



Tehan responds

MINISTER for Tourism Dan Tehan has thanked the cruise industry for its correspondence regarding #ReadySetSail, saying the Australian Government is aware of the contribution the sector makes toward the country's economy.

A standard response letter from Tehan to those who made submissions via CLIA's #ReadySetSail portal noted the current ban on cruise ships was in place until 17 Sep, and added the cruise industry's restrictions will continue to be guided by health considerations.

"The Government will continue to consult with the industry, and the states and territories, on options for the staged resumption of cruising when the medical advice is that it is safe to do so," he said.

Tehan made no acknowledgement of the extensive plans submitted by CLIA and individual cruise lines, and there was no indication of any pathway to resumption, despite his previous undertakings.

Adding insult to injury, the responses shared thousands of private email addresses by using a "CC" rather than "BCC", with recipients later asked to delete the email over the privacy breach.

Regent for the stars

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises has experienced yet another record, with its 2024 World Cruise (**CW** 12 Jul) selling out in less than three hours earlier this week.

Chief Executive Officer Jason Montague said the "outstanding response has surpassed all expectations," with high levels of interest from both past guests and new passengers for the *Seven Seas Mariner* cruise which will visit 66 ports in 31 countries.

A second Viking ship for Australia

VIKING has confirmed its new *Viking Mars* will operate in Australian waters in 2022/23 alongside *Viking Orion*, with the local deployment unveiled in Italy overnight as the vessel was floated out from the Fincantieri shipyard in Ancona.

Mars (**pictured**) is the eighth vessel to be built in Viking's Ocean series, with capacity for 930 passengers.

She will now undergo her final fitout before a scheduled debut early next year, when she will be named by her ceremonial godmother, Lady Carnarvon, the Countess of Carnarvon.

Viking said *Mars* would spend her maiden season sailing itineraries in the Mediterranean and in Northern Europe, before



embarking on voyages in Asia and Australia.

Lady Carnarvon's involvement reflects Viking's long association with her home, Highclere Castle, the setting for TV series *Downton Abbey*, which has also featured on the Viking.TV platform on a

regular basis over the last 18 months.

Viking Managing Director Australia & New Zealand Michelle Black said details of *Viking Mars*' itineraries in local waters would be revealed in the coming months.

Golden Horizon arrested

TRADEWIND Voyages insists the maiden season of its new *Golden Horizon* will go ahead as planned, despite the vessel being detained upon its arrival in Dover yesterday.

Golden Horizon (**pictured**), which is the world's largest tall ship, was originally ordered by Star Clippers, and is involved in a complex financial dispute with the Brodosplit shipyard in Croatia where the vessel was built (**CW** 03 Jan 2020).

Star Clippers issued a statement, confirming that "earlier today, the English authorities have upon instruction of Star Clippers... arrested the vessel *Golden Horizon* in Dover".

"Despite several payment demands, Croatian shipyard Brodosplit refused to voluntarily discharge its outstanding financial obligations to Star Clippers, which made an arrest unavoidable," the line said.

It's understood about €7 million is being demanded,



with Star Clippers saying once the debt is discharged, *Golden Horizon* will be released.

The 330-passenger ship, which had previously been named *Flying Clipper*, had faced "continuous delays" during its construction on behalf of Star Clippers, with the dispute believed to have ultimately led to the vessel's sale to a new owner (**CW** 30 Jan 2020).

It's unclear at this stage what impact, if any, the dispute will have on *Golden Horizon*'s planned upcoming Australian deployment, with local GSA Cruise Traveller (**CW** 28 Sep 2020) unable to comment before **CW**'s deadline today.

Canada lifts ban

CANADIAN authorities have confirmed that the country's current ban on passenger cruise shipping will be lifted effective from 01 Nov.

Minister for Transport Omar Alghabra said the move reflected the Government's desire to support tourism.

"As Canadians have done their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19, our government continues to work hard to safely restart our economy and build back better," he said.

"We will welcome cruise ships - an important part of our tourism sector - back in Canadian waters for the 2022 season," he said.

Ports will be allowed to open subject to compliance with public health requirements, with the Government to release details of standards in the coming weeks.

"We're providing certainty to the industry, letting them prepare, schedule trips and start selling tickets," Alghabra added.

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An Ovation for Miami

SEABOURN Cruise Line's *Seabourn Ovation* is set to operate from Miami for the first time starting Nov.

The series of new itineraries operating between Nov and Apr 2022 has been opened for sale, coinciding with *Ovation's* first-ever stop in an American port on 18 Nov.

For the first time ever, *Ovation* will cruise the Caribbean, starting with three 11-day voyages roundtrip from Miami in Nov and Dec.

Ovation will visit iconic Caribbean destinations, including San Juan, Guadeloupe and Jost Van Dyke, St. Kitts & Nevis, Antigua and more, following which she will head to the Panama Canal.

10 years in Australia



HOLLAND America Line and Seabourn are celebrating a decade in Australia this week.

The pair of Carnival Corp brands opened a dedicated Australian sales and marketing office back in Jul 2011, and led by Senior

Director of Sales & Marketing, industry veteran Tony Archbold, the team has grown to a total of 35, 10 of whom have been with the business since day one.

Over the last 10 years, the team has won multiple awards for revenue and yield achievements, has boasted many individual top performers at annual global sales meetings, and has been a finalist at the NTIAs on six occasions.

"I am immensely proud of our team and what we've achieved over the last ten years," Archbold said.

"Their dedication and talent, coupled with the ever-growing support for our industry partners, have been the mainstays of our success.

"I personally could not be prouder to work alongside and share our achievements with them every single day."

Archbold said although the Sydney lockdown had thrown a spanner in its physical celebration plans, with the team instead turning to Zoom (pictured) "you better believe we'll be celebrating properly when we can!"

PORTHOLE

A MESSAGE in a bottle launched from Japan has been found in Hawaii almost 40 years later.

A nine-year-old girl visiting Hawaiian Paradise Park with her family discovered the message, which was launched from Japan 37 years earlier.

The note inside the bottle was authored by high school students, and was printed in English, Spanish and Japanese.

The note said the bottle was thrown into the sea off the coast of Choshi in Jul 1984.

The letter asked the finder to get into contact with the club with information including the coordinates where the bottle was discovered.

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