



NCLH: “robust” pricing environment

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) overnight reported its financial results for the three months to 30 Jun, announcing total revenue of USD\$1.19 billion and a quarterly net loss of USD\$509 million.

The sales figure was a huge increase on the prior corresponding pandemic-impacted period when NCLH’s revenue was just USD\$4.3 million.

Chief Executive Officer Frank Del Rio said “we are encouraged by the continued strong consumer demand we are experiencing which is reflected in our record pricing, accelerating booking volumes, especially for 2023 and beyond, and highest ever onboard revenue generation”.

Del Rio said with the return to more normal operations “we remain steadfast in our strategy and commitment to protect our brands’ positioning and industry-

leading pricing, which we firmly believe is the best way to maximise long-term value for all our stakeholders”.

For the current quarter, NCLH expects a further uplift in total revenue per passenger cruise day, despite the “significant impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on certain premium-priced European itineraries in the current year”.

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands (**CW** yesterday) as well as on Norwegian Cruise Line voyages, will help boost demand, Del Rio expects, “as it reduces friction, expands the addressable cruise market, brings variety to itineraries and provides additional catalysts on the road to recovery”.

Booking trends for next year remain positive, and are currently in line with the record levels of

2019, even taking into account NCLH’s 20% increase in capacity with the delivery of newbuild vessels.

Advance ticket sales currently amount to USD\$2.5 billion, of which USD\$400m or 16% are comprised of future cruise credits.

NCLH has total debts of USD\$13.2 billion, with liquidity of USD\$2.9 billion including USD\$1.9 billion in cash and a USD\$1 billion undrawn finance facility, which has been extended by a year and now remains in place through until 31 Mar 2023.

“The company has not drawn, and currently does not intend to draw, under this commitment,” said CFO Mark Kempa.

“However the company believes extending the facility was prudent given the current volatile macroeconomic and strained capital markets environment.”

Cruise Weekly today

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

Princess cancels over staff issues

A SERIES of 11 *Diamond Princess* departures from San Diego starting next month have been cancelled due to a shortage of onboard staff.

The affected voyages had been set to depart from 02 Sep through until 13 Nov, and included California Coast trips, cruises to Mexico’s Baja Peninsula and a Hawai’i cruise.

The *Diamond* San Diego season is listed through until Feb, with Princess Cruises saying axing a limited number of voyages “will provide us with the additional time needed to overcome our labour challenges”.

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PORTHOLE

IT IS only fitting the most expensive meal you can buy in New York's ultra-bougie Hamptons region is a dinner cruise hosted by Dom Perignon.

For just US\$30,000, the brand of vintage champagne will organise for you and five friends to charter its 27-metre yacht and be treated to dinner courtesy of Masa Takayama, chef of the renowned three-Michelin-starred sushi restaurant Bar Masa in New York City.

His special menu is designed to pair with three of Dom's latest champagnes: vintage 2012, rose 2008, and vintage 2003 Plenitude 2.

Sailing from Montauk, guests who book the cruise will enjoy four hours aboard the yacht (pictured), an onboard butler, a DJ, plus the services of a chauffeur, and of course as much flowing Dom as anyone needs.



Windstar promo

WINDSTAR Cruises has promoted Dianna Rom as its global Senior Director of Sales.

She has been with Windstar in the USA for seven years, first as a regional sales manager, and most recently as Director of Field Sales.

"We are excited to leverage [Rom's] talent, expertise, and leadership for the benefit of the sales team and the overall Windstar brand in her new, expanded global role," said Chief Commercial Officer Betsy O'Rourke.

New Uniworld events



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruise Collection is inviting travel advisors and guests to discover their world of luxury river sailing with free information sessions across Australia.

Dates and locations for the first six events have been announced, with Uniworld visiting Brisbane (30 Aug, Cloudland), the Gold Coast (31 Aug, Mercure Gold Coast Resort), Sydney (12 Sep, Kirribilli Club), Canberra (14 Sep, The Boat House), Melbourne (21 Sep, The Savoy Hotel on Little Collins Melbourne), and Adelaide (13 Oct, Adelaide Pavilion).

Details about Hobart and Perth will be announced later.

General Manager Australia Alice Ager said Uniworld has missed being on the road and on stage presenting to their travel agents and their guests.

"Events have always been a key component of our launches and this year is no different," she said.

"The timing feels just right as we see demand for luxury river cruising now exceeding 2019

levels," she said.

"It's time to show off all the wonderful innovation and elevation of the Uniworld product offering," Ager added.

At the events, there will be exclusive offers, such as 10% off early bookings and a slew of new itineraries to showcase.

Uniworld's 2024 brochure launch is also coming earlier than ever for Australian travellers.

"It means we have access to every suite on every ship on every sailing in 2024 with the best launch pricing we have seen," Ager added.

Agents can register for the industry events **HERE**, and travellers can register for the dedicated consumer events **HERE**.

Uniworld Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge will also provide her globalised insight at Cruise360 in Sydney this year, where she will help attendees capitalise on cruising's global revival and gain the critical insight needed to navigate the new era the industry is entering.

Splendor debut cruise extended

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced that the inaugural Australian return voyage of its *Carnival Splendor* will now leave a day earlier, offering already booked guests an "extra day of fun".

The ship had previously been set to depart on Sun 02 Oct but will now set sail on the Sat, bringing the voyage to four days in total with the addition of a call at Tangalooma Island Resort on Qld's Moreton Is.

VP Kara Glamore said the extension was a "thank you to our most dedicated guests - those who jumped at the opportunity to welcome *Carnival Splendor* back".



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Nat Geo II to launch

LINDBLAD Expeditions is preparing to relaunch Crystal Cruises' former *Crystal Esprit* ship as *National Geographic Islander II* in the Galapagos Islands.

The expedition cruise line acquired the former *Esprit* last year from Genting Hong Kong before the company collapsed (**CW** 03 Nov 2021), with Crystal saying at the time the ship "does not fit into our future plans" (**CW** 08 Sep 2021).

Esprit has been rechristened as *Islander II*, ahead of its commencement of operations in the Galapagos on Fri week.

Lindblad completed an extensive makeover of the ship, with additions to tailor her to the Galapagos market.

An escape room at sea!



THE United Kingdom's P&O Cruises is preparing to launch what it's claiming as the "first-ever escape room at sea" on board its 5,200 guest *Arvia*.

P&O has released brand new behind-the-scenes footage showcasing 'Mission Control', which will be available exclusively on board the new ship when she debuts in Dec this year.

Mission Control is a unique

immersive experience, combining an escape game with multimedia simulation and a live-action story.

The puzzle room offers two one-hour experiences: a family-friendly adventure suitable for all ages, and an adventure designed for adults.

Set on board fictional submarine *Arvia II*, guests will board in groups of up to 10 to form a team of marine explorers and underwater detectives under the guidance of Dr. Melissa Ryan, a virtual character who will guide guests through their mission.

The realistic 3D surroundings will take guests into ocean canyons, encountering sunken cities and underwater creatures.

"We wanted to create something brand new and we believe this is the first of its kind in the world," President Paul Ludlow explained of Mission Control.

"Our technology partner specialises in things that have never been done before so boarding *Arvia II* is guaranteed to wow our guests and be like being in the biggest blockbuster movie.

"The unique environmental experience will also leave guests with a greater awareness of the need to protect our fragile marine ecosystems."

View the trailer [HERE](#).



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

New Zealand welcomes back cruise

NEW Zealand is ready to celebrate the return of cruising on Fri, as the first international cruise ship to visit in more than two years berths in Auckland.

P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* is currently crossing the Tasman Sea from Sydney and is scheduled to sail into Auckland's Waitemata Harbour on Fri morning, where guests and crew can expect a typically enthusiastic Kiwi welcome.

The arrival is fittingly timed less than a week before the NZCA annual conference.

After Auckland, *Explorer* will then sail for Lautoka and Dravuni to become the first international ship to visit Fiji.

These milestones mean New Zealand and the South Pacific can now join Australia in rebuilding their cruise industries, which ordinarily support around 25,000 jobs across this region.

As our closest neighbours to the east, destinations like New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia offer some of our most popular cruise ports and are integral to the success of the wider cruise sector.

With more ships due to return to the region gradually over the coming spring and summer, we can look forward to a healthy cruise season ahead.



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