

IT'S TIME TO BREAK FREE!

New Zealand cruising is back! To celebrate we're rewarding Partners First Rewards members with up to 35 Points for every NCL booking in June*.

EARN BIG REWARDS IN JUNE

| Cabin Category | Rewards on all Destinations |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Studio & Inside | 25 Points |
| Oceanview | 30 Points |
| Balcony & Above | 35 Points |

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TO JOIN PARTNERS FIRST REWARDS AND SUBMIT YOUR BOOKINGS
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Break free in NZ!

IT'S time to break free, as Norwegian Cruise Line resumes sailing in New Zealand.

To celebrate, Norwegian is giving a bounty of points to Partners First Rewards members with up to 35 available for every booking made this month.

Studio & Inside staterooms are worth 25 points, Oceanview 30 points, and Balcony and above is worth 35 points.

To join Partners First, visit partnersfirstrewards.ncl.com/rewardsau, and for more information, visit the **cover page**.

No more homeports

CRUISE ships will no longer be able to start or end their sailing in Charleston, South Carolina from 2024, according to a local news report.

Vessels will also no longer be able to overnight in South Carolina's largest city, but will be able to dock for a daily call.

The South Carolina Ports Authority said it has decided to not renew a home port deal with Carnival Cruise Line, with the result to see the number of passengers in Charleston cut by 80%.

The Ports Authority said it will also no longer work on plans to redevelop a warehouse at the Union Pier into a cruise terminal.

Permits to start the project have been tied up for years by lawsuits from conservation and historical preservation groups.

Carnival said it will continue to work with the Authority to find options to use Charleston.

Currently, about 70 cruises per year leave Charleston for the Bahamas and other Caribbean destinations.

Explora I floats out



EXPLORA Journeys has celebrated a key construction milestone in its history, with the float-out of *Explora I* (pictured).

A ceremony was held at the Fincantieri shipyard in Italy for the first of four ships from the luxury ocean cruise line.

Explora I is set to be delivered in just 12 months at the end of May 2023, while her sister ship, *Explora II*, will launch in the northern summer of 2024.

At the event, Explora also indicated that it will take a look at the introduction of engines powered by liquefied natural gas on *Explora III* and *Explora IV*.

MSC Group Executive Chair Cruise Division Pierfrancesco Vago said: "at Explora Journeys, we are building ships for tomorrow, utilising today's latest technologies and while being ready to adapt to alternative energy solutions as they become available".

"At the same time, the brand's commitment to sustainable ocean travel extends beyond just the environmental and maritime technologies but is also embedded in our onboard guest experience.

"Destination experiences will be designed to leave a positive impression and footprint on the places and people visited by placing a spotlight on local talents, craftsmanship, culture,

[and] gastronomy, traditions."

Explora Chief Executive Officer Michael Ungerer added: "the float out of *Explora I* is a hugely significant milestone in the realisation of our vision to redefine the ocean travel experience with a new luxury travel brand that we have designed to connect travellers with the ocean and themselves.

"Today's event is great opportunity for our valued travel partners to see how the ship is taking shape and build even more excitement for *Explora I*'s launch in just 12 months."

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news plus a cover page from Norwegian Cruise Line.



On location in Bayfield, WI

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Viking, aboard the brand new Viking *Octantis*.

THE hamlet of Bayfield, Wisconsin proudly bears the title of America's smallest city with a population of about 450.

It's the gateway to the pretty Apostle Islands on Lake Superior, but unfortunately strong winds have meant Viking *Octantis* is unable to operate tenders to the port, meaning instead we have a day at sea.

Guests are making the most of the onboard facilities, with many making circuits of the windswept decks or enjoying the lavish spa before convening in one of the array of eateries for their next delicious meal.

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VIRGIN Voyages, alongside its new Chief Entertainment & Lifestyle Officer Jennifer Lopez, is giving away 1,000 Sea Terrace cabins on one of its cruises. Starting today through 21 Jun, sailors can enter to win a voyage for two on *Scarlet Lady* or *Valiant Lady* ex Barcelona or Miami. To enter, sailors can **CLICK HERE** and complete the short questionnaire.

Winners will receive an email the following month with details on how to book their epic vacation. You have to be 21 to enter, and sorry to those from New South Wales, South Australia, and the ACT - you're excluded from this campaign (although it's not because Virgin doesn't love you!)



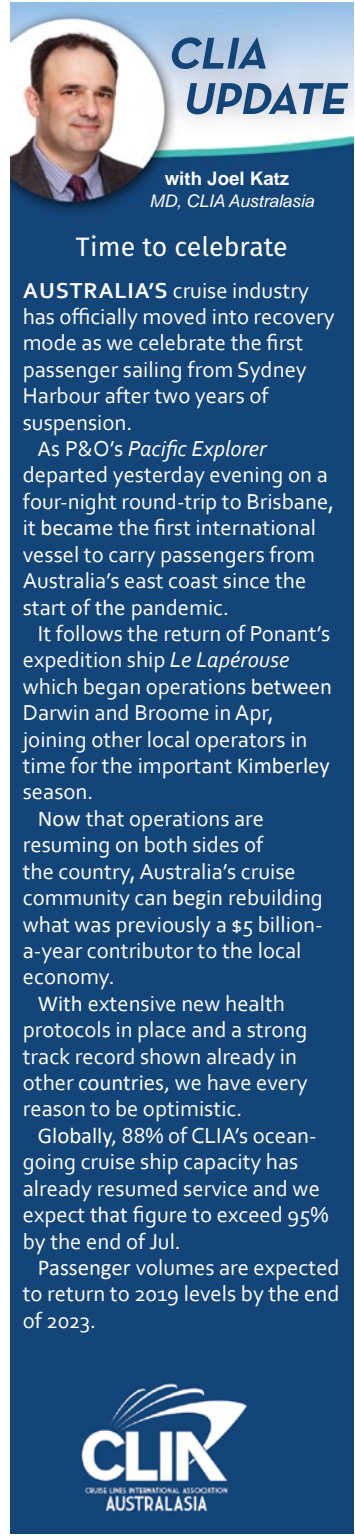
Azamara flash sale
AZAMARA is hosting a flash offer of USD\$1,000 shore excursion credit per stateroom for those who book by 10 Jun. The offer is available on select voyages through to 18 May 2023. Terms and conditions apply - **CLICK HERE** for details.

A ship fit for a Princess



HOLLAND America Line has held the naming ceremony for its new ship *Rotterdam* with godmother Princess Margriet of the Netherlands. Esteemed guests joined her to officially welcome the new flagship to Holland America, including the ship's Captain Werner Timmers and Group President Jan Swartz, who are **pictured** with the Princess. The eighth in line to the Dutch throne was welcomed at the ship's gangway with a traditional floral bouquet presented by seven-year-old Nora van Dijk, daughter of Nathalie van Dijk, a member of the Holland America team for 15 years. Following the ceremony, a gala luncheon was held on board, followed by a gala dinner and the opportunity for guests to pour champagne over *Rotterdam's* bell - a Holland America tradition when welcoming a new ship to the fleet. "Our heritage is rooted here in the Netherlands, and we are

deeply honoured to have Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet as godmother of her fifth Holland America Line ship," said the cruise line's President Gus Antorcha. "After a challenging couple of years, we are excited to celebrate this memorable moment in our company's history." Antorcha said when *Rotterdam* was delivered last year, Holland America postponed her naming ceremony so it could be held in the city the ship is named after. Holland America has a history of "royal namings", with the cruise line's connection to the Monarchy of the Netherlands going back nearly a century to Prince Hendrik, who launched *Statendam III* in 1929. Since then, members of the House of Orange-Nassau have launched 11 more Holland America vessels throughout the years. Princess Margriet herself has named *Prinsendam* (1972), *Nieuw Amsterdam II* (1983), *Rotterdam VI* (1997) and *Oosterdam* (2003).



CLIA UPDATE
 with Joel Katz
 MD, CLIA Australasia
 Time to celebrate
AUSTRALIA'S cruise industry has officially moved into recovery mode as we celebrate the first passenger sailing from Sydney Harbour after two years of suspension. As P&O's *Pacific Explorer* departed yesterday evening on a four-night round-trip to Brisbane, it became the first international vessel to carry passengers from Australia's east coast since the start of the pandemic. It follows the return of Ponant's expedition ship *Le Lapérouse* which began operations between Darwin and Broome in Apr, joining other local operators in time for the important Kimberley season. Now that operations are resuming on both sides of the country, Australia's cruise community can begin rebuilding what was previously a \$5 billion-a-year contributor to the local economy. With extensive new health protocols in place and a strong track record shown already in other countries, we have every reason to be optimistic. Globally, 88% of CLIA's ocean-going cruise ship capacity has already resumed service and we expect that figure to exceed 95% by the end of Jul. Passenger volumes are expected to return to 2019 levels by the end of 2023.

