



## Perfect Day back on Royal's agenda

**ROYAL** Caribbean International's first South Pacific private island destination, Perfect Day at Lelepa (pictured), is back on track, on the heels of the cruise line announcing its highly anticipated return to Australia (**CW** 17 Mar).

The cruise line has revealed new details of the pandemic-delayed private island destination, which is currently under development, following a deal first struck in the lead-up to the 2019/20 local cruise season (**CW** 16 Oct 2019).

Once it opens, some Royal Caribbean itineraries out of Australia will include a beach day on Lelepa, which is a small island in Vanuatu.

Located northwest of larger Efate, the private island resort will delight cruisers seeking "authentic adventures and genuine relaxation," according to Royal Caribbean President & Chief Executive Michael Bayley.



Although the cruise line hasn't announced a formal opening date for Lelepa, Senior Vice President Hotel Operations Mark Tamis added it will be "within a couple of years," with the line's recently released 2022/23 season (**CW** 23 Mar) not currently listing any calls at the private destination.

When pressed on specifics of what passengers will see and

do at Lelepa, Tamis said it will be different to its other private islands, such as Perfect Day at CocoCay in the Caribbean.

"What's a perfect day for an Australian is not a perfect day for an American," he explained.

"Thrilling for an Australian might be snorkelling, while a thrill for an American might be going down a water slide."

### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

### Get ready for fun

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line's Chief Fun Officer, veteran US basketballer Shaquille O'Neal, is heading to Australia for the first time in two decades.

O'Neal, whose multifaceted business empire includes eateries aboard some Carnival Cruise Line vessels and a role as the brand's promotional public face (**CW** 16 Jan 2018), is undertaking a speaking tour courtesy of investment manager La Trobe Financial.

He'll appear at Melbourne's Margaret Court Arena on 25 Aug, followed by Sydney's Star Events Centre the next day.

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## Crystal exec to Princess

**CARMEN** Roig, former Senior Vice President of Marketing and Sales at the now defunct Crystal Cruises, has been appointed as Princess Cruises' new Vice President of Sales.

Roig had been in charge of Crystal's sales operations since 2015, with her extensive cruise industry career also including previous roles at Carnival Cruise Line and Costa.

Princess described her as a "venerable industry sales, marketing and community leader who will now direct Princess's trade relationships, lead business development teams, and also serve as the sales authority across all Princess sales modalities including web, contact centres

and onboard".

Also joining Princess as Senior VP Sales and Service Strategy and Operations is Cal Almaguer, whose previous roles include over two decades leading the sales force for Disney Destinations including Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Adventures by Disney, Aulani Resort & Spa and Disney Cruise Line.

Princess President, John Padgett, said the appointments would see the line "elevate sales performance through unmatched trade relations and the deployment of new sales tool innovations".

The appointments will also see Princess veteran John Chernesky become a "brand champion" for the line, after 29 years with the company including seven years overseeing travel agency sales.

### Quark joins CLIA

**QUARK** Expeditions has become one of the newest members of Cruise Lines International Association Australasia.

The company will participate in several upcoming CLIA events including CLIA Live in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane as well as Cruise360 Australasia.

Quark Regional Sales Director, Rob Halfpenny, said he was delighted to be joining CLIA which gave the line access to nearly 1,900 specialist cruise advisors in the region.

He thanked CLIA's Joel Katz and Marita Nasic for their assistance towards becoming a "preferred polar expeditions operator" with CLIA.

"It's wonderful to be part of our amazing industry that brings to life so many cherished experiences to others as we continue to build the recovery momentum for travel and cruising," he said.

## Virtuoso takes to the sea



**THE** 2022 Virtuoso Symposium last week saw these Aussies and Kiwis become the first to ever cruise aboard Silversea's new *Silver Dawn*, which operated a five day roundtrip sailing out of Lisbon, Portugal as part of the event.

Participants, from 35 countries across the globe, took a "deep dive into generational insights on traveller behaviours and workplace dynamics" in sessions at the Four Seasons Hotel Lisbon, which also included a keynote presentation from Virtuoso Chairman and CEO, Matthew D. Upchurch.

The program also included a "lively discussion" led by

Virtuoso Senior VP of Global Operations, Michael Londregan with his new team of global GMs: Fiona Dalton (Australia/NZ), Javier Arredondo (Latin America & Caribbean), Karen Joyce (Europe, Middle East and Africa) and Una O'Leary (Canada), while Irene Lee (Asia) joined in via taped segments.

The next Virtuoso Symposium will take place in Montreal, Canada from 17-21 May 2023.

**Pictured** from left are Jacqui Jones, Voyage Affaires Auckland; Nicola Thomas, Accent on Travel Auckland; Rowland Howlett, Frontier Travel Sydney; Fiona Dalton from Virtuoso; and Carol Morgan from Voyage Affaires.

### Agent site for Margaritaville

**THE** new Jimmy Buffet-themed Margaritaville at Sea operation (**CW** 09 Dec 2021) has launched a new travel agent-specific website at [bookparadise.com](http://bookparadise.com).

Formerly known as Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line, the company's CEO Oneil Khosa said "travel advisors will play an integral role in our success as a new brand, and we value this group greatly as instrumental partners in the launch of Margaritaville at Sea".

The site features a range of customisable marketing collateral, while consultants can build itineraries and make client reservations aboard *Margaritavilla at Sea Paradise*, formerly sailing as *Grand Classica*, which is due to debut on 30 Apr.

### Big BA season

**MORE** than 20,000 cruise passengers have visited ports in Argentina on over 200 calls across the current season, which wrapped up last week with the maiden call of *Viking Octantis* at Buenos Aires.

The first ship back at Buenos Aires for the country's successful post-pandemic resumption was Atlas Ocean Voyages' *World Navigator* which arrived on 12 Nov, with scores of other visits by a range of cruise lines at Puerto Madryn and Ushuaia in the ensuing months.

Operating a successful cruise season was seen as key to support Argentina's pandemic recovery as it boosted the country's tourism sector via provisioning and excursions.

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**DISNEY** Cruise Line continues to make its passengers' dreams come true, this week unveiling details of the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique which will feature on the new *Disney Wish* when she sets sail in the coming months.

Perfect for any cruiser aged three to 12 who feels like they need a new look, the so-called "storybook salon" features a special styling space where kids get a "pixie-dusted makeover" with costumes, accessories, a new hairstyle and makeup.

Transformations can be themed to suit the desires of junior guests, who as well as becoming a passenger-favourite princess, pirate, or knight for the day, will also be able to turn into the nautical-themed Captain Minnie or Mickey Mouse.

For a more aquatic look, they can also "trade in" their legs for fins and become Ariel the Little Mermaid, in line with the ship's onboard live show.

## APT Kimberley kicks off



**APT** has today launched its 2022 Kimberley season, with the company's now 100% Australian-owned *MS Caledonian Sky* (pictured) departing from Broome on the first sailing of what the company described as a "bumper season".

Voyages are almost fully sold out right across the season through until Sep, with travel advisors urged to get in touch with APT now if their clients are interested in 2023 departures.

APT Product Manager Cher

Lontok said "it is wonderful to be celebrating our first sailing in the Kimberley for 2022... Kimberley cruising with APT is such a special experience that we know our guests love, and this season is looking to be one of our biggest in our 40-plus year history in the Kimberley".

The APT voyages journey between Broome and Darwin and vice versa, with a range of inclusions such as a helicopter flight, locally inspired dining and experiences in each destination.

## Vax needed ashore

**UNVACCINATED** passengers aged 12 years and older on cruise ships visiting Bermuda and Grand Cayman will not be allowed to disembark, according to an advisory issued by Carnival Cruise Line.

Impacted guests booked on voyages through until 31 Dec this year have been advised that "as destinations continue to evolve, officials in Bermuda and The Cayman Islands have informed us that unvaccinated guests 12 years and older will not be able to visit the islands.

"Our records show that you, or someone in your party, is impacted by this new requirement and will have to remain onboard," with any shore excursions refunded.

The cruise line has updated its Have Fun, Be Safe protocols page with the new information, detailing requirements for unvaccinated guests on calls to Limon in Costa Rica, Grand Turk, Bermuda, Grand Cayman, St Kitts, Bonaire, Tortola and San Juan.

## Uniworld flash sale

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises is currently hosting a flash sale, with limited-time deals available for solo cruisers.


The line has waived the solo supplement on many of its flash sale sailings in Europe.

Prices start from only \$2,999 per person, both twin share or solo, for those booking by the end of the month - view the offers **HERE**.

## Ambassador delay

**THE** inaugural sailing of fledgling operator Ambassador Cruise Line's *Ambience* (CW 25 Jun 2021) is being delayed due to "extensive supply chain disruption and delays in many commercial areas".

The vessel, which formerly cruised as P&O Australia's *Pacific Dawn*, will now debut on 20 Apr, with two earlier sailings to Norway cancelled.

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