

Cruise Weekly today

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

Celebrity all back

CELEBRITY Cruises' comeback is complete, with the line's entire 15-ship fleet all relaunched.

The milestone occurred with *Celebrity Infinity* setting sail for the Caribbean from Fort Lauderdale yesterday.

In her first sailing in more than two years, *Infinity* will take guests on a seven-night Eastern Caribbean sailing with stops in the Bahamas, the Turks & Caicos, and the Dominican Republic.

It was almost one year ago to the day when the cruise line's return to service began, when *Celebrity Edge* became the first ship to sail from a US port in 15 months (**CW** 28 Jun 2021).

"This sailing not only caps an incredible journey but sets a course for a whole new world of infinite possibilities for our brand and for cruise travel," said Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo.

"The future is very bright, thanks to the time, effort, and love that the team has poured into bringing our entire fleet back.

"Seeing the beautiful *Celebrity Infinity* sail out of Port Everglades will be an emotional moment for everyone at Celebrity Cruises, especially our crew, who have waited so long to welcome guests aboard, once again."

NT cruise rules changed

THE lifting of the cap on cruise passengers visiting the NT (**pictured**) is a welcome move, Cruise Lines International Association's local Managing Director Joel Katz told **Cruise Weekly**.

The NT's Chief Health Officer yesterday issued "post-emergency" directions for cruise ships visiting the Territory, with the cap of 350 persons on board each vessel lifted.

The move means the cruise industry can look forward to the next stages of its recovery in Australia's north, Katz said.

"Expedition cruise lines have been operating successfully in the NT for many months, and the decision to open up to larger ships is a sign of confidence in the health protocols cruise lines have in place.

"Along with the measures established in other states, the NT's announcement means that all Australian coastal states and territories have now laid out their pathway to a responsible revival of cruise tourism as we approach the summer season ahead."

However, a ship will not be able to enter the NT unless it has first berthed in Port Darwin, and has not left the Territory since berthing the capital, continuing rules in place since the jurisdiction first re-entertained cruising.



Ships must also continue to have a health practitioner on board, appointed as the vessel's safety supervisor, who is suitably qualified in infection prevention and control.

Quarantine requirements will still apply to close contacts while they remain on a cruise vessel, however they may leave quarantine to attend shore excursions.

These requirements will not apply following final disembarkation upon the completion of the cruise.

Earlier this year, Ponant became the first international operator to recommence cruising in Australian waters, when *Le Laprouse's* Kimberley season kicked off on 28 Apr (**CW** 27 Apr).

Since then, a number of cruise lines have resumed operations in the NT, including Heritage Expeditions (**CW** 03 Jun).

SH now owns Vega

SWAN Hellenic (SH) will now own its second ship *Vega* outright, after recently acquiring it from Helsinki Shipyard.

Vega was set to be owned by Russian leasing company GTLK Europe, but the firm defaulted on its payments.

Helsinki Shipyard took bids for *Vega*, and announced overnight SH has been awarded the tender for the ship it was set to operate.

The ship will be delivered as soon as all the registry formalities in the Bahamas have been completed, and the vessel will start operating for the cruise line in the Arctic as scheduled from 20 Jul.

"We are happy to have secured *SH Vega*, a Polar Class PC5 vessel with state-of-the-art ship technology and sustainability that will enter service as planned in Jul," said Chief Executive Officer Andrea Zito.

"We look forward to welcoming our guests onboard *SH Vega* to experience our cultural expedition cruises in sophisticated elegance, commencing on 20 Jul from Tromsø."

Vega, which floated out in Feb (**CW** 14 Feb), is the sister ship of Swan Hellenic's first vessel *Minerva*, which was launched at the end of 2021.

Providing elegant and spacious five-star accommodation for 152 guests in 76 spacious cabins and suites, *Vega* is designed for immersive experiences and extensive open views.

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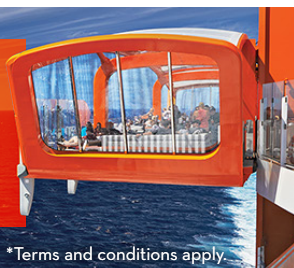
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CARNIVAL Cruise Line's restaurateur-in-residence Guy Fieri (pictured) has launched a new "Funderstruck Nacho Burger" across the brand's fleet.

Available for a limited time at Guy's Burger Joints on Carnival vessels, the new burger is comprised of a toasted brioche bun, the chef's famed 80/20 burger patty, donkey sauce, and super melty cheese, stacked with nacho seasoning, borracho beans, crispy corn tortilla strips, fried jalapenos and fresh pico de gallo.

If that's not enough, you can wash the burger down with the new Fully Loaded Fundertots, which are now available for a limited time aboard *Carnival Horizon*, *Carnival Panorama* and *Mardi Gras*.

To watch Fieri put together his creation, [CLICK HERE](#).



Emerald 23-24 season

EMERALD Cruises has released new luxury yacht cruises for 2023 and 2024, including Caribbean and trans-Atlantic voyages.

New destinations in the Mediterranean & Adriatic will also be available aboard *Emerald Azzurra* (pictured) and new yacht *Emerald Sakara*, which is set to debut next year.

Guests can enjoy picture-perfect beaches throughout the Virgin Islands, West Indies, and Caribbean Sea; immerse themselves in local life in Colombia; venture through Costa Rican rainforests, and experience the Panama Canal.

New ports of call include Cartagena, St. John's, and Isla Tortuga.

Passengers can also follow the routes of the trans-Atlantic explorers on the three ocean crossing itineraries, which include an extended stay in Lisbon, where guests can take in the winding cobbled avenues, ride the city's iconic tram network or sample pastel de nata in sunlit terraces.

Or, on the new 18-Day Discover Western Mediterranean & Morocco, guests will visit



five Mediterranean countries while cruising the coastlines of Southern Italy, Corsica, Spain, Gibraltar and Morocco.

New destinations include the coves and bays of Sardinia, the tropical Balearics, the Moroccan jewel of Casablanca, Gibraltar, and the Canary Islands.

The cruise embarks from Santa Cruz de Tenerife and sails to Arrecife, Casablanca, Gibraltar, Motril, Cartagena, Ibiza, Mahón, Bonifacio, Civitavecchia, Sorrento, Amalfi, Gaeta, Porto Cervo, Sardinia, and Porto Santo.

All prices include the cruises as stated and excursions with knowledgeable local guides, all on board meals with complimentary wine and beer with lunch and dinner, transfers, tipping and gratuities, and more.

Viking weekly deals

VIKING'S weekly deal is a 12-day Pharaohs & Pyramids Egypt river cruise.

Sailing roundtrip from Cairo, the itinerary is priced from \$7,295 per person, including savings of up to \$2,000 per couple.

Also on offer is the Grand Fjords & Iconic Viking Shores itinerary.

The 36-day voyage from Amsterdam to New York City or vice versa is priced from \$22,295 per person twin share, including savings of up to \$2,800 per couple.

For additional information, phone Viking on 138 747.

DR cruise develops

CONSTRUCTION of a new cruise port in Samana in the Dominican Republic will begin next month, the country's President has announced.

The plan was made public alongside the Dominican Republic's naming as the host of the annual Florida Caribbean Cruise Association conference in Oct.

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