



Cruise Weekly today

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

Carnival uses VeriFLY

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced it will implement the VeriFLY platform for its cruises out of US ports, making it easier for passengers to upload proof of vaccination and testing information prior to departure.

A pilot scheme kicked off on the weekend at Port Canaveral as guests boarded *Carnival Mardi Gras*, with the company saying it plans to continue current protocols until further notice, including requirements for pre-embarkation testing, vaccination and indoor mask use.

VeriFLY is a secure, free digital health smartphone wallet widely used by airlines, hotels and other travel operators to link booking information with any required documentation.

New French line to debut in 2023

PHILIPPE Videau, one of the co-founders of Ponant Cruises, has announced the launch of a new cruise line called Exploris, with the venture's first vessel currently sailing with Silversea as *Silver Explorer*.

Exploris opened an office in Paris just after the start of the year, with Videau one of several former merchant navy officers who established Compagnie du Ponant in 1998.

Ponant is now owned by France's Pinault family.

Explorer has been sold to Exploris, but will not change hands until late next year meaning her Silversea 2023 Kimberley season will go ahead.

Silversea told *Cruise Weekly* that *Explorer* "will complete her scheduled itineraries as part of her farewell season before leaving the fleet".

Crystal ship taken off course

CRYSTAL Cruises' *Crystal Symphony* has had its current final voyage diverted to the Bahamas, after a judge granted an arrest warrant for the ship in Miami over unpaid fuel bills.

Singapore-based Peninsula Petroleum obtained the ruling in Miami on Fri, where the ship was scheduled to dock prior to ceasing operations under the company's plan to "temporarily" pause sailings due to the financial issues faced by Crystal's parent, Genting Hong Kong (CW 20 Jan).

Peninsula's complaint also cited unpaid bills by sister Genting brand Star Cruises, dating back to 2017.

Passengers aboard *Symphony* were told that the Bahamas-flagged vessel would sail to Bimini, from whence they would be returned back to the US mainland by high speed ferry.

Genting Group, the parent firm of Genting Hong Kong, has a resort and a marina in Bimini.

The US court directed marshals to "arrest the defendant vessel, her boats, tackle, apparel and furniture, engines and appurtenances, and to detain the same in your custody pending further order of the court".

MEANWHILE a separate hearing in Bermuda on Fri confirmed the appointment of Hong Kong and Bermuda-based Joint Provisional Liquidators (JPLs) to Genting HK.

The company said the JPLs were "in discussions with the company's management team in order to assess urgently the financial condition of the Company and to identify potential remediation plans".

Genting Hong Kong shares are suspended from trading until further notice, the firm added.

The website of Genting Hong Kong's Dream Cruises has had its booking engine turned off, with no future sailings listed.

More from Crystal on **page two**.

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PERILOUS rescues at sea are rarely more exciting than this.

A dog has been saved from drowning in British mudflats after emergency workers came up with the idea of luring the canine to safety by attaching a tasty sausage to a drone.

The drama in Havant, Hampshire escalated after Millie, a jack russell-whippet cross, slipped out of her leash and scampered across the flats.

The drama in Havant, Hampshire escalated after Millie, a jack russell-whippet cross, slipped out of her leash and scampered across the flats. Spotted in the distance, but the pesky pooch ignored all calls to come to safety as the tide began to rapidly rise.

Police, firefighters and the coast guard were tracking the beast using unmanned aerial vehicles, and then someone came up with the suggestion of dangling a sausage to entice Millie to higher ground.

"It was a crazy idea," *The Guardian* reported Chris Taylor from the Denmead Drone Search and Rescue Team as saying, with the initiative requiring a check of Civil Aviation Authority regulations.

After verifying the Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW), the geniuses figured out they could attach a single sausage to a drone, with a local resident dispatched to Aldi to buy a pack which were quickly barbecued.

Millie eventually took the bait and was reunited with her delighted owner.

Disney on river

ADVENTURES by Disney has announced details of its 2023 European river cruise program, featuring 27 departures on the Rhine, Danube and Seine.

The voyages, which feature specially trained Adventure Guides, are operated in partnership with AmaWaterways, with dedicated programming for both adults and children.

Select departures are child-free, including Food & Wine and Oktoberfest-themed voyages - for info [CLICK HERE](#).

Crystal cuts calls

CRYSTAL Cruises has "paused its call centre until further notice," according to an update posted on its Australian website late on Fri.

The crystalcruises.com.au website now lists a series of email addresses for enquiries, noting it's still taking new reservations for future voyages with no money down.

Windstar lady chefs

WINDSTAR Cruises has announced that celebrity chefs Jennifer Hill Booker, Tanya Holland and Irene Li will headline three special upcoming culinary-focused voyages in 2022.

The cruises complement Windstar's role as Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation, a non-profit which aims to celebrate, support and elevate the people behind America's food culture.



PTM on top of Australia



ROSE Febo, a Personal Travel Manager (PTM) celebrated reaching the northernmost point of Australia (**pictured**), during her highly anticipated first post-COVID cruise experience.

The Cape York visit was part of a 13-day Queensland Reef and Island Discovery cruise aboard APT's *MS Caledonian Sky*.

"As an owner of a small boutique travel business, COVID-19 has been the source of major disruption to my life and my business," she said.

"Many businesses have closed or been forced into hibernation, but I have refused to give up on my passion for travel and so, after two years of staying at home, I leapt at this chance."

Febo is TravelManagers' representative for Hawthorne, Qld, and flew from Brisbane to Cairns to join the voyage.

"APT's pre-departure communication was very comprehensive...we were sent several emails beforehand with clear, three-step instructions that needed to be complied with, or risk being denied boarding," with requirements for a PCR test 72

hours prior to departure, along with a further declaration and temperature checking.

"Every passenger and crew member were double-vaccinated, which was very reassuring.

"Aside from the comprehensive health checks, it was also reassuring to know that, had one of our tests returned as positive, although we would have been asked to go into isolation and would have missed the cruise, 100% of the cruise fare would have been placed into credit or we would have been rebooked onto another APT journey of our choice, free of charge," she said.

Febo is a cruise specialist and a CLIA Master, and documented her journey in a blog which has been well received by her client base.

Scenic appoints

SCENIC Group has appointed Robert Castro as its new Senior Director of Marketing in the US, with a background of previous cruise roles at Carnival, Royal Caribbean and most recently Silversea Cruises.