



## MSC celebrates double milestone

MSC Cruises and Chantiers de l'Atlantique have celebrated two significant newbuild milestones for the line's next generation of ships - the float-out of the fleet's first liquefied natural gas-powered vessel, *MSC World Europa* (pictured) and the coin ceremony for *MSC Euribia*.

The ships play an important role in MSC's commitment to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In particular, a fuel cell pilot plant known as Blue Horizon was installed on board *World Europa*, which will use LNG to convert fuel into electricity at one of the highest efficiencies of any power solution available today, producing electricity and heat on board.

The technology will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by a further 30% compared to a conventional LNG engine.

The project will form the building block for future larger installations, and the beginning of an even closer collaboration between MSC and Chantier de l'Atlantique on research and development of fuel cell tech.

*Euribia* will be MSC's second LNG-powered ship, with the cruise line's Valentina Mancini and Chantiers de l'Atlantique's Anne Claire Juventin performing the traditional maritime ritual, as godmothers representing the ship owner and the shipbuilder when they placed two coins



under the keel as the historical sign of blessing and good fortune for the project, and the ship's operational life at sea.

"Following billions of euros of investment, we are announcing significant construction developments in not just one but two of our next generation LNG-powered vessels bringing us ever closer to our vision of an emissions free cruise industry," declared the cruise line's Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago.

"As the cleanest fuel currently available at scale for our operations, LNG is at the vanguard of the momentous energy transition we must go through.

"We have a lot more to do but I am pleased that despite all that we have faced from the pandemic over the last two years, we have

still been able to achieve with our partners at Chantiers de l'Atlantique the launch of these new LNG vessels – the first ever made in France that will also introduce potential new fuel cell technologies to make them even more efficient."

Vago added MSC would now be taking even larger steps toward improved efficiency, for which it would require the continued support of its suppliers, partners and governments.

Chantiers de l'Atlantique General Manager Laurent Castaing dubbed the moment "very special".

"These ships are respectively the 15th and the 16th we are building for MSC Cruises - which shows the outstanding quality of the relationship we established between our two companies since the 90s," he said.

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Creative + Ponant

**CREATIVE** Cruising has teamed up with Ponant for an Exclusive Champagne Incentive to celebrate the launch of the cruise line's Europe 2023 season.

A bottle of Ponant's signature Charles Heidsieck Champagne is on offer for every Europe booking made and deposited before the end of the year.

Guests can take advantage of Ponant's current offers, including an Early Booking Bonus of up to 30% off, and an additional Xmas offer of a 5% saving, available on all open 2021-2023 voyages.

Contact Creative Cruising's call centre on 1300 362 599.

### Xmas '23 savings

**SAVINGS** have been released on a Christmas voyage to the Holy Land and Egypt in 2023 with Celestyal Cruises.

Those who book Cruise Traveller's 21-night Christmas with a Twist package by the end of next month can access savings of up to \$2,298 per couple, and \$1,081 for solos.

The package visits the Holy Land for Christmas Eve and Istanbul for New Year's Eve - **CLICK HERE** for more info.

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**NEW** York City has The High Line, but Melbourne may soon have...the Greenline?

Cruisers may be greeted by a very different Melbourne the next time they dock in the Victorian capital, with the city revealing plans for its Greenline project, which aims to transform the north bank of the Yarra River into a vibrant promenade.

The four-kilometre project will deliver an uninterrupted journey from Birrarung Marr to the Bolte Bridge, with the result to be a premier destination for tourists.

The Greenline will see Flinders Walk improvements, resulting in better access from Swanston Street to the river; upgrades to the Banana Alley vaults and the Yarro Yarro precinct, with more opportunities for river-based activities; creating a continuous riverside link to Docklands, and a new park at the end of the Salt Water Wharf precinct, as well as an improvement of the Australian Wharf experience.

## CroisiEurope 2023

**BOOKINGS** are open for CroisiEurope's French hotel barge itineraries in 2023.

With itineraries through Alsace, Burgundy, Champagne, Ile-de-France, Provence and the Upper Loire, pax can score a 15% discount on all bookings made by the end of Feb.

Also new is the 'Paris, Medieval France and the romance of Fontainebleau'.

## Hurtigruten's new Bergen lounge



**HURTIGRUTEN** Norwegian Coastal Express has launched its 2023/2024 season, which will include the debut of a luxurious guest lounge in Bergen.

Passengers can now start their journey in style at the lounge where they will be able to relax in comfortable surroundings ahead of their adventure.

With a capacity of 177 people, the lounge is located on the second floor of the Hurtigruten terminal in Bergen, and is open to all guests booked to sail with the cruise line.

The lounge will connect passengers to shore excursions and experiences on land in Bergen, and will also serve as the commencement point for the Norwegian Coastal Express.

Guests can also get a taste of Hurtigruten's Norway Coastal Kitchen concept, which allows travellers to experience authentic local cuisine

Hurtigruten's chefs collaborate with more than 50 local suppliers along the coast to offer guests a true taste of Norway, both in the lounge and on-board.

Calling at 34 ports along the

Norwegian Coastal Express voyage, Hurtigruten has the opportunity to receive fresh ingredients direct to its ships every day.

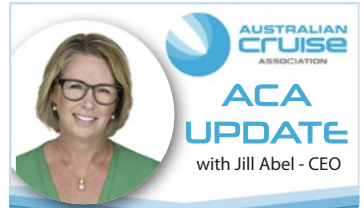
Other highlights of the new season include more than 70 available shore excursions between Bergen and Kirkenes, including emission-free excursions with electrical catamarans and tour buses.

"Hurtigruten's Coastal Express is the original coastal voyage, and a unique way to experience the Norwegian coast," Hurtigruten Norway Chief Executive Officer Hedda Felin described.

"With almost 130 years of experience and history, the ship acts as a lifeline for small communities along the coast.

"We are very proud of operating a legacy journey with such strong traditions, but which through innovations make it sustainable, modern, and still relevant for both our international travellers, local passengers and the local businesses that rely on us for the transportation of goods."

**Pictured:** *Nordnorge* in Hjordundfjorden.



### Bordering on opening

AS WE approach the end of another challenging year, we are excited to see movement around Australian border reopenings.

Despite the unknown impact of the Omicron variant, most of the country's states and territories have announced they will open in time for families and friends to be united for Christmas.

This is also a huge boost for the tourism industry which has been severely constrained by the inability for cross border travel.

While interstate cruising may now become more of a reality, we are unfortunately no closer to having a green light from the government regarding the lifting of the international border closure to the larger ships.

This is despite the successful modelling from the international cruise restart. CLIA reports today that a further 28 vessels will resume service for 21 brands around the world in Dec, taking the global operating capacity to almost 80%.

This means that since resumption more than 4.6 million passengers have cruised successfully in other parts of the world under the industry's stringent health protocols.

Ironically, it also means that while Australians can now travel to Singapore and board a cruise ship, they cannot do that in their own country.

This limits the flow of dollars and jobs back into the Australian economy.

We remain committed to working with the federal government and can only hope that we are on their Christmas list.