



Terminal tour

IN ANTICIPATION of cruising's restart, hundreds of travel advisors have toured the state-of-the-art Brisbane International Cruise Terminal at a Carnival-hosted event.

Speaking at the event, the cruise line's President Sture Myrmell praised the advisors for their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and for their unflinching loyalty to cruising, while criticising state governments for their dismissal of the industry.

Myrmell thanked the Port of Brisbane for facilitating the advisor's preview of the Terminal, and expressed confidence that cruising would resume and help deliver brighter days for the dedicated advisor community.

He also said the company's cruise lines had been building for the future during the pause in operations knowing that there was a deep reservoir of pent-up demand for cruises.

Pictured perfecting the flying V are Myrmell and Port of Brisbane Chief Executive Roy Cummins leading a group of travel advisors on a tour of the state of the art Terminal.



Coral's 2022 schedule

CORAL Expeditions has launched its full 2022 domestic sailing schedule, with new Australian itineraries replacing international voyages and more Kimberley availability.

New additions to the Australia's Coastal Wilderness Series of itineraries have been released to replace international journeys, which remain uncertain with ongoing border restrictions, while popular demand has urged Coral to release extended sailing dates in the Kimberley.

Coral will add over 1,200 new berths on a series of 10 new cruise dates throughout the popular Kimberley waterfall season next year from Apr to Jun, aboard new vessel *Coral Geographer* (**CW** 01 Apr).

Other newly released expeditions include two new 18-night journeys, *Across the Top*, between Broome and Cairns (and vice versa), released for Jan 2022, and a 14-night *Australia' Great Southern Coastline*, between Melbourne and Fremantle for Mar 2022.

To facilitate planning, Coral has also made available for booking the Apr to Sep Kimberley season for 2023.

"We are pleased to finalise our plans with the decision to offer an Australian-led sailing schedule for 2022," said Commercial Director Jeff Gillies.

"As we continue to see travel uncertainty, particularly across



international borders, we want to provide confidence and early planning opportunities for our guests and travel industry partners...these newly released voyages provide more availability on classic voyages and the addition of some unique new travel options for Australians to enjoy."

Gillies said Coral has seen very strong demand over the past months with its successful restart in the Kimberley, which he said already looks to be the hot destination for next year.

Coral also recently invited travellers to join it on a 2021 35th anniversary Circumnavigation of Australia, sailing over 59 nights roundtrip from Darwin, departing 30 Oct (**CW** 30 Apr).

Cruise Weekly today

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

Windstar sales reorganisation

WINDSTAR Cruises is expanding and reorganising its team to enlarge its Star Promise commitment and its high level of sales support to travel advisors.

A key component of the sales team's realignment is the promotion of Regional Sales Manager Dianna Rom to Director Field Sales, where she will be dedicated to leading the field sales team's support of travel agency-sourced business.

Chad Smith and Richard Terek from the reservations vacation planning team have joined the sales team as Business Development Representatives, where they will report to Rom.

Both will work as a team together with Regional Sales Managers, and their primary focus will be on travel agencies, as well as "new to Windstar" and smaller accounts.

Windstar recently received *Star Legend* back from the Fincantieri shipyard in Palermo, the second yacht to complete its Star Plus initiative transformation (**CW** 26 May).



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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.



You have Scot to be kidding me

SCOTLAND has banned cruise ships again at the 11th hour.

The Scottish Government announced Tue - the day before the United Kingdom's summer domestic cruise restart - it had decided to keep its ports closed to large ships, according to the *BBC*, despite progress in controlling coronavirus.

MSC Cruises' *MSC Virtuosa* was scheduled to arrive in Greenock yesterday for a 10-hour stop, but while briefing the Scottish Parliament on the broader situation of coronavirus across the region, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said there was still "a need for continued caution",

deciding domestic cruises would only be permitted to restart when all of Scotland reaches "level one" on its scale of zero to four.

Despite Greenock currently on level one, and Sturgeon adding the signs are "very positive", the First Minister also described the situation as "still fragile", with other parts of Scotland remaining at level two, referencing the risks "between both cruises and the wider travel context".

Virtuosa, which has a normal capacity of 6,000 passengers, is currently sailing with approximately 900 due to the limitations imposed by the Government of the UK.

The Scottish Passenger Agents' Association (SPAA) said it understands three-quarters of the passengers, and the entirety of the crew, are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

MSC also administers coronavirus testing for passengers and the crew, as well as a range of other precautions.

"Due to the latest Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions and regulations... we are sorry to inform you that the port call of Greenock has been cancelled," an MSC email to guests read.

"No guests are allowed to embark or disembark...this decision has been made by the Scottish Government and is out of our control".

SPAA President Joanne Dooy said the situation means Scottish passengers who joined the cruise in Liverpool are barred from setting foot in their own country.

"This cruise route was a lifeline for Scottish travel agents," she said.

"The SPAA has been asking for clarity on the situation for this particular cruise ship since last week, and all we have received so far is an indication that cruises may only restart when all of Scotland is in level one.

"The irony is that any of these passengers can get in a car and drive from Southampton to Inverclyde with no testing, border control or vaccinations."

RCI's no-vax tax

ROYAL Caribbean International's (RCI) unvaccinated passengers in the United States may face different protocols, including being charged for tests.

During a recent webinar with travel advisors, RCI said it plans on handling unvaccinated guests differently, which may include extra costs and different protocols onboard.

RCI said although plans could change, unvaccinated passengers sailing from Florida can expect extra testing costs that will not be part of the cruise fare, with expenses still being finalised.

Vaccine requirements for ex-Texas cruises are being finalised based on state law, while cruises from Washington will only accept passengers over 16 who are fully vaccinated, and those over 12 who are fully vaccinated as of Aug.

"It is strongly recommended that guests set sail fully vaccinated if they are eligible," RCI Senior Vice President Sales Trade Support & Service Vicki Freed explained.

"Those who are unvaccinated, or unable to verify vaccination, will be required to undergo testing, and they will be responsible for any expenses incurred and follow other protocols... these expenses are still being finalised."

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PORTHOLE

THE Southern Ocean is well-known to Australians, particularly those who have ventured to Antarctica, but now thanks to National Geographic, it will be well-known to the rest of the world also.

Prior to Tue, Nat Geo had recognised four oceans since it began making maps more than a century ago: the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific.

However, on World Oceans Day, National Geographic cartographers proclaimed the swift current circling Antarctica keeps the waters there distinct, and therefore worthy of their own name on its maps.

The original four oceans will now be joined by the Southern - an almost arrogant admission, but Nat Geo Society Geographer Alex Tait explains.

"The Southern Ocean has long been recognised by scientists, but because there was never agreement internationally, we never officially recognised it".

I love a sunburnt country



CRUISE Traveller has released a new discounted luxury Australian rail, sail and stay adventure, I Love a Sunburnt Country.

Named after a line from the poem *My Country* by Dorothea Mackellar, travellers can save up to \$6,480 per couple while enjoying a personal butler on the Apr 2022 adventure, when booking by 23 Aug.

The journey pairs an outback trip aboard *The Ghan* (pictured) with a five-star coastal cruise aboard Silversea's *Silver Shadow*.

The 15-night package starts in Darwin on 05 Apr 2022 with a night's accommodation before guests board *The Ghan* for a

three-night journey south to Adelaide.

The rail trip includes off-train excursions in Katherine, Alice Springs and Cooper Pedy as well as gourmet, regionally-inspired meals and beverages.

Guests will then be flown to Melbourne for a two-night stay in a five-star hotel before boarding *Shadow* for a nine-night cruise along the eastern states to Cairns, with visits to Eden, Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Whitsunday Islands.

The package is available from \$9,895 per person twin-share, in a Vista suite - call Cruise Traveller on 1800 507 777.

Survey says...

OCEANIA Cruises has launched a new travel trade survey for its partners.

Open for completion before 20 Jun, the survey is designed to garner deeper insights into the individual business needs of each partner, and how Oceania can best add value through the provision of tools and assets.

Travel partners can complete the online survey for a chance to win a \$250 gift voucher via Oceania Trade Rewards.

They will also have to tell the cruise line where they are most excited about travelling to when international borders open up again.

"Delivering our trade partners all the resources they need to understand and embrace Oceania Cruises' offering and sharing this knowledge with clients in an insightful and compelling way, has always been a priority for us," said Oceania Vice President Australia & New Zealand Jason Worth.

The survey can be found **HERE**.




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