



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### A Vela good day

VIKING has marked the float-out of its newest ocean ship, *Viking Vela*, which is set to debut next Dec.

The 998-guest ship recently met water for the first time, ahead of her inaugural season sailing voyages in the Mediterranean and in Northern Europe.

Following a two-day process which will set *Vela* afloat at her shipyard, she will then be moved to a nearby outfitting dock at for final construction and interior buildout.

"It is always a proud day when our newest ship meets water for the first time," Chair Torstein Hagen said.

## ACA urges Vic Ports to work with cruise

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) is urging an immediate whole-of-government approach to developing a forward-looking cruise strategy, which will respond to the needs of the fast-growing sector, and resolve the current tensions in Victoria (CW 29 Nov).

ACA Chief Executive Jill Abel called on all sides of government in Victoria to work closely with cruise lines and industry associations to develop a strategic outlook which supports the growth currently being enjoyed by the sector in Australia.

The calls come as Carnival Corporation, which itself cried out for greater collaboration with the Victorian State Government, announced the cessation of the deployment of two of its cruise lines from Melbourne from 2025 (CW yesterday).

"The State Government simply

cannot afford to turn its back on the cruise sector, but nor can this be turned into a political hot potato," Abel insisted.

"This is no time for finger-pointing or looking in the rear-view mirror - it is a time for strategic planning to develop a cohesive future cruise strategy in a way that will work for all.

"It is time to look at berthing requirements - if Station Pier is to be the dedicated cruise facility for Melbourne, there needs to be appropriate investment, beyond a maintenance and repair program, on delivering a contemporary, fit-for-purpose facility."

Abel said the strategy also needs to look at how government works with cruise lines currently visiting Victoria, particularly as the state provides a critical link for southern itineraries visiting WA, SA, and Tasmania.

"Victoria has a critical role to

play as we continue to develop this country's cruise sector and we look forward to the government recognising this and acting accordingly to bring a crucial resolution to these current challenges," she added.

The ACA was joined by Virgin Voyages in its calls, with the cruise line dissuading the Victorian Govt from introducing "unnecessary" barriers to the growth of the cruise industry.

"Virgin Voyages is committed to bringing global attention, visitors and economic benefits to Australia, and in particular, Victoria," a spokesperson for the cruise line told CW.

"We encourage the Victorian Govt to consider the unnecessary obstacles and barriers that the increase in fees and charges at our home port will have on our business and others" - more on page 2. MS

THE HAPPIEST  
**HOLIDAY SALE**  
UP TO  
**AU\$8,300 OFF**  
PER STATEROOM

PLUS  
**simply MORE™**

- FREE Pre-Paid Gratuities
- FREE Shore Excursions
- FREE Champagne, Wine & More
- FREE Gourmet Specialty Dining
- FREE Unlimited WiFi

OPENS FOR BOOKING  
7 DECEMBER 2023





**THE** Seine is more than suitable for cruising, but Paris is aiming to make its river suitable for Olympic swimming.

The water quality is actually acceptable for bathing on many days throughout the summer, but Paris is looking to improve it even further before the Games in Jul.

The primary goal is to make the Seine completely bathable by 2025, with Paris currently building a storage basin capable of holding 46,000m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater to reduce the risks of pollution.

The water will be tested every day during the Olympics to make sure it is safe for swimmers.

## Australia a “difficult” cruise market

**AUSTRALIA** is becoming a more difficult market to cruise from, Carnival Corporation Chief Strategy Officer Teresa Lloyd has revealed, stoking fears regarding the lackadaisical decisions recently made by state governments around the country.

Lloyd, addressing the media earlier this week in the wake of the cessation of Carnival Corp’s Melbourne voyages of two of its cruise lines (see **page 1**), said the company is considering “all deployment everywhere” as margins become thinner around the industry.

“Australia and this region is becoming more difficult since the restart,” she conceded.

“Fuel is very expensive in this part of the world, the distances we have to travel to go to different ports is a long way, we have issues that compound operating in this region.”

Carnival has asked for a meeting to fully brief ministers on the significance of the rate hikes, Lloyd said, and to explain what they mean, and what the impact is, indicating the company is not turning its back on Victoria.

“We’re confident we’ll have a meeting with the minister soon, and we really look forward to having that discussion,” she said.

“It’s too late for 25/26, but for the future, we want to bring the ships back.”

Melbourne’s loss is the gain of other cruise destinations around Australia, Lloyd confirmed, with the company set to redeploy some of the lost voyages to Sydney and Brisbane, where it is less expensive to call.

Cruise lines were first informed of the magnitude of the rate increase, which will apply from next year, a number of months ago, but only received formal

confirmation last week.

“A much more moderate increase would have been something that could have been accommodated, but this increase and the prospect of further significant increases is really what’s triggered this decision,” Lloyd said.

She ominously added although Carnival Corp hopes it will reach a decision with the Victorian stakeholders soon, other cruise lines within the company are considering their own decisions for the coming seasons.

The revelation is the latest wake-up call to just how precarious deployment prospects are in Australia - a roller coaster the industry rode back in May, when the Government of NSW ruled out the construction of a cruise ship terminal in Yarra Bay, without presenting an alternative option (**CW 29 May**). *MS*

## INTERNATIONAL CRUISE? THINK NCL.

Over 400 destinations worldwide including Europe, Hawai'i, Asia and Alaska

Sailings available through to 2025

19 Award-winning ships



**NCL NORWEGIAN  
CRUISE LINE**

**BEST CONTEMPORARY  
CRUISE LINE**  
2022 CRUISE PASSENGER  
READERS' CHOICE

**WORLD'S LEADING  
CRUISE LINE**  
WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS  
7 YEARS IN A ROW



**MOST OUTSTANDING  
SUPPORT - CRUISE**  
2022 WINNER



**1300 225 200 OR 0800 969 283**  
AUSTRALIA BASED RESERVATIONS TEAM

**24/7 BOOKING  
SUPPORT**

Travel & Cruise Weekly

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content



[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel & Cruise Weekly have ready-made social media toolkits to inspire your clients.

## AU Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Brilliance of the Seas</i>	01 Dec
<i>Royal Princess</i>	02 Dec
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	02 Dec
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	03 Dec
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	03 Dec
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	04 Dec
<i>Viking Orion</i>	04 Dec
<i>Resilient Lady</i>	04 Dec
MELBOURNE	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	03 Dec
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	04 Dec
PORT ADELAIDE	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	01 Dec
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	04 Dec
PENNESHAW	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	06 Dec
BRISBANE	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	01 Dec
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	02 Dec
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	03 Dec
<i>Coral Princess</i>	04 Dec
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Resilient Lady</i>	01 Dec
FREMANTLE	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	02 Dec
BROOME	
<i>Regatta</i>	04 Dec
DARWIN	
<i>Celebrity Edge</i>	02 Dec
<i>Star Breeze</i>	03 Dec

## Cruise Traveller turns 20



CRUISE agency Cruise Traveller is marking its 20th anniversary this month, having been established on the Gold Coast in Dec 2003.

The team recently gathered to celebrate the anniversary with a special cake at its Mermaid Beach, Queensland headquarters.

Managing Director Joseph O'Sullivan said the small ship cruise market is expanding robustly, and Cruise Traveller is playing a key role in steering this growth by partnering with travel retailers and serving the growing number of consumers seeking these boutique experiences.

"The demand for small ship, boutique, expedition and ultra luxury cruises has never been higher, driven by travellers' desire to travel with less people to more unique destinations on more immersive itineraries," he said.

"As experts in this space, Cruise Traveller is also playing a pivotal role in building demand as we showcase the appeal to consumers of small ship journeys and assist retail agents to profit

from the unique boutique cruise product we create."

O'Sullivan said the agency kept its team through COVID, and even grew its small ship product portfolio, with the aim of emerging in even better shape.

"We achieved that and we now chart a course to make our business even bigger, stronger and more successful in the promotion and sale of small ship cruise experiences around the world," he added.

"We have a fabulous team of dedicated and passionate professionals on board and we're committed to growing our role at the helm of the expanding small ship cruise business in Australia."

Cruise Traveller represents 57 boutique, luxury, river and expedition operators. MS

**Pictured** is the Cruise Traveller team: Kylie Tocco, Kelly Pearse, Sammie Davis, Gail Chapman, Rejana Gerards, Donal O'Sullivan, Kerryn O'Neal, Karen Revell, Joseph O'Sullivan, Michelle Douglas, Kym O'Neill, and Linda Dempsey.

## NZ Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND	
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	01 Dec
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	03 Dec
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	04 Dec
<i>Grand Princess</i>	04 Dec
WELLINGTON	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	07 Dec
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	08 Dec
DUNEDIN	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	01 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	02 Dec
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	02 Dec
FIORDLAND	
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	01 Dec
<i>Noordam</i>	03 Dec

## Croisi new cruise

CROISIEUROPE has launched a brand-new cruise taking in the splendour of ancient Greece and Meteora.

The seven-night cruise departs just four times in Mar, and visits some of the most beautiful sites in the region before the tourist season kicks off later in the year.

Cruising on board *La Belle de l'Adriatique* round trip from Athens, the voyage makes calls in Gytheio, Katakolo, and Igoumenitsa.

All excursions are included and savings of €560 per person or no single supplement are available when booked before 15 Jan.

For more information on the departures, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Fremantle WC

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line has launched all-new sectors for its upcoming 2024 Grand Round the World Cruise.

Guests can now book a voyage sector from Fremantle-Tilbury or Tilbury-Fremantle.

### EDITORIAL

Associate Editor - Myles Stedman  
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai  
Publisher - Bruce Piper  
Editorial Director - Damian Francis  
Associate Publisher - Anna Piper  
[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[info@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan  
Advertising Operations - Nicki Harford  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220  
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

Sign up free at  
[www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[www.cruiseweekly.co.nz](http://www.cruiseweekly.co.nz)