opportunity to win prizes.

Using a free mobile application, travel partners will get active and track their steps, embarking on a walking adventure while journeying around an interactive map of the world, reaching virtual global landmarks and completing fun weekly challenges, all alongside travel industry friends.

To take part in Walk for Wellness, **CLICK HERE**.

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has launched a new floating pub on Sydney Harbour which might help temporarily scratch that cruise itch for those who are missing being on the water.

Described as "Sydney's first ever hop-on hop-off floating gastropub and restaurant", the new product follows a facelift of flagship vessel *Sydney 2000*, with the company saying it's a perfect alternative to a "traditional Sydney city pub crawl on foot" - check it out at captaincook.com.au.

Dining afloat: Le Petit Chef



SHIP: *Celebrity Solstice*.

DINNER and a show just got a whole lot more creative.

Guests cruising on board *Celebrity Solstice* will have the chance to enjoy the unique interactive dining experience that is Le Petit Chef.

is served (**pictured**).

Cruisers will be entertained by an animated mini chef projected onto each table, who painstakingly creates a virtual dish before the real thing is brought out by a waiter.

Dimmed lights enhance the colourful tabletop projections, while a bright ray of white light is cast onto each plate in between courses.

The menu features a range of options, with highlights including bouillabaisse soup, roasted half lobster, and filet mignon cooked to perfection.

Delicious food and creative entertainment? Let's GLOW!

INCLUDED IN FARE: No.

RESERVATIONS:

Recommended.

DRESS: Smart casual.

HOURS: Le Petit Chef is open nightly for two seatings - 6pm and 8.30pm.



Artists Skullmapping have joined forces with TableMation to create a range of custom 3D table animation art that brings tables to life before each meal

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