



### On location in Antarctica

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, aboard the brand new *Viking Polaris*.

**THE** Aussie and Kiwi contingent of Viking Cruises' industry partners aboard *Viking Polaris* are making their way to Antarctica.

After a relatively smooth crossing of the Drake Passage south of Ushuaia in Argentina, the action kicks off first thing tomorrow with a Zodiac landing at Fournier Bay.

The expedition's activities will also include kayaking, the deployment of the ship's unique high-speed Special Operations Boats and its two on-board submarines.

## Viking Cruises sees record bookings

**VIKING** Cruises has seen its best two booking months ever out of the Australasian market, with a record Sep followed by even higher results in Oct, and high levels of enquiry continuing into this month as well.

The figures are being attributed to a range of factors including concerted trade and consumer marketing activity and also having an "always on" presence throughout the pandemic, according to local MD Michelle Black, who revealed the numbers aboard *Viking Polaris* today.

She told **CW** the strong performance was right across the Viking portfolio of ocean, river and expedition voyages, with demand for the Viking river cruise product in Europe particularly strong in recent months.

Pent-up demand and a desire for post-COVID experiences have also played a role in the surge,



with Black saying she is very gratified at the market response to the full Viking range.

She is leading a group of industry partners aboard *Polaris* this week, with Viking's first female captain, Magrith Ettlin, at the helm.

The pair are **pictured** during a reception for the Aussie and Kiwi

group today in The Hide, the cosy venue nestled in the ship's bow.

### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from the **Cruise Lines International Association**.

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## Japan cruise restart

**INTERNATIONAL** cruise ships will once again be able to dock at ports in Japan, under detailed new protocols announced by the country's transport minister Tetsuo Saito.

Guidelines will see the crew conduct testing and isolation measures if cases are suspected on board, and report the status to quarantine officials prior to docking.

It's almost three years since cruise ships have been able to visit Japan, after an outbreak of COVID-19 occurred on a vessel as it approached Yokohama in Feb 2020 in the very early stages of the pandemic.

Saito said he hopes businesses will abide by the guidelines "so that guests can safely enjoy their cruise experience in Japan".

## Bubbly Princess

**PRINCESS** Cruises has confirmed it will install new Silverstream Air Lubrication Systems (ALS) to reduce fuel consumption and lower emissions on the new *Sky Princess* as well as *Enchanted Princess*, with the project slated to be completed in the first half of 2023.

## Quark at the movies

**QUARK** is inviting Melbourne agents and their clients to an exclusive screening of BBC's *Antarctica 3D* narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch at IMAX Cinemas in Carlton on 30 Nov at 6pm - **CLICK HERE** to register your tix.

## MSC's green shoots



**THE** Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) team, in Doha for the naming of MSC Cruises' *MSC World Europa*, was taken on a special "environmental tour" of the spectacular ship last week.

The journey took the guests to the onboard rubbish sorting facility as well as the ship's engine room, giving them a glimpse of *World Europa's* liquified natural gas propulsion systems.

They were hosted by MSC Director of Sustainability, Linden Coppell, who highlighted MSC's stringent sustainability targets.

"It's important that we set these ambitious goals, and we also have an interim goal that was set originally by the IMO and it was then adopted by the cruise industry, which was a 40% reduction in emissions intensity by 2030," Coppell said.

"We're doing incredibly well when it comes to driving down the intensity and behaviour.

"We've really made some great progress in the last 12-18 months and we're now 35% of the way there, so basically now 35% more efficient in the way

that we operate than we were in 2008, which is a really great achievement."

**Pictured above** during the hard-hat behind-the-scenes tour are CLIA Spain National Director Alfredi Serrano, CLIA Global President Kelly Craighead, CLIA Director General Europe Marie-Caroline Laurent, and CLIA MD Australasia Joel Katz; while **below** is Coppell treasuring her souvenir issue of *Cruise Weekly*.



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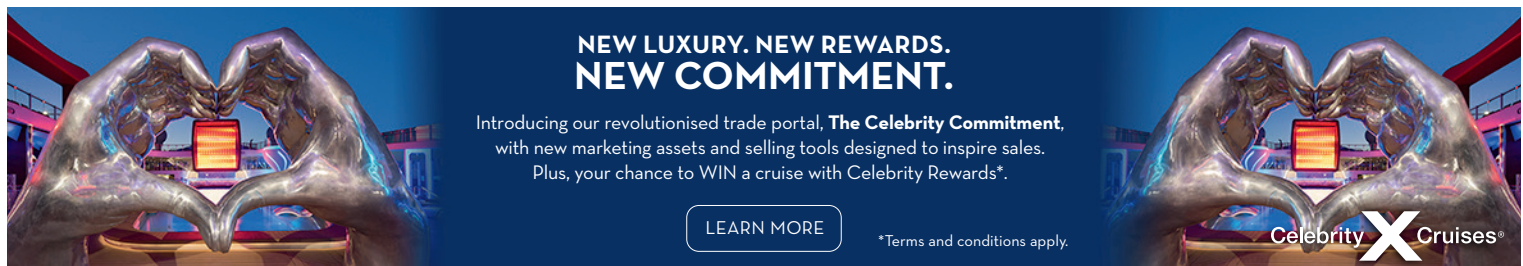
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Celebrity **X** Cruises®



A CRUISE passenger has taken to the internet to complain about the noise of doors closing impacting her luxury balcony cabin experience.

"I know that whenever I close any door on the ship, even if it's a door going out on a deck, I will hold onto the door and make sure it doesn't slam shut," she wrote on Reddit.

"It doesn't take but five seconds to be courteous and close a door without letting it slam shut.

"No one would do it in their home so I'm not sure why people allow their balcony door to slam shut every time they walk in and out."

People in the comments gave advice such as sailing with a cruise line that uses sliders instead of swinging balcony doors, while others suggested the complaining cruiser should lower her expectations.

## Cruise queens get together



**JOURNEY** Beyond's Alicia Triggs and Justine Lally last week met up with some of their new cruising counterparts in the USA, with a get-together on board American Queen Voyages' (AQV) *American Duchess* which homeports out of Memphis, Tennessee and New Orleans, Louisiana.

American Queen Voyages and Journey Beyond are both owned by US-based Hornblower Group,

with the company's "overnight division" headed up by Journey Beyond CEO Chris Tallent.

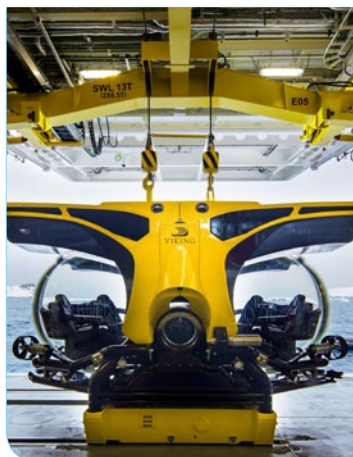
The US gathering included newly appointed AQV CEO Cindy D'Aoust, **pictured** centre with Lally (top left) and Triggs (centre) and her leadership team.

D'Aoust recently outlined her plans for American Queen Voyages, which will focus on "prestige and ports" as well as people like travel advisors.

"American Queen Voyages is an established, storied cruise line and brand known for exemplary service and experiences," she said.

"The opportunity moving forward is to further strengthen the reputation and relationships to continue on a growth trajectory," D'Aoust added.

Journey Beyond's Triggs said "the exceptional care these women take to provide exemplary service to all their guests and staff is truly inspirational".



## CRUISE WEEKLY

### On Board: Viking Polaris Submarines

Two six-passenger submarines take guests deep below the ocean surface for an incomparable experience of the Antarctic. Accessed via a rooftop hatch, submariners climb inside the vessels after a short Zodiac transfer, sitting in two 270-degree bubbles with swivelling seats so they can take in the underwater world, with an experienced pilot at the controls and in constant contact with the surface.

## CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz  
MD, CLIA Australasia

### Nominate now!

**THE** nominations are flowing in, and we can already tell it's going to be a great year for the 20th CLIA Cruise Industry Awards.

Our first awards since 2020 will give us a chance to celebrate the resilience shown by travel agents over recent years, giving the judges plenty to consider when they choose their finalists.

With just two weeks to go before nominations close, we're encouraging everyone to put themselves forward or to nominate their peers.

This year includes a new category allowing agents to salute their favourite cruise line BDM or sales representative.

The Cruise Line Champion award will be presented to a cruise line representative who has gone above and beyond to support the travel trade and who embodies CLIA's mission of educating, advocating, and promoting on behalf of the cruise industry.

In all, there are 18 categories in this year's CLIA Awards including 11 open to self-nomination or peer-nomination, with the winners to be announced at a gala celebration on 11 Mar at the Big Top, Luna Park Sydney.

Nominations are open to all CLIA members, closing 30 Nov - visit **CLIA Cruise Industry Awards**.





NOMINATE NOW

NOMINATIONS CLOSE MIDNIGHT 30 NOVEMBER



TELL US YOUR STORY

CLIA's Cruise Industry Awards celebrate the top achievers of our travel agent community. Now is the time to showcase your success, tell your story and put yourself forward for industry recognition.

Nominate yourself or your colleagues now.

Visit [www.cruising.org.au](http://www.cruising.org.au) to view the award categories and place your nomination.

\*Nominations are open to CLIA Members only