



Cruise Weekly today

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

NCL's Summer cast

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has confirmed that *American Idol* Season Two finalist, TV and Broadway performer, Kimberley Locke, will star in "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical" when it debuts aboard the brand new *Norwegian Prima* late next month.

The groundbreaking onboard show traces the story of disco queen Donna Summer at three pivotal stages of her career, featuring more than 20 of her mega hits.

The 85-minute show sees the onboard Prima Theater transformed into a full disco, enabling guests to become part of the show.

Scenic recovers from cyber attack

SCENIC Group Founder and CEO Glen Moroney has assured the industry that operations across the Scenic and Emerald Waterways will be back to "normal" soon, acknowledging major challenges to service levels following a cyber incident earlier this year (**CW** 01 Mar).

Moroney yesterday wrote to industry partners, confirming that "on the 20th of February this year our computer screens globally went blank, except for a simple message advising all our core operating systems and data had been encrypted".

"We'd been 'cyber-attacked' and after a few messages from the hackers a ransom demand was made...I took the decision not to pay as I believe it just incentivises these criminals to keep hacking other businesses," Moroney said.

Recovery involved a nine-week total rebuild of the Scenic

platform, which is still ongoing as a few minor bugs are addressed.

Although all guest data was secure, "during this time it was almost impossible to communicate as normal with our guests and industry partners... timely cruise cancellations, document and flight issuance, as well as call centre response times were all impacted very significantly," Moroney admitted.

He said since then the company had been dealing with a huge backlog, at the same time trying to employ additional staff and dealing with COVID-related absenteeism - not to mention the unprecedented level of flight rescheduling and cancellations.

"In my 36 years since founding this business I can honestly say the last five months have been by far the most stressful," he said.

Scenic Group has now restructured its IT department

with "a much stronger focus on security and recovery protocols".

The company has also employed a large number of additional reservations staff globally, and restructured with a dedicated support team to handle administrative tasks for each booking to boost contact centre efficiency.

"Our document issuance pre-departure is now nearing pre-cyber event timing," Moroney said, while average call wait times have also improved dramatically, notwithstanding blowouts due to numerous flight schedule changes or large numbers of staff unwell.

"Despite these challenges we've been heartened with the very positive guest response to *Emerald Azzurra* and *Scenic Eclipse's* inaugural Mediterranean season, as well as return to operations for our European river cruise fleet," Moroney concluded.



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RCI Creative Ca\$h

CREATIVE Cruising is offering travel advisors a \$50 e-gift card with any bookings for 2022/23 Royal Caribbean International local departures before the end of the month.

Guests who book before 27 Jul can also take advantage of RCI's WOW sale offering up to US\$400 Onboard Credit, a free balcony upgrade, half price deposits and up to 40% off every guest.

Itineraries on offer include an 11-night New Zealand cruise ex Sydney from \$2,268ppts, a seven-night Adelaide and Hobart trip from \$1,520ppts, and a five-night Sydney cruise ex Brisbane from \$899ppts - for more info call 1300 362 599 or creativecruising.com.au.

New Tassie cruise product



ON BOARD Tasmanian Expedition Cruises has confirmed it will launch a custom-designed new ship at the end of 2022, with *Odalisque III* set to "take a maximum of 12 guests in luxury on the trip of a lifetime in

Tasmania's wilderness".

The vessel (pictured) is a 24m expedition catamaran, with six cabins alongside elegant indoor and outdoor lounge and dining areas, with plans to cruise the wilds of Port Davey and Bathurst Harbour in southwest Tasmania between Jan and May each year.

Between Jun and Dec *Odalisque III* will cruise the beaches and islands of Tasmania's east coast, with the vessel also available for private charter according to On Board's Founder and Skipper, Pieter van der Woude.

Specialist chefs seconded from some of Hobart's top restaurants will offer meals curated from local produce alongside cool climate wines, beers and spirits with an emphasis on the best of Tasmania.

The ship will replace the existing *Odalisque II* from Jan 2023, and will offer daily tender excursions to allow guests to experience the wilderness destinations.

On Board is now taking bookings for next year, with the company supporting the trade with famils and commission - see onboardexpeditions.com.au.



WHILE some cruise lines are well known for their onboard art collections, that's nothing compared to a find aboard a superyacht seized from a Russian oligarch.

US Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco appeared on a panel at the high-level Aspen Security Forum in the US, discussing seizures from wealthy Russians imposed under the current sanctions related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"Let's get to the juicy stuff: the yachts," she said.

"We've been finding some really interesting things...we recovered a Fabergé- or alleged Fabergé egg."

It's believed the jeweller to the Russian Tsars made 69 of the prized gem-encrusted eggs, including 50 created for Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II.

However there are currently 57 known surviving eggs, of which 44 were part of the royal collection, reports *The Guardian*.

The egg seized by the US is believed to have been aboard the US\$300 million *Amadea* which was controversially seized while in Fijian waters earlier this year and taken to San Diego.

During a hearing about the extradition, the ship's captain told a Fijian court that it was critical to maintain strict humidity and temperature levels on board to preserve valuable artworks and furnishings.

Officials haven't yet determined the egg's authenticity.



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