







cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Friday 11th March 2022

## New RSSC offer

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has announced a new 'Upgrade & Explore' offer.

The deal provides travellers with a free two-category suite, upgrade up to a Penthouse, plus a 7.5% deposit on selected voyages.

Upgrade & Explore is available on more than 40 voyages sailing between May and Nov, and is available when booked before 30 Apr.

The upgrade applies to select voyages on board Seven Seas Explorer, Seven Seas Mariner, Seven Seas Splendor, and Seven Seas Voyager.

RSSC also recently strengthened its Aussie sales team with four new hires.



### Guests are raving about Viking Expeditions

It's official, Viking's highlyanticipated expedition voyages are setting a new standard. With expeditions now underway, the first quests on Viking's provided outstanding ratings and enthusiastic feedback, praising it as one of their best-ever travel experiences. If your clients are dreaming of exploring the White Continent, Viking is offering savings of up to \$8,000 per couple with flights included up to the value of \$5,000 per couple.

Watch the guest reviews of Viking Expeditions here.



# Crystal's claim site open



A WEBSITE has been launched for Crystal Cruises passengers to submit refund claims.

Cruise customers out-of-pocket due to the demise of Crystal can now file a claim to try to get their money back.

Crystal's website now directs visitors to crystalcruiseclaims. com, which allows both customers and travel advisors to file a refund request.

The site is being managed by Florida-based liquidator Mark Healy who is managing the affairs of Crystal and its associated properties, and admitted the cruise line has "limited assets".

Passengers identified as "potential creditors" may also receive an email in the next few weeks with a claim form and filing instructions.

The deadline to submit is 11 Jun, and after all assets are liquidated, court approval will be required to reimburse customers if there are funds left.

"Our goal is to maximise the recovery of assets and provide a claims process to creditors that allows them to realise the highest potential recovery regardless of the size of their claim," Healy

As reported last month, Crystal is currently responsible for more than USD\$100 million in customer payments, all held in reserve accounts under the control of various credit card companies (CW 18 Feb).

### Cruise Weekly today

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

## Mississippi saving

AMERICAN Queen Voyages' namesake flagship American Queen will navigate the entire length of the Mississippi next year.

Couples can save USD\$400 and solos USD\$200 on the allinclusive Minneapolis to New Orleans river cruise.

There is also a zero deposit offer, with no down payment required until 30 Jun.

The special offer is available for those who book by the end of the month.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.



#### Earn more commission with No NCFs

Many cruise lines don't pay commission on certain components of a cruise fare. Things like taxes, fees and port charges are often noncommissionable, adding up to a significant amount. At Viking, they do things differently. Their No NCFs promise means there are no non-commissionable fees and more money in your pocket. They are one of the only cruise lines to pay commission on all components of your client's booking, including air.

Click here to learn about how you can earn more commission with Viking.

# HAL to resume Alaska

**THE** newly published Canadian cruise procedures (CW 08 Mar) have cleared the way for Holland America Line's (HAL) full Alaska and Canada & New England seasons.

Departing from Vancouver, Alaska cruises will call at Victoria; while Canada/New England itineraries will depart Quebec and explore 13 ports.

HAL's first ship to arrive in Canada will be Koningsdam, which will call at Victoria on 09 Apr en route to Vancouver, where she will arrive a day later. On the eastern seaboard,

Zaandam will call at Halifax on 17 May while on a nine-day Atlantic Coast cruise sailing from Fort Lauderdale to Montreal.

"The completion of this guidance by Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, Public Health Agency of Canada, and port officials will allow us to sail our Alaska and Canada/New England seasons as planned," said President Gus Antorcha.

"This is a positive step for everyone who loves to travel to these regions and for all of the businesses in Canada that we support through tourism."





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## SeaDream renovating its yachts

**SEADREAM** Yacht Club has unveiled new images of its ship renovations (CW 18 Jan), which aim to blend comfort and luxury.

The recently announced upgrade of more than USD\$10 million for twin yachts SeaDream I and SeaDream II includes numerous touchpoints, with each improvement designed to "align with the desires of today's luxury traveller".

SeaDream II recently left the care of the European architects and designers carrying out the renovations, with guests to now be provided with state-of-theart technology, functional and enhanced stateroom space, and luxurious lounging areas on all

Later this month, SeaDream I goes into drydock for 54 days in Lisbon to undergo identical renovations.

The modernisation includes



a complete restoration of staterooms, with the installation of all-new hardware & soft furnishings, and streamlined storage areas that provide more functional space.

There will also be state-ofthe-art electrical upgrades in all staterooms, including USB/USBC charging ports, wi-fi, and sensor lighting; 55-inch LED televisions in all staterooms; new outside decking; Seora Balinese Dream Beds (pictured), sun loungers, and stargazers handcrafted from mahogany, and more.

## 130 and still going

**HURTIGRUTEN** will

celebrate the Norwegian Coastal Express' 130-year anniversary next year with special on-board experiences.

A historic anniversary menu will be part of year-long celebrations, with voyages in the 2023 and 2024 season now open for booking.

On the 10th night of round trips, on the southbound leg between Bronnoysund and Rorvik, the main restaurant on board will serve a special fivecourse celebratory meal.

The anniversary menu will bring together classic Norwegian home cooking - the staples that have been served on board for 130 years - with modern Norwegian cuisine.

As with all food on board, the anniversary menu will be sourced with fresh local ingredients.





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## Princess Alaska season

**PRINCESS** Cruises is readying for a full Alaska season this year, following the recent announcement of a resumption of sailing in Canadian ports (CW 08 Mar).

The cruise line has finalised programs and guest experiences for a full summer season of cruises and cruisetours to Alaska this year, as well as its popular northern summer and fall Canada & New England program.

From May through Sep, cruises from four homeports - Seattle, Vancouver, Anchorage, and San Francisco - will travel to Alaska.

The schedule features six ships. including the cruise line's newest vessel, Discovery Princess, which will mark her inaugural season as the youngest ship in Alaska, departing from Seattle on the popular seven-day Inside Passage itinerary, alongside Crown Princess.

Majestic Princess joins Royal Princess and Grand Princess sailing the top-rated seven-day Voyage of the Glaciers itinerary, which features two glacier viewing experiences on every cruise, including Glacier Bay

National Park.

Ruby Princess offers 10-day Inside Passage cruises out of San Francisco, featuring the added bonus of the sailaway under the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, and a port stop in Victoria.

On Canada and New England voyages, Princess sails from Quebec and New York City, visiting popular ports, including Halifax, St. John, Sydney, and Charlottetown.

The season runs from Jul through Oct, and features 16 departures and six unique itineraries on Enchanted Princess and Caribbean Princess.

In total, the season's offerings include 12 itineraries totalling 140 departures and five glacierviewing experiences.

"The reopening of Canadian ports to the cruise industry is a bold and important move that significantly expands the array of travel opportunities available to guests while boosting the economies of the Canadian and Alaska destinations we visit by generating important revenue and job opportunities," said President John Padgett.



### Virgin gets loud!

**AMERICAN** entertainer Jennifer Lopez (pictured) has joined Virgin Voyages as an investor, with the singer to also serve as the cruise line's Chief Entertainment & Lifestyle Officer.

"My artistic and social mission is to empower, inspire and entertain," Lopez explained.

"Any opportunity that I get to combine all these attributes into a partnership and collaboration is exciting

"I am inspired by Virgin Voyages' dedication to creating irresistible experiences and focus on wellbeing, which all fits perfectly with my own lifestyle and brand ethos."

Virgin said it is "redefining" the nautical tradition of appointing a godmother from a ceremonial role to a modern, "change-making partnership".





A NEW Virginia-based tour company is offering a bygone way to travel the state's rivers in a vessel first popularised more than 200 years ago.

Around these parts, when you tell someone you're going out on the James River, it typically means you're doing so on an inflatable tube with a cooler full of beer in tow.

However, in the late 18th and 19th centuries, flat-bottomed pole boats called bateaux navigated the tempestuous River, bringing crops such as tobacco, flour and later coal to the East Coast.

Now, the James River Batteau Company will set a course next month, offering guests tours, cruises, and private charters from Apr through Oct aboard the six-passenger Morning Dew, a period-correct reproduction

Tours are two-hour trips along the James River, operating in the afternoon and evening.





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