



On location aboard
Viking Orion

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Viking, which has this week embarked on a mini-famil aboard **Viking Orion**, sailing from Hobart to Christchurch, New Zealand.

VIKING Orion will enjoy a day of scenic cruising through the Foveaux Strait today, on Viking's Australian mini-famil.

The narrow strait separates New Zealand's South Island from Stewart Island, where the country's southernmost settlement of Bluff is located (population 400).

Stewart Island is also New Zealand's third-largest island, after of course the South and North islands.

Uniworld & FCTG partner on incentive

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Independent division has chartered an entire Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection ship for its first-ever 'Independent Icons' incentive.

The reward trip for FCTG Independent will be separate from Flight Centre's annual Global Gathering, with the division's top 10 travel advisors in Australia to be invited on the trip.

They will join 10 agents each from Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States along with a small group of key suppliers for the incentive.

FCTG Independent has partnered with Uniworld for the incentive to take over **Beatrice (pictured)**, which will sail along from Budapest to Vienna.

The event will feature exciting excursions, local entertainment, beautiful meals, and the opportunity for top performers



to connect with their peers from around the world.

"We are so excited to partner with Uniworld to host our inaugural Independent Icons global reward trip," FCTG Independent Global Managing Director Danielle Galloway said.

"We want to reward our incredible network of

independent agents with something truly unique, designed just for them.

"This luxurious experience will give our top performing independent agents the opportunity to connect with a selection of key suppliers as well as other like-minded travel entrepreneurs."

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The chefs are back

HOLLAND America Line has extended its celebrity chef 'Culinary Cruises' for 2023. Cooking demonstrations and exclusive dinners will highlight the cruises, which will be hosted by members of Holland America's culinary council. This year's cruises will feature Ethan Stowell (*Koningsdam*), David Burke (*Eurodam*), Jacques Torres (*Zaandam*), Andy Matsuda (*Nieuw Amsterdam*) and Rudy Sodamin (*Nieuw Amsterdam*). Some of the chef's signature dishes also will be highlighted on various restaurant menus during the voyages. "Our Culinary Cruises have proven to be popular with our guests who appreciate having access to these amazing chefs, and we're excited to have our Culinary Council members back on board in 2023," Holland America said.

New Princess incentive

PRINCESS Cruises has launched its biggest-ever trade incentive, with up to \$40,000 of prizes to be won. Travel advisors who book a cruise before 16 Mar will have the chance to win a 13-night New Zealand cruise for two on board *Royal Princess*. Other prizes include, visa gift cards, Laithwaites wine gift cards and Princess Seacations. All bookings made during wave season, which includes those made since '3 for Free' launched on 16 Dec, are valid to enter the competition, representing one entry each. Once the booking is deposited, visit [onesourcecruises.com](https://www.onesourcecruises.com) to enter your details and the booking reference number, followed by answering in 25 words or less 'what do you love about Princess?' An agent must also be enrolled in Princess Academy to win.

MEANWHILE, new fitness experiences will help Princess guests stick to their new year's resolutions, with workouts from well-known industry brands such as Pure Barre, YogaSix and StretchLab to debut aboard the cruise line this month. Additional brands from Xponential Fitness such as Club Pilates, CycleBar, and STRIDE Fitness will follow shortly after the initial debut. Guests who have purchased all-inclusive packages such as Princess Plus and Princess Premier will enjoy complimentary onboard workouts. The Princess Plus package will include two complimentary fitness classes per voyage, while the Princess Premier package offers unlimited fitness classes. They will also be available on an a la carte basis across all 15 Princess ships. "To many people, continuing their daily exercise routine on vacation gives license to extra special vacation indulgence, and Princess presents world-class options on both the fitness and indulgence fronts," said President John Padgett. "Whether it's keeping up with new year resolutions, offsetting the incredible food and drink on board, or connecting with other fitness fans, we're excited to offer the most premium and inclusive boutique fitness experiences in the industry."

AU Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>MS Amera</i>	9 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	9 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	9 Feb
<i>MS Zuiderdam</i>	9 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	9 Feb
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	9 Feb
<i>Grand Princess</i>	10 Feb
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	10 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	10 Feb
GEELONG	
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	10 Feb
PORTLAND	
<i>Azamara Quest</i>	9 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Europa 2</i>	10 Feb
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	10 Feb
CAIRNS	
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	10 Feb
TOWNSVILLE	
<i>Silver Muse</i>	10 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	9 Feb
BURNIE	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	9 Feb
<i>MS Noordam</i>	10 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	10 Feb
PORT ARTHUR	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	9 Feb
<i>MS Zuiderdam</i>	9 Feb
DARWIN	
<i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	9 Feb



On Board: Viking Orion Hair salon

Viking Orion's hair salon is ready to pamper you with an array of hair, nail and grooming services. The ship's experienced stylists offer wash, cut, blow-dry, and styling services, including Viking's patented Royal Nordic Hair ritual - a refreshing treatment which nourishes and repairs your hair, and includes a neck and scalp massage, as well as a deep-conditioning hair wrap.



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Agents visit *Norwegian Spirit*

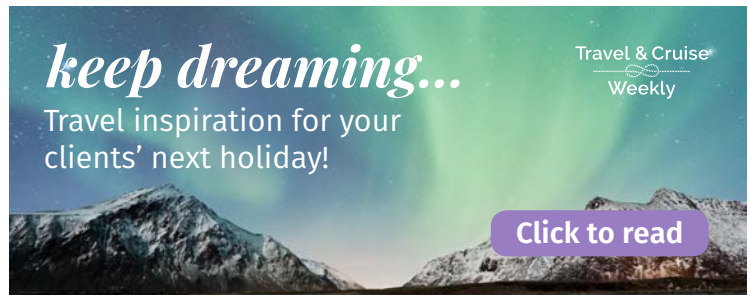
YESTERDAY some of the Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) sales team welcomed a group of Sydney-based travel advisors on an inspection of its *Norwegian Spirit* during a turnaround at White Bay Cruise Terminal.

The NCL trade partners were treated to a tour of the freshly renovated vessel which has undergone a USD\$100 million stem-to-stern upgrade replacing just about everything except the steel of the ship's hull.

They also enjoyed a special lunch in the eponymous Windows main dining room, which has capacity for 606 diners and yesterday provided a delightful view of Sydney Harbour Bridge through its enormous arched - you guessed it - windows, which face the stern of the vessel.

Spirit is currently nearing the end of its 2022/23 Down Under deployment and will leave local waters next month, with NCL's currently planned itineraries seeing her return to Sydney in Dec 2023.





AN EXPLOSIVE discovery has been made this week by a fishing boat off the coast of the United Kingdom.

A fishing boat trawled up a massive World War II-era mine off the coast of Hartlepool.

The metre-long device was caught by a boat with just two people aboard.

The Royal Navy's bomb disposal team travelled in from Scotland, and those who discovered the mine returned to shore safely - but probably required new underwear.

The Sun is rising

WITH the debut of Princess Cruises' new *Sun Princess* now just a year away (**CW** 07 Feb), the ship's inaugural team of mariners has been named, including Captains Craig Street and Paolo Arrigo.

The duo of skippers will be led by Staff Captains Brian Whelan and Valerio Esposito; Hotel General Managers Ralph D'Souza and Simona Stumberger; and Chief Engineers Gaetano Guida and Davor Pavlovic-Kalifo.

Several members of the group already are spending time in the Fincantieri Shipyard in Monfalcone, and over the course of several months, they will be joined by nearly 1,600 colleagues, who will serve as the inaugural *Sun* crew.

Azamara Captain on deck



AZAMARA shone on the Gold Coast earlier this week, with *Azamara Quest* Captain Johannes Tysse at the helm of a travel partners event.

The Captain is celebrating 13 years of service with Azamara, and commemorated the milestone with more than 75 of his closest Gold Coast-based travel friends at QT Gold Coast.

The group enjoyed cocktails and heard sea stories from Captain Tysse, who will now step away from his post to enjoy a well-earned break between contracts, leaving *Quest* in very capable hands of his colleagues.

Hosting the event were Director

of Sales Victoria Chigwidden and Business Development Manager Kristina Sambaher (pictured with Captain Tysse).

The Magica is over

CARNIVAL Corporation has sold Costa Cruises' *Costa Magica* to Greek ferry company Seajets.

The cruise conglomerate had previously signalled a vessel(s) from its fleet may be sold (**CW** 22 Dec 2022), and according to *TradeWinds*, *Magica* has become that ship.

A Destiny-class vessel, she originally debuted in 2004 as a sister ship to *Costa Fortuna*.

NZ Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	10 Feb
<i>Island Princess</i>	10 Feb
WELLINGTON	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	9 Feb
ABEL TASMAN	
<i>National Geo Orion</i>	10 Feb
DUNEDIN	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	10 Feb
NAPIER	
<i>National Geo Orion</i>	9 Feb
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	10 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	10 Feb
TAURANGA	
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	9 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	9 Feb

Porto record year

PORTUGAL'S Porto Cruise Terminal set a record number of cruise ships calls last year, welcoming in 112 vessels.

The total was 11 more than in 2018 and 2019, with Porto last year receiving more than 100,000 cruise passengers.

Of the 112 cruise ships that visited Porto last year, 22 were new to the port, including the first-ever arrival of a Disney Cruise Line vessel.

In addition, there were six turnaround operations for the year.

Porto is on track to break these records again in 2023, with about 140 cruise ship calls announced to visit the port this year.