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# CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Wednesday 14th Dec 2022



On location aboard  
**Queen Elizabeth**

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of **Cunard Line**, with its **Queen Elizabeth** undertaking a short break cruise between Sydney and Melbourne this week.

**TODAY** *Queen Elizabeth* is cruising off the east coast of Australia, passing Gabo Island off the coast of Vic between Mallacoota and Cape Howe.

On board there's a full program of activities, movies, trivia, entertainment and more, while guests are also making the most of the delightful cuisine at the bars and lounges.

A highlight for some is the daily Afternoon Tea, a 3pm ritual featuring beverages, light bites and of course scones!

## P&O Explorer tragedy

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has confirmed a guest missing from P&O Cruises Australia's *Pacific Explorer* has tragically been found deceased.

The discovery was made after an overnight search & rescue operation for the woman, who fell overboard off the coast of Cape Jaffa last night.

The woman was reported overboard from *Explorer* around midnight last night, Carnival Corp said, after which the ship immediately commenced a thorough search, which continued throughout the night.

A search and rescue aircraft was also commenced by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Response Centre, and two helicopters joined the search at day break.

The air search was provided assistance from PolAir, and the Challenger aircraft from

Essendon, South Australia Police told the ABC.

Carnival Corporation extended its deepest condolences to the woman's loved ones, and said it is continuing to provide care and assistance to the passenger's family member, who she was travelling with.

"As you can appreciate this has also deeply impacted our remaining guests and crew," the Carnival spokesperson said.

"We thank all involved who supported this distressing and challenging search operation.

"Relevant authorities have been advised and we will continue to work with them and provide any assistance required."

*Explorer* left Melbourne yesterday for a four-night round trip to Kangaroo Island, which will no longer occur.

The ship will instead return to Melbourne.

### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise news and a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**.

### HK cruises back?

**HONG** Kong's cruise industry is making a slow recovery, with the operator of the country's Kai Tak Cruise Terminal noting current forward bookings for ship visits next year are less than 10% of pre-COVID levels.

Next month Hong Kong will welcome its first overseas cruise ship since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Silversea Cruises' *Silver Spirit*, on 18 Jan.

Under Hong Kong's current travel restrictions, arrivals need to undergo a three-day medical surveillance period, during which they are barred from certain premises.

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## Windstar new hires

**WINDSTAR** Cruises has expanded its culinary team, hiring a new Culinary Director and Corporate Pastry Chef.

Bjoern Wassmuth has been hired as Culinary Director, and Eric Le Rouzic as Corporate Pastry Chef, bringing with them over 25 years of experience between them to Windstar.

"As we've grown our fleet and dining options, we must grow our culinary staff of professionals to support our chefs," President Christopher Prelog said.

"We've added two new restaurants, Star Grill by Steven Raichlen and Cuadro 44 by Anthony Sasso, to our three Star Plus Class ships".

## Venezia details revealed

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has unveiled new details for *Carnival Venezia*, which is set to begin sailing year-round from New York City (**CW 05 Dec**).

The ship, which was originally built for Carnival's sister brand Costa Cruises, will feature special staterooms, unique Italian cuisine, and exclusive experiences, as revealed in a recent live virtual preview of *Venezia*.

The vessel will bring many beautiful and unique spaces into the Carnival fleet, such as the all-new Terrazza staterooms concept, which are similar to the Havana staterooms on the cruise line's other ships.

Located on decks 5-9 aft, Terrazza staterooms include interior balconies (many with aft-facing views), the special Terrazza Cabanas which feature private patios, complete with plush loungers, a hammock, and direct lanai access to Terrazza Carnevale.

The special staterooms also offer exclusive access to Terrazza Carnevale, an outdoor terraced deck featuring two whirlpools, a bar, and a tranquil lounging space to take in breathtaking views.

Guests staying in the 77 Terrazza staterooms also have exclusive perks including exclusive access to Carnevale Lounge in the morning with complimentary continental breakfast; Terrazza-branded robes & towels; specially-curated brunch on select sea days with a complimentary Spritz or Mimosa; and an exclusive sail-away event in Terrazza Carnevale.

*Venezia's* outdoor spaces feature Italian touches, as well as other first-in-fleet features, with a Lido deck modelled after the Italian Riviera which boasts a retractable roof, so the pool can still be enjoyed when the ship



departs and returns to New York in colder months.

Carnival has been planning many new spaces and will be making updates across *Venezia*, including adding mini-bars.

When they first board *Venezia*, guests will be immediately surrounded by Italian architectural design, modelled after Venice's main public square, the Piazza San Marco.

*Venezia* features an elegant theatre, Teatro Rosso, which will provide a beautiful backdrop for popular Carnival entertainment and new programming, along with many other stylish and immersive spaces.

On the top deck, *Venezia* will have a serenity area, an adults-only retreat featuring lounging furniture, sun beds, two whirlpools, and a new bar featuring spritzes.

"Carnival Fun Italian Style is a new take on our recipe for creating memorable Carnival cruises, but certainly, fun will still be at the heart of everything we do on board," President Christine Duffy said.

## Biofuel delivered

**GOODFUELS** has successfully delivered its 100% biofuel to AIDA Cruises' *AIDAprima*.

The ship was refuelled with GoodFuels' sustainable biofuels during its 08 Dec port call to Rotterdam.

This first bunkering of 100% biofuels for *AIDAprima* marks another important step forward to achieving sustainability and decarbonisation in the sector, GoodFuels said.

The company's next-generation sustainable biofuel is derived from feedstocks that are certified as 100% waste or residue, including processed cooking oil, tallow, and more.

Thanks to its "drop-in" properties, *AIDAprima* was bunkered with biofuel without requiring any modifications to the engine or tanks.

"This bio-bunkering with AIDA Cruises comes as yet another big step forward on the cruise sector's decarbonisation pathway," GoodFuels Chief Executive Officer Dirk Kronemeijer said.

"It builds on the collaboration and partnership we are enjoying with AIDA Cruises and the wider Carnival group, and once again proves that our sustainable biofuels are an immediately available sustainability solution".

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Wed 14th Dec 2022

**VIKING'S** Valhalla Club members recently explored the Mediterranean, on a trip which has been delayed since 2019.

The eight-day voyage aboard *Viking Sky* visited four countries and made "countless memories", as the cruise line recognised its exclusive Valhalla Club travel advisors.

Highlights on the Iconic Western Mediterranean voyage included visiting Avignon and le Palais des Pape, trying their hand at the famous Monte Carlo Casino, propping up the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and participating in a cooking class in a Tuscan castle.

The group also enjoyed the new Finnair Business class on the way to Europe.

"Our Valhalla Club is a way of recognising and thanking those agents that have supported us over the year and this trip is an opportunity for them to step away, relax and rejuvenate," said local Managing Director Michelle Black.





**THE** Romanian Naval Forces have defused a mine drifting near the country's Black Sea shore on the weekend.

Mines began floating in the Black Sea after Russia invaded Ukraine earlier this year, and Romanian, Bulgarian, Turkish, and Ukrainian military diving teams have been hard at work conducting controlled defusals.

The mine defused on Sat was the fourth handled by the Romanian military since Mar, and in total, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine have destroyed roughly 40 mines in the Black Sea since the Russo-Ukrainian War began.

## Azamara savings

**A SAVING** is available on a luxury cherry blossom circumnavigation of Japan with Azamara in 2024 through Cruise Traveller.

Passengers can save \$5,970 per couple, and enjoy a complimentary two-night stay in Tokyo during the luxury spring voyage.

Book by 17 Feb to access the saving on the 17-night package, which sails aboard *Azamara Journey* during Japan's hanami festival, when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom.

Two departure dates are available - 17 Mar 2024 and 01 Apr 2024 - **CLICK HERE**.

## Resilient delivered to Virgin



**VIRGIN** Voyages has welcomed *Resilient Lady* (pictured) to its growing fleet, ahead of her 2023/24 summer season based at Station Pier in Melbourne (**CW** 28 Apr).

Built by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, *Resilient* marks Virgin's third completed ship in the span of just two years.

*Resilient* will embark on her 'MerMaiden' voyage around the islands of Greece on 14 May, making stops in Santorini, Rhodes, Bodrum, and Mykonos, before returning to her homeport in Piraeus.

The ship will then sail two eight-night itineraries including the 'Greek Island Glow', on the aforementioned route, and the 'Adriatic Sea and Greek Gems', which calls in the cities of Split, Dubrovnik, Kotor, and Corfu.

After her inaugural season in the Mediterranean, *Resilient* will embark on a 44-night repositioning voyage, heading Down Under for a season in Australia, starting 22 Oct.

On the voyage, *Resilient*

will stop in Cairo, Dubai, Bali, Mumbai, Phuket, and Singapore, before arriving in Sydney on 04 Dec.

Featuring a hydrodynamic hull design, cutting-edge alternative technologies that reduce emissions, and Climeon tech, *Resilient's* design affords 93% of staterooms an ocean view, and 86% spacious outdoor balconies, featuring Virgin's signature Yellow Leaf Hammocks.

*Resilient's* interiors include high-tech touches, including tablets that allow cruisers to control room temperature, music, television, mood lighting, and open and close their blinds,

The ship will also feature Virgin's six Michelin-inspired restaurants, a curated line-up of live entertainment, bars, oceanside hangout retreats, and more.

**MEANWHILE**, Virgin is "waving hello" to next year with some of its most inclusive offers yet.

Among a range of offers, cruisers can take advantage of up to USD\$600 in beverages for new bookings - [virginvoyages.com](http://virginvoyages.com).



## All eyes on Brisbane

**CRUISE360** is heading to Brisbane next year, giving us a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the city's growing importance as an international cruise hub.

Having welcomed its first ships at the new Brisbane International Cruise Terminal this year, the Queensland capital is now firmly established as a cruise gateway in the South Pacific and is taking a leading role in cruising's revival.

With the 2032 Olympics on the way, Brisbane's significance as a destination will only increase further - making this the perfect time to be a part of its evolution.

For our travel advisor members, Cruise360 will provide an excellent opportunity to unite with colleagues and get the latest insights from a wide range of industry leaders.

We're planning a packed program to give delegates a big-picture perspective on the evolving global cruise sector, while at the same time providing practical insight to help advisors set their own course for prosperity.

Cruise360 will be held at Brisbane's Royal International Convention Centre on Thu 07 Sep 2023, preceded by a welcome cocktail party on Wed 06 Sep.

Tickets are available exclusively to CLIA members, with super-earlybird rates on sale to 31 Jan 2023 - visit **Cruise360** for tickets and information.

