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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**.

The wait is over!

THE wait is over, and cruises from Australia are back with Royal Caribbean International.

The brand will be returning to Sydney in Oct and Brisbane in Nov, with this season on sale now, alongside its 2023-2024 adventures.

Royal Caribbean is currently offering half-price deposits, including up to USD\$400 to spend at sea, and up to 30% off every guest.

For more information and to book, head to the **cover page**.

For a tutorial on how to register for Cruising Power to make a booking, **CLICK HERE**.

Carnival Corp flags return to profit

CARNIVAL Corporation (CCL) has posted an adjusted net loss of USD\$1.9 billion for the first quarter, as the company slowly but surely returns the full fleet of each of its brands back to guest operations.

As of this month, three-quarters of Carnival's capacity has resumed guest cruise operations, with the full fleet expected to be back ahead of the next northern summer season, where the company historically generates its largest share of operating income.

It would not be a moment too soon either, as during the first quarter, Carnival experienced a number of impacts on bookings for its near-term sailings as a result of the Omicron variant.

These included higher cancellations resulting from an increase in positive pre-travel COVID test results, challenges in the availability of pre-travel tests,



and general societal disruptions caused by Omicron.

Although occupancy in the first quarter was just 54%, this was still a 20% increase in guests carried over the prior quarter, and revenue per passenger cruise day increased approximately 7.5%, driven by strong onboard income.

Carnival believes monthly adjusted EBITDA will turn positive at the beginning of its summer season, as since the middle of Jan, it has seen an improving trend in weekly booking volumes for future sailings, which are higher than at any point since the restart of guest cruise operations.

Pictured: Koningsdam.

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Heritage NZ season

HERITAGE Expeditions has announced its New Zealand season for next year, with a new voyage.

The 2023 program will see intimate explorations of New Zealand's coastlines and islands, including the Bay of Islands, Marlborough Sounds, Fiordland, and Stewart Island, aboard its luxurious, 18-guest expedition yacht *Heritage Explorer*.

The five-10 day voyages of discovery explore the farthest reaches of New Zealand's remote bays, coves and island sanctuaries, where native wildlife flourishes, and guests can enjoy some of the country's greatest coastal scenery.

Cruisers have the opportunity to hike, swim, fish, kayak, and join Zodiac excursions, while enjoying outstanding cuisine.

There will also be a new seven-day voyage, 'Islands of the Hauraki Gulf & The Coromandel'.

The seven-day, Auckland return cruise travels from 21-27 Jan 2023 from NZD\$5,275 per person, to the famed islands and coastlines of the Hauraki Gulf, including Great Barrier Island; and the pristine beauty, gold sand beaches, and misty rainforests of New Zealand's subtropical playground Coromandel.

Commercial Director and Expedition Leader Aaron Russ said with New Zealand about to open up to the world again, small ship expedition cruising was the perfect way to experience the many largely unexplored parts of NZ.

"Our immersive wilderness expeditions are created to share parts of New Zealand (which) many visitors, and New Zealanders alike, rarely get the chance to experience," he said.

Carnival new Miami zone



CARNIVAL Cruise Line has revealed a new Miami-themed zone (**pictured**) aboard *Carnival Celebration*.

820 Biscayne will celebrate the culture, architecture, and flavours of *Celebration's* homeport, and the city where Carnival began cruising 50 years ago.

The zone is named after the address of Carnival's original headquarters, and will be located on deck 8, in the same location as La Piazza on *Celebration's* sister ship *Mardi Gras*.

Once the ship arrives in Nov, guests will be able to enjoy the design elements that reflect the "urban-meets-laid back" vibes of Miami, perfect for relaxing and people-watching, or enjoying fresh sea air and ocean views.

Bringing Miami-inspired food and beverage offerings, 820 Biscayne will feature Bar 820 – a half-inside, half-outside retro-inspired bar that will feature grab-and-go Cuban and specialty coffees, as well as Miami-inspired tropical frozen drinks and creative martinis day and night.

Also on deck will be Deco Deli – designed as a nod to Miami's art deco mecca, with colourful fonts and signage, serving classic deli sandwiches on Cuban bread.

820 Biscayne will also incorporate guest favourite

Miami Slice, which will continue to offer guests 24-hour walk-up pizza amid a contemporary and vibrant decor, reminiscent of the late-night eateries on the city's Ocean Drive.

"Miami has been our home for 50 years, and in bringing a brand new ship to its port, we wanted to show some extra love to the city that helped us become who we are today," said President Christine Duffy.

"*Celebration* will celebrate all things Carnival, intertwining where we have been with where we are going, and we can't think about where we started without thinking about Miami and all of the fun that it represents."

Senior Vice President New Builds Ben Clement said Carnival wanted to continue to give its guests the delicious offerings found aboard *Mardi Gras*, with a new twist which pays tribute to the culture of the 'Magic City'.

"Miami is a one-of-a-kind city with many different sides to it, so we tried to capture all of that in 820 Biscayne – from the tropical feel and original Art Deco designs that can still be found on Miami Beach today to the modern city look of Brickell – and of course, with a huge emphasis on the delicious flavours throughout," he said.

Azamara new on board credit offer

BOOK any new Azamara sailing departing from now until next Thu, which sails before 30 Mar 2023, and receive bonus onboard credit of up to USD\$500 per stateroom.

Club Interior and Oceanview staterooms will receive USD\$300; Veranda and Veranda Plus staterooms will receive USD\$400, and Suites & above will receive USD\$500.

This offer is combinable with Azamara's other current offers in market, except those on its Last Minute Voyages promo.

The offer is now available to book in Espresso, or by calling 1800 570 552.

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Agent advocate to be *Luna* Godmother

GIFTED Travel Network Chief Sales Officer and co-founder Vanessa McGovern has been named the Godmother of Emerald Cruises' *Emerald Luna*.

The news was announced recently at the American Society of Travel Advisors' (ASTA) Global River Cruise Expo in Budapest.

Luna's naming ceremony is scheduled to take place on 21 Jul in Amsterdam, when the 180-passenger ship will become Emerald's ninth Star-Ship.

McGovern is a fierce advocate for the travel advisor community, serving on the ASTA Board of Directors Executive Committee, as well as on its Government Affairs & Political Action Committee.

She also spearheads ASTA Advocacy Awareness Day.

"Vanessa is a true force for good in the travel industry, and her enthusiasm is infectious," said Vice President Sales Ann



Chamberlin.

"Her tireless advocacy work has helped raise the collective profile of travel professionals, and her commitment to supporting entrepreneurs benefits our entire industry."

Pictured are National Sales Director Richard Hickey, VP Sales Ann Chamberlin, Godmother Vanessa McGovern; Senior Director Global Flights Brian Chapin, and Manager Sales Team & Trade Partnerships Hien Cao.

MSC family deal

MSC Cruises' new family friendly deal will see kids under 18 cruise for free.

The offer also includes drinks for all, wi-fi for two guests, and \$200 of onboard credit per cabin.

With a choice of embarkation ports of Genoa or Civitavecchia, the 11-night cruise will see guests savour Rome, Messina, Rhodes, Limassol, Jerusalem, and Heraklion aboard *MSC Lirica*.

The offer is priced from \$784 per person, with kids under 18 cruising free.

The deal is also available on a seven-night *MSC Preziosa* cruise departing Southampton 29 Oct, visiting Hamburg, Rotterdam, Bruges and Paris.

The family deal ends at the end of next month, and is valid on sailings from 03 Nov to 01 Dec - call 1300 028 502.

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FOR those dreaming of being on *The Love Boat*, this might be as close as you'll ever get.

CBS has announced it is ordering a local version of *The Real Love Boat*, which will appear on Network Ten.

As with seemingly any new television show commissioned these days, *The Real Love Boat* will incorporate a dating element, and will be partly inspired by the original 1970s scripted series.

Production begins next summer, with singles to come together in the Mediterranean aboard a Princess Cruises ship while looking for love.

CW will be watching for the ships, but fast-forwarding through the rest of the show!

Discovery's Deal or No Deal



ONE of the most popular game shows on television during its time, *Deal or No Deal* is coming back to life aboard Princess Cruises.

Deal or No Deal will set sail aboard *Discovery Princess* from Sun's ex-Los Angeles cruise, before debuting aboard *Majestic Princess*, *Regal Princess*, and *Sky Princess*, with plans to roll it out fleetwide afterward.

The cruise line has partnered with TimePlay to launch the audience-participation game show, which will offer a chance to win cash prizes, and even a free cruise.

Guests can play along with their "case card", with a buy-in ranging from USD\$25-\$50, or can take part as one of two randomly selected contestants who play live on stage for a chance to win up to USD\$1,000.

The show will take place on the Princess Theater stage aboard *Discovery*.

"*Deal or No Deal* offers a unique combination of entertainment and gamification that allows our guests to spectate or participate,

in an extremely high-quality and realistic live experience of the popular TV game show," said Vice President Entertainment Experience Denise Saviss.

"This new interactive game show adds to the already impressive lineup of memorable entertainment offerings to be enjoyed on our new *Discovery*."

Ultimate commission

ULTIMATE Cruising is offering travel advisors a \$150 upfront commission payment when booking a Tahiti cruise package.

All deals include airfares, accommodation, the cruise, and transfers with a variety of lines, including Aranui, Paul Gauguin Cruises, Ponant, Windstar Cruises and Variety Cruises.

Ultimate Cruising guests also receive a door-to-door service with chauffeur-driven luxury car transfers from their home to the airport (within 35km).

For more, contact 1300 485 846.

Viking weekly deals

VIKING'S deals of the week include remaining availability on Australia, France, and Antarctica cruises.

From Dec, two of Viking's ocean ships will operate in Australian waters for the first time.

Viking's 17-day Komodo & The Australian Coast voyage is now on sale, starting from \$9,795 per person, with a saving of up to \$2,000 per couple when booked before the end of May.

Guests will discover cultural splendours and cerulean beauty on Australia's coast and the Indonesian archipelago.

Book now to secure one of the last remaining staterooms for this year's departures, while those making a reservation this month to enjoy Viking's Risk-Free Guarantee, which delivers the flexibility to change cruise dates up until 14 days before departure.

The last remaining dates for this year's eight-day Lyon & Provence river cruise are also selling fast.

Priced from \$3,495 per person, the offer includes a saving of up to \$1,000 per couple, plus \$1,000 flight credit when booked before the end of May.

Meanwhile, Viking's 13-day Antarctic Explorer itinerary from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia is also on sale, priced from \$19,995 per person, including a saving of up to \$8,000 per couple when booked by the end of May.

Phone Viking on 138 747.

Jr back in the fold

OCEANIA Cruises has appointed Frank Del Rio Jr, son of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Chief Executive Officer Frank Del Rio Sr, as Chief Sales & Marketing Officer.

In his new role, Del Rio Jr will take responsibility for all sales and marketing activities across the globe, leading Oceania's teams based in its offices in Miami, Southampton, Sydney, and Sao Paulo.

The appointment marks Del Rio Jr's return to Oceania, following his 14-year tenure from 2003 through 2017.