



# Silversea drafts in changes for *Wind*

**Cruise Weekly today**

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

**SILVERSEA** Cruises will leverage the booming demand for luxury polar travel with the conversion of *Silver Wind* (pictured) to an ice-class ship.

The renovation will reduce *Wind's* capacity to 274 guests, and expand Silversea's Antarctic expedition options, which will include a solar eclipse voyage later this year.

Having last been upgraded in 2018 (**CW** 26 Sep 2017), *Wind* is presently undergoing the refurbishment at the Remontowa shipyard in Gdansk.

The redesign includes an ice-strengthened hull for cruising in polar waters and state-of-the-art technology upgrades.

*Wind* will emerge from the conversion in time for her 20 Nov voyage, a 22-day journey to Antarctica, providing guests with a prime viewing position of the solar eclipse on 04 Dec.

Her inaugural season of nine voyages exploring Antarctica will operate primarily out of Ushuaia, with guests to marvel at the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

*Wind* will become Silversea's



fourth expedition vessel in its fleet of nine ships, and will benefit from ice-detector sonars, designed for use on icebreaker vessels, as well as fleets of 24 Zodiacs and 14 kayaks.

She will carry up to 28 expedition experts who will share their knowledge during onboard lectures, guided Zodiac tours, and on-shore experiences.

Further enhancing the

expedition experience for guests will be a Photo Studio, a Mudroom, and a special water-heating system in her swimming pool.

*Wind's* upper suites will be entirely refurbished, with new furniture and carpets, as well as new walk-in showers to complement the bathtubs.

Many of *Wind's* public areas will also be refreshed, with re-painted walls and ceilings in La Dame, La Terrazza, the Observation Lounge, the Panorama Lounge, the reception, the gym and the beauty salon.

Adding to her sustainability credentials, *Wind* will be outfitted with a new advanced waste water treatment plant, new food waste treatment facilities, and new fuel-saving boilers.

"With the backing of the Royal Caribbean Group, we are significantly investing in our ultra-luxury fleet to meet the burgeoning guest demand for voyage options in such breathtaking, remote destinations as Antarctica, and we have more exciting enhancements to come," said President & Chief Executive Officer Roberto Martinoli.

## RCI Au cancellation

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) has cancelled *Quantum of the Seas'* season sailing from the new Brisbane International Cruise Terminal from Oct 2021 to Apr 2022.

The cruise line made the decision due to the ongoing uncertainty around the opening of international borders, with *Ovation of the Seas'* sailing from Sydney on 16 Oct also cancelled.

Two Honolulu sailings have also been cancelled - the 28 Sep *Ovation* voyage the 07 Oct *Serenade of the Seas* cruise.

"We know many of our guests look forward to a return to cruising and we are sorry for the disappointment and inconvenience these cancellations may cause," RCI said, noting the cancellations represented about a third of the planned Australian 2021/22 season.

Impacted guests and travel agents have been contacted to advise them of their available options.

## Celebrity Au canx

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has cancelled *Celebrity Eclipse* sailings in Australia through to the end of the year.

The line said the situation in the region remains uncertain due to an ongoing lack of clarity around the resumption of cruise, with the sailings cancelled "out of an abundance of caution".

Celebrity said it has been working closely with health and government authorities, and is "optimistic" about a local return soon.

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**THE** platypus may be making a comeback to Adelaide's Torrens River more than a century after the species disappeared from the habitat amid rising pollution levels.

Researchers are preparing to carry out a feasibility study to check on whether the river environment and water quality have improved enough to be suitable for the animals, and will report back in six months.

Also set to be monitored is whether there is enough space and food, and the prevalence of predators.

"There's been a huge amount of work done on improving the Torrens and naturalising it and creating a wonderful river over the last 30 years," said the Department for Environment & Water's Chris Daniels.

"Isn't it time we think about bringing back one of the world's most amazing, most iconic animals to a place it used to live?"

## Last-minute Murray

**MURRAY** River Paddlesteamers is advertising a range of last-minute cabins for next week due to coronavirus-related cancellations.

Travellers can save 25% on an Upper Deck Double cabin available for its next four-night Explorer cruise, departing Mon, available for \$1,650 twin share.

Call 03 5482 5244 for info.

## Silhouette's return outlined



**CELEBRITY** Cruises' *Celebrity Silhouette* has departed the United Kingdom's shores for its first voyage with British guests in over 15 months.

*Silhouette* departed Southampton on Sun, commencing her long anticipated return to the United Kingdom's waters for a series of staycations around the country's coastline.

Following a multi-million dollar refit, *Silhouette* now boasts The Retreat, an exclusive open-air hideaway available to Suite guests only - one of many ship-wide upgrades as part of her modernisation under The Celebrity Revolution.

The more than US\$500 million investment also includes an overhauled Fitness Centre, which boasts state-of-the-art new cardio machines, weight equipment from Technogym, and live-streamed Peleton classes.

An augmented reality luxury restaurant, Le Petit Chef, will see an animated 3D character appear on the guest's plates, and prepare

their meal.

"Our much anticipated summer season marks a real vote of confidence in the UK cruise industry and the excitement among crew and guests is palpable," said Vice President & Managing Director EMEA Jo Rzymowska.

"Most importantly, we can't wait to treat our guests to the ultimate luxury staycation and give them the opportunity to relax and unwind while looking out at the stunning British coastline."

*Silhouette* will sail with a fully vaccinated crew and guests, aged 18 and over, who will also be required to show proof of a negative PCR test taken within three days of sailing.

Guests aged 24 months to 17 years old will take an antigen test at the terminal prior to embarkation.

**Pictured** are Rzymowska and Director of Sales Claire Stirrup taking in *Silhouette's* arrival to Southampton.



## Road map for travel

**LAST** week, the Prime Minister announced a four-phase plan for the re-opening of international borders following a National Cabinet meeting.

The plan, which laid out a series of steps we need to take as a country, mostly focused on the ongoing progress of vaccinations with some discussion of proposed home isolation to replace hotel quarantine and a reduced number of international arrivals in phase one to help get the spread of the COVID variants under control.

While it was encouraging to finally get this framework, we are still lacking any clear sense of a timeline for this model.

However, the biggest omission was any inclusion of a direction for the restart of cruise.

Prior to the opening of international borders, we as an industry have been proposing domestic cruising as an option, requesting that foreign-flagged ships with vaccinated crews be allowed back into Australia with a range of pre-cruise testing and onboard protocols for pax.

The industry has also done extensive work on how a long-term road map to cruise would look including plans for safety around onshore visits, but these proposals failed to make it into any discussions in Cabinet.

CLIA stated on Fri "Australia is now the only major cruise market in the world where no progress has been made towards a responsible cruise resumption."

A major contributor to the economy, cruise has again been set adrift by the Government.