



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Cruise Weekly today

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

P&O extends pause

P&O Cruises Australia has extended its pause until the end of Jul.

The current rolling pause will affect cruises scheduled from 18 Jun to 30 Jul.

Voyages to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands have also been cancelled for the remainder of the year, which will also affect 2021's Cairns season, where *Pacific Explorer* was to be based from Oct.

Guests and travel agents will be contacted directly with solutions and alternative arrangements, which will be tailored on a booking-by-booking basis.

Celebrity confirms British restart

CELEBRITY Cruises is the latest line to announce its return in the United Kingdom, with its newly revolutionised ship, *Celebrity Silhouette*, to set sail from Southampton in Jul.

The cruise line will require all guests aged 18 and above to be vaccinated against coronavirus, and those under the age of 18 to return a negative PCR test result before sailing.

Starting 03 Jul, *Silhouette* will embark on a series of six- to eight-night itineraries around Great Britain's coastline.

Guests will have the chance to explore the Jurassic Coast from the Isle of Portland, discover Scotland from the cities of Inverness, Kirkwall and Glasgow, travel to Northern Ireland's largest city Belfast, and investigate the riverside city of Liverpool.

Following a multi-million-dollar



refit (**CW** 15 Jan), *Silhouette* now includes modernised staterooms and suites; reimaged restaurants, bars, and lounges; a redesigned spa and casino; new designer boutiques; and advanced RFID lock technology with digital key access to every stateroom door.

Silhouette also now includes

The Retreat for suite guests - an exclusive, open-air hideaway featuring a private sundeck and redesigned lounge, offering complimentary beverages, gourmet bites, live entertainment, and a concierge service.

Pictured: *Silhouette's* Sunset Bar.

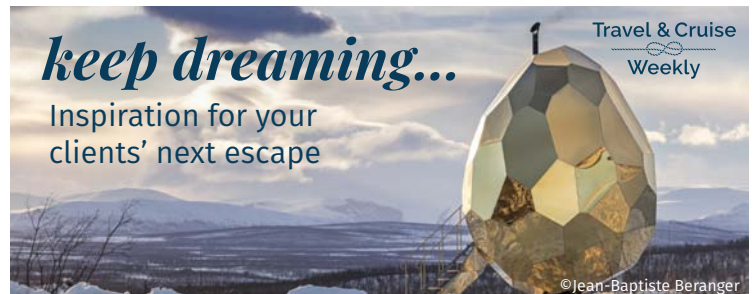


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Regent half full for 2022



THE luxury end of the cruise market is seeing significant demand, with Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) itineraries for 2022 already more than 50% sold out.

RSSC and Oceania Cruises Senior Vice President & Managing Director Asia Pacific Steve Odell told *Cruise Weekly* the lines are "astonished" at the future business coming in for next year, reflecting high levels of demand, particularly as vaccination programs roll out in other parts of the world.

This week, Odell, along with colleagues Gillian Seller and Lisa Pile (**pictured**), are hosting a range of key industry partners at the upmarket Spicers Sangoma Retreat in the Blue Mountains, providing a welcome respite from the day-to-day grind of border closures and job losses.

Such is the demand for 2022 that RSSC is actually starting to increase fares for next year.

"We don't talk about this too much publicly, but when you're 50% full you don't need to many promotions...you need to keep pushing up on the price to create

demand," Odell said.

He contrasted the ongoing cruise ban locally with the situation overseas - particularly in the United Kingdom where a plethora of ships are set to operate over the coming northern summer.

"They've vaccinated over 50% of their adult population already - that has created a safe environment in which to operate."

The RSSC gathering was joined by Cruise Lines International Association MD Australasia Joel Katz, with Odell paying tribute to his efforts in lobbying governments over the last year.

"He has been in and out of meetings on both the state and Federal level pushing our message... there's still a way to go but he has represented us incredibly well".

Odell also noted RSSC's marketing approach through the pandemic, saying "we haven't stopped, we've continued to invest in the business and our partners...you can't sit quietly aside and hope it happens - we are very positive".



FANS of the Seven Network's *Sydney Weekender*, keep your eyes peeled - Journey Beyond's Cruise Sydney will be making an appearance at the end of next month.

The harbour cruise operator recently invited the travel show aboard to experience its lunch cruise, with long-time *Weekender* presenter Lea Wilson chatting with Journey Beyond Business Development Manager Craig Owens about the product.

The two are **pictured** below - what a day to be out on the Harbour!



Venice changes

ITALIAN ministers have agreed to temporarily force large cruise ships docking in Venice to do so in Marghera, across the Venetian Lagoon.

A competition for a more long-term idea for berthing outside the lagoon has also commenced to address the problem of cruise ship berthing.



Industry outlook

AS WE reach the end of JobKeeper today, it is disappointing we find ourselves again in the middle of a range of border closures relating to the recent outbreak in Queensland.

With Easter upon us followed closely by school holidays, the closures have yet again thrown the already struggling tourism infrastructure into chaos.

Airlines, accommodation, and attraction providers who should have been welcoming guests are now busy unravelling plans as they again come to terms with the pain caused by these latest announcements.

In the last 12 months, we have welcomed numerous initiatives around contact tracing, health and safety measures, and now vaccinations put into place.

While our overarching goal must be to stay safe, as an industry which is highly impacted by these closures, we must question why there is not more confidence in these processes.

It is also baffling as to why there is still no move to have a consistent, national approach to containment with each state able to introduce measures as and when they see fit.

This inconsistent approach also applies to regulations about the restart of cruise with a different set of rules applied to ship passenger numbers, port procedures and more.

It is also ironic that all of this happens against a backdrop of the new government stimulus package which will kick off tomorrow with an extensive range of half priced airfares - travellers may be excited about the savings but at the end of the day without confidence that the borders will stay open, this incentive doesn't always sit well with an industry that is currently more about providing credits than booking.