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Friday 9th July 2021

Cruise Weekly today

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

Go Seabourn launch

SEABOURN Cruise Line has launched the company's redesigned travel advisor resource GoSeabourn.com.au.

The portal allows agents to book, plan, promote and learn everything they need to know to successfully sell Seabourn.

Advisors will find PromoToolkit, an array of professional marketing and sales tools, from customisable email and direct mail templates, and up-tothe-minute information on currently available promotions and group benefits.

Agents can also see upcoming events, download the latest brochures and product announcements, meet their BDM, access POLAR online, the cruise line's booking system, and access Seabourn Academy.

Valiant UK debut

VIRGIN Voyages' new Valiant Lady will debut in the United Kingdom next year.

The cruise line has announced Portsmouth-based cruises from 08 Mar 2022 to 14 May 2022, before Valiant heads to Barcelona for her previously announced Mediterranean season.

Oceania cans Regatta's local season

OCEANIA Cruises is the latest international operator to withdraw its cruises from Australian waters due to the ongoing border closure policies.

Regatta had been scheduled to operate a season visiting Australia, as well as Japan, Asia and New Zealand, with the cruise line confirming the cancellation of all scheduled voyage departures from 02 Oct through until 18 Feb

The itineraries included a highly anticipated 35-day circumnavigation of Australia which had been set to depart on 01 Dec calling at about a dozen regional ports along the way, as well as a series of trans-Tasman and South Pacific voyages.

Oceania has cited a "forecasted lack of port availability across the region," saying that with guests having high expectations

for immersive and enriching destination experiences, "we have not received the necessary assurances from our destination partners that we can deliver the experience that is expected".

The cruise line said it waited as long as feasible before pulling the pin on the season.

"While we did not want to cancel prematurely, we also did not want to hold out false hopes to our guests and travel partners...we felt an obligation to make these cancellations in a timely fashion," the line said.

Impacted guests are being provided with full refunds of all monies paid on their reservations, with Oceania suggesting if they wish to book on a future similar itinerary "we do suggest they do it quickly as many of these voyages are sold out or nearly sold out".

Regatta had been scheduled to head to Polynesia after her Australian sojourn, and will operate her Tahiti itineraries as planned, with an additional three cruises added for Feb 2022, which will open for sale on 28 Jul.

Insignia is also scheduled to visit local waters as part of her upcoming world cruise, with Oceania saying it is continuing to monitor the availability of ports.

"Given the timing of Insignia's arrival in the region is more than four months after Regatta's first scheduled arrival, we are confident that we can deliver an extraordinary itinerary and destination experience for the Oceania Cruises Around the World 2022 sailing," the cruise line said.

Oceania has been steadily announcing additions to its resumption (CW 25 May).

Scenic Eclipse sets sail for Saudi Arabia

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours' Scenic Eclipse has left the company's Croatian shipyard for the first time in more than a year, and is heading to Saudi Arabia for a five-month charter season.

Homeporting in Jeddah on the Red Sea coast, selected sailings from Oct-Dec will be open to international guests to experience the rich Saudi heritage, landscapes and hospitality, Scenic said.

Scenic Founder Glen Moronev said Saudi Arabia was set to be one of the hottest tourist destinations in the coming years.

"As a business we continue to raise the bar in ultra-luxury cruising and we are confident that this new season will mark the start of a long relationship with the destination," he said.

"We hope to be able to offer more sailings in the region in the coming years," Moroney added.

RCI hosts responders

ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) is hosting about 600 first responders to the Surfside condominium building collapse in Miami aboard Explorer of the Seas.

The ship, which can accommodate more than 3,000 passengers, began housing rescue teams last Fri, and likely will continue for the next month, with RCI providing individual staterooms, hot meals, laundry and wi-fi.





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Did you know?

Travel & Cruise Weekly's fortnightly consumer magazine called Keep Dreaming is specially designed for agents to send their clients.



Wild Earth Tassie

WILD Earth Travel has released a new small ship adventure along the East Coast of Tasmania.

The Treasures of Tasmania showcases some of the state's spectacular regions, offering unique opportunities, including wildlife-spotting, sampling gourmet local produce, and walks within national parks.

The eight-day itinerary, which starts with a night in Hobart, takes place on board the expedition-style ship Odalisque, where guests will cruise to Bruny Island, Adventure Bay, Cape Raoul, Port Arthur, Tasman National Park, Eaglehawk Neck, Maria Island and more - HERE.

Let Me Entertain You



MSC Cruises' upcoming flagship MSC Seashore will feature new and innovative entertainment.

The cruise line will offer guests

a rich and varied entertainment program from morning through to night, with a wide range of activities, games, events, live music, grand-scale theatrical shows throughout the aft lounge, and public areas which transform into pop-up stages.

The highlight of Seashore's entertainment venues is the 1,200-seat Madison Theater, which each night will play host to four new and original full-scale theatrical productions, with three performances per night.

Other highlights include Le Cabaret Rouge, which celebrates another of the greatest artists of all-time each night.

There is also a newly designed retail and entertainment area, Times Square, which features an 8.5-metre LED wall (pictured), spanning four decks, on which passers-by will be greeted by a new scene every night.

All of the immersive onboard entertainment for adult guests is designed and produced in-house.



JUST can't wait to get back out on the water?

May we present to you this creative solution.

A nearly eight-hectare lot is for sale in a protected bay on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie, and at just CAD\$99,000 (AUD\$106,000), it looks like a steal - there's only one catch the property is underwater.

The vacant lot is on Brock Street, in the village of Shrewsbury, Ontario, 105 kilometres east of Detroit, MI.

It has no actual address, though the neighbourhood gets high marks for being quiet and car-friendly.

The listing urges potential buyers to "be creative".

"This property is presently under water but could have endless possibilities in the future," it reads.

With sea levels rising, it appears highly likely the possibilities will only get worse before they get better.



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 up to 20%, with an Emmylou suite available for its next two-night Escape cruise, departing 16 Jul for \$1,000 twin share.

Call 03 5482 5244 for info.

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