



# Shipyard pressure grows for Genting

**Cruise Weekly today**

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

**GENTING** Hong Kong, the parent company of Crystal Cruises, Star Cruises and Dream Cruises, is facing financial pressure in its MV Werften shipyards, with concerns operations are being threatened by an ongoing lack of orders.

A report in German newspaper the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* on Sat highlighted the crisis, and also confirmed Genting has dropped plans for the construction of six 2,000-passenger Universal class vessels, the first of which had previously been slated for delivery by the end of next year.

Genting purchased the shipbuilding business five years ago as part of a global buying spree, at the time saying it urgently wanted to ensure it could expand its fleet to capitalise on the cruising boom.

The shipyards in Wismar, Bremerhaven, Warnemunde and

Straslund collectively employ about 2,900 people.

They built Crystal's four ultra-luxury river cruise ships in 2016 & 2017.

In 2018, the facilities laid the keel for Dream Cruises' *Global Dream* flagship, with a sister ship commenced a year later.

However the pandemic has seen these 9,000-pax vessels delayed, while *Crystal Endeavor*, the luxury expedition cruise ship, was also paused for a time but is now nearing completion and on track for delivery this year (**CW** 08 Jan).

The report claims without further orders in the pipeline the shipyards are "on the brink of collapse," despite a €193 million bridging loan received from Germany's Economic Stabilization Fund in Oct.

"With the funds, MV Werften can continue to build the cruise ships *Crystal Endeavor* and *Global*

*Dream*, but no further orders are in sight," the newspaper said.

"It is likely that the group will be liquidated and that new owners will be sought for the locations... but bankruptcy cannot be ruled out despite all the financial aid."

The uncertainty is compounded by a lack of communication from Genting, with their silence adding to the already strained relationships between offshoot Crystal and travel agents around the world, who have for months been unsuccessfully seeking refunds.

However officials in Germany have acknowledged the pandemic necessitates government intervention, with a regional Minister for Economics & Labour Harry Glawe saying "we will continue to work intensively together with the Federal Government and Genting to preserve the shipyard locations".

## New Swan deal

**SWAN** Hellenic is celebrating a year of its return with new dedicated savings fares.

The Antarctic Polar Eclipse maiden cruise for *Minerva*, the first of Swan's three ice class ships, is set for Nov, with bookings for cruises this year and next between now and the end of Mar to save 20%.

There are also additional market-specific offers available ranging from flights to onboard spending, available on Swan Hellenic's website, and its local offices and agents, with the cruise line recently announcing Travel The World as a local preferred partner (**CW** 18 Dec 2020).

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## HAL opens 2022

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) has opened bookings for its Europe 2022 cruises.

Four ships will visit the continent on itineraries ranging from seven to 21 days.

*Rotterdam, Nieuw Statendam, Westerdam and Volendam* will sail Europe from Apr through Oct next year, exploring the Baltic, the British Isles, the French & Spanish rivieras, the Iberian Peninsula, the Mediterranean, and Northern Europe.

Highlights of the season include a historic 150th anniversary transatlantic sailing, departing exactly a century and a half after Holland America's first ship, *Rotterdam I*, embarked on its maiden voyage from Rotterdam to New York City.

For more info call Holland America on 1300 987 322.

## Say hola to Mexico

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has announced its return to the Mexican Riviera next year for the first time in eight years.

Sailing from Los Angeles, *Celebrity* will call in the region for the first time since 2014, with a seven-and eight-night sailing available.

*Celebrity Millennium* will offer 12 sailings from late Sep through mid-Dec, before embarking on a special 15-night Panama Canal crossing over the Christmas season.

The two itineraries visit spots on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, including Puerto Vallarta, the Baja Peninsula's Cabo San Lucas, the beaches of Mazatlan, and Ensenada, where guests will be treated to culinary tours and wine tastings in the Valle de Guadalupe.

On the Panama Canal journey, guests will ring in the New

Year while visiting Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, Puerto Quetzal, Puntarenas, Colon, and Cartagena.

*Celebrity Millennium* was recently transformed as part of the cruise line's multi-million-dollar *Celebrity Revolution* (CW 15 Feb 2019), and now features contemporary, high-style spaces and onboard experiences, as well as large staterooms, a newly redesigned spa, and the Sunset Bar, which offers some of the best views from the ship.

*Millennium* will also feature The Retreat, an exclusive area for Suite guests offering a private sundeck, a lounge, and Luminæ, an exclusive restaurant with a menu created by renowned chef Daniel Boulud.

Before heading to the Mexican Riviera, *Celebrity Millennium* will sail the 2022 Alaska summer season.

## Creative Hurti deal

**CREATIVE** Cruising has released a number of bucket list Antarctica packages, sailing with Hurtigruten.

Leading in at \$10,999 per person, itineraries include the Antarctica, Chilean Fjords & Falklands journey, which voyages on *Roald Amundsen* from Punta Arenas return; the Antarctica & Falklands, sailing on *Roald Amundsen* from Ushuaia return; and Highlights of the Frozen Continent, operating aboard *Fridtjof Nansen* from Ushuaia return.

Itineraries include flights from select Australian capital cities, local charter flights, transfers, additional pre- and post-accommodation, onboard inclusions, wi-fi and an expedition kit.

To book call Creative Cruising on 1300 362 599, or head to [creativecruising.com.au](http://creativecruising.com.au).



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**AN AMERICAN** boat has taken flight and almost sunk in a chaotic sailing race (pictured).

Racing in New Zealand, the country's Coastguard and *Patriot's* rivals had to rush to save the ship, which capsized at high speed.

All 11 crew members were accounted for, but *Patriot* was seriously damaged, with water entering its hull and apparent major bow damage.

The million-dollar boat was only saved from sinking when flotation devices were affixed to it.



## RCI to Barbados



**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) has announced Barbados (pictured) as a new homeport, with *Grandeur of the Seas* to call the Antillean island home beginning Dec.

RCI will debut three distinct itineraries around the islands of the Southern Caribbean, including seven- and 14-night varieties.

Three new ports of call will feature - St. Vincent, Tobago and Trinidad - with week-long sailings to island-hop to a different

destination every day, or offer late-night stays in the ABC islands.

*Grandeur of the Seas'* longer sailings will stay overnight in Aruba, and visit destinations such as Cartagena, Colon and Puerto Limon.

"We are excited to grow our longstanding partnership with Barbados and introduce Bridgetown as Royal Caribbean's newest home port," said President & Chief Executive Officer Michael Bayley.

"Sailing from the heart of the Windward Islands unlocks new memorable vacations to share with family and friends in breathtaking places, such as Grenada, St. Lucia, and now St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago.

"The pink-sand beaches and unexpected adventures across Barbados also make it an ideal destination for our guests to experience even more of the Caribbean charm and culture before or after their cruise."

The move was also hailed by Barbados Minister of Tourism Lisa Cummins.

## Take 5 returns

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is celebrating the new year with its popular Take 5 offer, providing up to \$2,900 in value.

The promotion sees all stateroom categories across all ships and destinations receiving all five Free at Sea offers, with 50% reduced deposits also available.

Guests can enjoy a free beverage package, shore excursion credit, the specialty dining package, and the wi-fi package.

On selected sailings, a third and fourth guest can sail at a reduced rate.

## Viking weekly deal

**VIKING'S** Deal of the Week is a 23-day North Pacific Passage itinerary from Tokyo to Vancouver or vice versa.

Now on sale, the cruise is priced from \$10,995 per person, with travellers able to access a \$1,000 cruise fare discount and flight credit included up to the value of \$1,000 per couple.

## Aurora Antarctic

**CRUISE Weekly** would like to clarify guests on Aurora Expeditions' Antarctic Explorer voyage, nor any of the cruise line's trips in the region, will be able to feed whales or penguins; rather, they will be able to witness the animals feeding, in accordance with Aurora's sustainability and conservation protocols.



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