

Big \$\$ for Donald

CARNIVAL Corporation CEO Arnold Donald had his cash salary halved to US\$857,313 during the pandemic, and he missed out on any bonus - but the deficit was more than made up for by awards of shares which took his total income to US\$13.3 million.

The rebound in the Carnival share price meant his package was worth US\$2 million more than 2019, despite nine months of no sailing leading to an overall US\$10.2b annual loss for Carnival.

Corporate disclosures this week detailed payments to the company's top five executives, also including former Holland America Group & Carnival UK CEO Stein Kruse, whose total income was valued at US\$5.23 million including a reduced salary of \$631,781.

Costa Group & Carnival Asia CEO Michael Thamm received US\$5.17 million including \$4.4m in stock awards, while the company's CFO David Bernstein took home \$526,902 plus US\$3.68 million in Carnival shares.

Company secretary Arnie Perez was paid a salary of US\$414,347 plus US\$1.7 million in shares.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Dreams of an Aus season?

HAVING overnight announced its plans to restart operations for its Crystal Cruises brand in the Bahamas in Jul, Genting Hong Kong is eyeing the Australia/NZ region as one of its next markets for a return for Dream Cruises.

Vice President Sales & Marketing Australia & New Zealand Brigita Devries told **Cruise Weekly** Dream was currently discussing the potential of further travel bubbles with the Government of Singapore.

"They're quite pro- the idea, it'll all come down to the government here" she explained.

"We've got a plan A, B, C, D in place if that happens, in terms of itineraries, and how we'd penetrate the market if that happens."

Beginning Jul, Crystal will begin cruising from Nassau and Bimini, with Devries saying the cruise line was also in talks with a range of other countries, such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

"There'll hopefully be one or two destinations on the cards for Asia this year, but it all depends on international borders opening and vaccine rollout," she added.

"We're now in the final stages of planning itineraries and how they'll be facilitated...there might be some domestic deployments for certain countries, even with Star Cruises, like we're doing in Taiwan and Singapore."

With Genting initiating more returns to service for its range

of brands, and releasing more product to book, Devries said the company had seen a shift in booking demographic, toward the 30+ age group.

She said 2022 and 2023, especially for Crystal, was looking quite healthy, with a lot of interest for the cruise line's recently released world cruise, especially since the announcement all passengers must be vaccinated (**CW** 19 Feb).

"[Crystal] want to send a message to consumers it is safe," she said.

"We want to send that message of reassurance they will be comfortable, whatever we do with shore excursions, whatever we do on board, no-one will be implicated.

"We've had people who have called us that have never cruised before but are so impressed we've put this mandate out that they'll book with us and people are ready to book now with us because of it."

Devries also noted "fantastic progress" had been made in Crystal's efforts to return refunds to travel advisors, noting, "there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel".

"It's been a very hard road for the agents, their clients, even for our own staff," she said.

"The team are working extremely hard with Crystal in Miami...it was certainly challenging".

Celestyal return

CELESTYAL Cruises has announced it will resume operations on 29 May from Piraeus.

The cruise line's seven-night Idyllic Aegean itinerary will commence in accordance with the recently announced Greek Ministry of Tourism's roadmap to opening.

The seven-night journey starts at \$949 per person and will call upon Kusadasi, Rhodes, Santorini, Lavrion, Mykonos, Milos and Crete.

Celestyal Crystal will serve the cruise line's first voyage, with an announcement on the remainder of the fleet for 2021 to be revealed as more countries reopen and demand returns.

Crystal will also embark on shorter three and four-night itineraries, which will also be served from Lavrion.

"We are extremely encouraged by the increased global distribution and effectiveness of the vaccine and by the positive response we are receiving from our partners and guests around the world," Celestyal Cruises CEO Chris Theophilides said.

"We will continue to monitor the positive progress of the healthy reopening of both Greece and cruising while continuing to liaise with the European and Greek health authorities".



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A-ROSA debuts 2022 sailings

NEXT year is shaping up to be a big year for A-ROSA, with super-early-booking discounts currently available for selected 2022 departures.

With next year set to be headlined by the launch of a new yet-to-be-named ship, A-ROSA will sail a total of 50 itineraries across 13 European countries and 90 ports of call for 2022.

New itineraries will include the Northern Rhine, featuring overnight stays in Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

Other 2022 itinerary highlights include Floriade garden festival sailings in the Netherlands between Apr and Oct, providing guests with access to the internationally renowned horticultural show which takes place once a decade.

Carnival celebrates 49 years



CARNIVAL Cruise Line is today marking its 49th birthday, commemorating the 1972 departure of *Mardi Gras* from PortMiami on its inaugural cruise.

That milestone ushered in a "new style of fun, affordable vacations once reserved for the very rich," the company said.

Over the last 49 years Carnival Cruise Line has carried more than 90 million guests, and served as the flagship of Carnival Corporation's nine-strong global

brand portfolio.

This time next year, Carnival will be commemorating its 50th anniversary with a series of special sailings featuring at-sea meet-ups off the coast of Australia, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Mardi Gras (pictured with her original namesake) is fittingly set to debut as the company's first North American LNG ship, and will feature the first rollercoaster at sea.

Co-Star-Rica

STAR Clippers has announced new Costa Rica sailings from Dec 2022 on board the 166-passenger barquentine *Star Clipper*.

The four-masted tall ship will operate two seven-day, round-trip itineraries from Puerto Caldera on Costa Rica's west coast, one taking in Nicaragua, and the other visiting Panama.

The season will see calls at some of the most exciting ports in the country, and will be the second time Star Clippers has offered cruises in the region.

The first itinerary calls at San Juan del Sur, Playa Nascascolo, Bahia Potrero, Flamingo, Quepos and Islas Tortugas.

The second, which will operate on alternate weeks, calls at Coiba, Isla Parida, Golfito, Quepos and Islas Tortugas.



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boredom really has brought out
the creative side of some!

A Hong Kong man who bought
an old ferry has converted it into
a luxury yacht, and is now selling
it for US\$2.7 million.

Dot has almost 600m² of
living space over three levels,
including four guest cabins and a
home cinema.

The nearly 50-metre vessel was
redesigned to be eco-friendly,
with solar panels and a water
catchment system.

Able to sleep up to eight
passengers in four en suite
cabins, *Dot* is currently for sale
with Ocean Independence.

Just in case you were
unconvinced of *Dot's* size, she
currently hosts the largest sofa
in Hong Kong and enough space
for a four-metre Christmas tree.

The owner bought the boat
in 2011 after its ferry route shut
down - talk about opportunism!

Celebrity to Galapagos



CELEBRITY Cruises has
announced Galapagos Islands
sailings for 2023, as well as an
extension to its Cruising With
Confidence program until the end
of May.

From New Year's Eve 2022,
Celebrity will offer six in-depth
itineraries aboard three of its
ships - *Celebrity Xpedition* and
Celebrity Xploration, as well as
the purpose-built *Celebrity Flora*
(pictured).

Offering an Inner- and Outer-
Loop itinerary, *Flora* will take
travellers to some of the
archipelago's volcanic islands and
black sand beaches.

Xpedition and *Xploration* will
both travel seven-night Northern
and Southern Loop itineraries,
which each offer their own
unique experiences, from hiking
volcanic landscapes to snorkelling
alongside sea turtles in their
natural habitat.

All cruises are inclusive of twice-
daily shore excursions, guided by
Galapagos National Park-certified
naturalists; locally-sourced
cuisine from menus crafted by

a Michelin-starred chef; drinks;
unlimited wi-fi; luxury hotel stays;
and flights between Ecuador
and the islands - for more, visit
celebritycruises.com.

OC going gangbusters

OCEANIA Cruises (OC)
has recorded its single best
booking day in the cruise line's
history.

The announcement of its
latest collection of itineraries
for the northern winter 2022-
2023 (*CW* 26 Feb) resulted in
an all-time booking record, the
most taken in a single day in
Oceania's 18-year history.

The top-selling destinations
were Asia, Africa, and South
America, with Australia's single
best-selling voyage the 35-day
circumnavigation of Australia
over the Christmas and New
Year's holidays.

The Caribbean and New
Zealand are also producing
strong results - call Oceania on
1300 355 200.

Saudi selects ports

CRUISE Saudi has announced
its ports development (*CW* 02
Feb) will take place near the
country's World Heritage Sites.

Six ports have been planned
for cruise operations in the
coming years, including an
initial three locations along
the Red Sea, and Dammam
on the Persian Gulf, Chief
Strategy Officer Ghassan Khan
told an Innovation Buzz Zone
interview.



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