



Carnival canx

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has extended its rolling pause in operations in Australia through to 21 Nov due to the rescheduling of a dry dock for routine maintenance of *Carnival Spirit*.

Booked guests and their travel advisors are being notified directly of the cancellations and their options for a future cruise credit and onboard credit package, or a full refund.

Carnival Splendor is still scheduled to return to service with a sailing from Sydney on 25 Sep.

HK cruise restart?

HONG Kong is planning to launch cruises to nowhere for locals within months.

The Government of Hong Kong is talking with cruise lines about their scope of preventative health measures, but vaccination of passengers and crews will be mandatory.

The quarantine and public health arrangements for the cruises and local tours could help pave the way for reopening the border and forming travel bubbles, said local lawmakers.

Cruise Weekly today

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

A Legend returns



STAR Legend has been delivered to Windstar Cruises, the second yacht to complete its Star Plus Initiative transformation.

Windstar President Chris Prelog (pictured right) officially received *Legend* back from the Fincantieri shipyard in Palermo yesterday after it went through the US\$250 million Initiative.

Legend begins cruising in Europe on 04 Sep with the Belles of the British Isles itinerary, sailing roundtrip from London.

The Star Plus Initiative has added 50 new suites, with categories and open floor plan configurations, as well as two larger Owner's Suites.

Every suite on board will also feature an all-new bathroom.

Other highlights of the renovation include two new restaurants: Cuadro 44 by Michelin chef Anthony Sasso, a Spanish small plates restaurant, and Star Grill by Steven Raichlen, an outdoor barbecue concept.

Legend also now features a reimagined and enlarged spa and fitness centre, a larger pool and hot tub on an elevated top deck,

an expanded outdoor deck, and two new 90-passenger tenders, which will be boarded from a new loading area.

Prelog said the outcome of the project is akin to a newbuild.

"This is the ship I began my seagoing career on 20 plus years ago and to see it today like a new ship is more than exciting for me...I am blown away," he said.

Windstar VP of Expansion Projects John Gunner thanked the Fincantieri team in Palermo for their hard work and diligence on a "long, complicated project."

"It was an amazing process to get the ship to where she is now; and we have one more to go," Gunner said.

The transformation also covers Windstar's health & protocols through its Beyond Ordinary Care program, a multi-layered strategy including HEPA filters and UV-C ultraviolet germicidal irradiation to filter and disinfect the air, and electrostatic sprayers to sanitize all surfaces throughout *Legend*.

Windstar will require proof of coronavirus vaccination for all guests sailing with the cruise line.

New Viking voyages

VIKING has announced new Mediterranean voyages for later this year.

Three ships will homeport in Malta starting in Jul - *Viking Sea*, *Viking Star* and *Viking Venus* - with a new 11-day itinerary, Malta & the Western Mediterranean also on offer.

Guests will overnight in Valletta and then sail to Sicily, Italy and Spain, calling in Messina, Naples, Civitavecchia, Livorno, Genoa and Barcelona, before returning to Valletta.

There is also a Malta & Adriatic Jewels itinerary, which will overnight in Valletta and then sail to Montenegro and Croatia, calling in Kotor, Dubrovnik, Split, Zadar and Šibenik, before returning to the Maltese archipelago, with a stop on Gozo Island before disembarking in Valletta.

Guests on the Malta & Greek Isles Discovery itinerary will also overnight in Valletta and then sail to Greece, calling in Kalamata, Athens, Santorini, Rhodes and Souda Bay, before returning to Valletta.

MEANWHILE, Viking's deal of the week invites travellers to explore the Ukraine and Eastern Europe in 2023 aboard the 12-day Kiev, Black Sea & Bucharest river cruise.

Starting from \$5,995 per person, the deal includes savings of \$1,000 per couple and a \$1,000 flight credit per couple - **CLICK HERE**.

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AN EXTREMELY rare \$400,000 boat (pictured) has been stolen from a Rose Bay wharf.

The *Ribco Seafarer 36* was untied at the marina in Sydney's eastern suburbs about a fortnight ago by two men who then towed it to a nearby boat ramp and loaded it onto a trailer attached to a dual cab pickup truck, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported.

Marine Area Command described the boat as "extremely rare" and said it would be easily recognised.

"Police understand there are only a few of its kind in Australia," the force said.



Genting asset sale?

GENTING Hong Kong is looking at potential asset sales and debt restructuring to help navigate the challenging business environment brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The company posted a net loss of US\$1.7 billion last year in a filing to Hong Kong's stock exchange on Sun evening.

There are "material uncertainties which may cast significant doubt about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern," Genting said.

FACE-2-FACE: Erin King

District Sales Manager
Queensland, Royal Caribbean
International

1. What is your favourite part of your job?

I love meeting new trade partners, helping the smaller agencies grow their business and witnessing trade partners share the excitement of cruising with their clients.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

Sharing my love of cruising. I took my first cruise when I was 16 years old, fell in love with it, and the rest is history! I love dancing the night away out on deck and even more so finding a quiet spot on the promenade deck and just looking out at the ocean.

3. What is key to success in the cruise industry?

The key to success in this industry I believe is being a good listener, building strong relationships, delivering on your promises and stepping on board a ship whenever you get the chance.

4. How has COVID-19 changed the way you do your job?

Like most, it has meant online has replaced a lot of face-to-face business. It has also meant looking for new and diverse ways of supporting our travel partners. The fact that the whole industry is riding the same wave and experiencing the same struggles has eliminated an element of



competition and created a stronger bond.

5. What is the best thing to say to people who are hesitant to cruise?

18 months ago, I would tell them to picture themselves at a gorgeous bar looking out at sea without a care in the world. Today, I'd remind them we're returning with robust health and safety measures and flexible booking policies so they can feel confident they're booking a safe, happy holiday.

6. What was your best fam trip?

I really enjoyed a famil trip I did in 2009 to China. Cruising along the Yangtze River was so unique. It was a destination that wasn't on my bucket list but really surprised me.

7. How do you wind down after a busy week?

I enjoy the peacefulness and zen of my balcony in Brisbane with a good book; and if it's Fri-yay a drink at my personal sunset bar.

8. When not at work, how do you spend your time?

I enjoy everything to do with the ocean. I regularly conduct marine biology research, studying dolphins and humpback whales. I also enjoy team frisbee and ballet.



Road to recovery

WHEN the ACA Conference takes place in Sep, it will be our first major gathering as an industry since we met in Geelong two years ago.

After the challenges we have all had as a cruise sector, we are delighted to have the opportunity to bring everyone together at a time when hopefully cruising is beginning to return to the Australian domestic market.

The event will be held in Townsville and will provide a forum for ACA members and stakeholders to workshop the next steps in our roadmap to recovery and prepare for the gradual re-opening of our international borders.

We are looking forward to gaining insights from specialists in emergency management response, research and trends experts and of course the cruise lines who will provide updates on their plans from a global and domestic perspective.

This will be the first time since 2017 that the conference has been held in Queensland, when we enjoyed the hospitality of the team at Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast.

It is also important for us to support Australia's regional port network which has been severely impacted by the cruise shutdown, but we believe will continue to play an increasingly important role in the growth of the cruise sector in Australia.