



On location in
Christchurch

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Ponant, which is hosting guests on board *Le Commandant Charcot* as she docks in NZ.

AN ELABORATE gala dinner was held on board Ponant's *Le Commandant Charcot* last night, with guests enjoying a taste of the delicious cuisine available to passengers travelling on the vessel's signature polar expeditions.

As the world's only hybrid-electric LNG-powered luxury icebreaker, this unique vessel demonstrates Ponant's deep commitment to sustainable tourism with minimal impact on the environment and polar ecosystems.

A *Le Commandant Charcot* celebration

AN EVENING of festivities was enjoyed last night on board Ponant's *Le Commandant Charcot* as she docked in Lyttleton in-between Antarctic expeditions.

This is the first and only time the purpose-built luxury icebreaker will make a port call in this region in 2023, as she makes a stop between her two semi-circumnavigations of Antarctica.

Ponant commodores, travel industry partners, and media joined in a night of celebration, enjoying a lecture about the unique icebreaking design of *Le Commandant Charcot* from Captain Stanislas Devorsine, followed by cocktails, dinner, a show, and dancing into the night.

The evening also acted as a celebration of Ponant's recovery from the pandemic, with Chair Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton sharing the cruise line has made a triumphant commercial return



despite the difficulties of the past few years.

"Whilst many in our industry have struggled, we returned to profitability last year, in 2022, and 2023 will be a record year for our company," she said.

In particular, Bratton highlighted the company's success in the Asia Pacific region, in spite of the changing government policies impacting the cruise industry throughout the pandemic.

"All of us here in APAC have worked tirelessly over the past

three years, through triumphant times, incredibly difficult times, and what often appeared to be unfathomable changing government conditions, that were totally out of our control," she added.

"We continue to muster our strength to face each and every one of those challenges and we've already doubled the 2019 turnover of Asia Pacific in the second month of 2023."

Pictured: Cruise Traveller's Julie Donaldson and Laura Stone.

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Windstar latest line to add Starlink

WINDSTAR Cruises has launched Starlink Marine's high-speed internet across its fleet, becoming the latest of a slew of lines to do so.

The advanced broadband satellite internet capability will provide guests with high-speed connection while sailing and in-port.

Windstar launched the new wi-fi technology on *Star Pride* during a recent Caribbean voyage, and plans to implement it across most of its global fleet by mid-year.

Star Legend will offer the service later this year, followed by *Wind Surf*, *Wind Star*, and *Star Breeze*.

Wind Spirit will activate the new technology as soon as it's available in French Polynesia.

Once it is fully installed, Starlink will be available aboard select Windstar voyages when and where the service is active.

"Windstar Cruises is excited to



be among the first in the cruise industry to offer this cutting-edge technology," said the line's Technology Director Gregg Wagner.

"When the ships are inside the service area, faster speeds will

alleviate much of the frustration felt at peak use times."

"The addition of high-speed internet service with our current geostationary satellite service will enable guests to stay connected to family and friends."



On location aboard
Regatta

Today's issue of CW is coming to you off Australia's east coast as *Regatta* makes her way from Sydney to Hobart.

OCEANIA Cruises' *Regatta* is in tip-top condition, having undergone a reinspection in late 2019 which created a "casually elegant ambience" throughout the vessel's public spaces and staterooms.

With capacity for just over 650 guests, the intimate boutique vessel offers a sophisticated experience, with a wide array of dining offerings including two specialty restaurants - the Polo Grill and Toscana - which are among the best eateries at sea.

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THE Brisbane River's 98-year-old tugboat *Forceful* has been "forced" into retirement, two years short of her 100th birthday.

Sadly there will be no letter from King Charles for *Forceful*, which is set to be dismantled and recycled as the cost of maintenance to the tugboat has become too expensive.

The coal-fired tug also faces the exorbitant cost of renting space to store her.

The Queensland Maritime Museum Association is still hoping to find a solution which sees *Forceful* remain intact, but as of now, it looks as if the tug, which has called Brisbane home since the 1920s, will be headed to the big river in the sky.



Norwegian biofuel tests



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has successfully completed its first advanced biofuel tests, alongside energy companies PRIO and World Fuel Services.

The tests were completed with advanced biofuel produced and supplied in Portugal, which allows the NCL fleet to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by around 30%.

Two NCL ships were recently supplied with 400 tons of the biofuel, with *Norwegian Star* (pictured) filling up with 200 tons of the 'B30' blend during a stopover in Lisbon, and

Norwegian Epic following with 200 tons of her own.

The biofuel is produced completely by raw waste materials, with the B30 blend using double the amount of renewables as PRIO's prior B15 blend.

"Advanced biofuels, produced from residual raw materials, is the result of the circular economy, and are the solution that allows us to immediately face the growing needs of our customers," PRIO Executive Committee spokesperson Luis Nunes said.

"They are 'drop-in' solutions, that is, they did not require any modifications to the engine or tank of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' cruise ships and thus allowed an immediate impact without any need for additional investment in these ships.

"We are going through a crucial moment in the world's response to climate and biodiversity emergencies, so PRIO believes we can accelerate the energy transition if we increase the contribution of advanced biofuels in the maritime sector."

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

EDEN	<i>Viking Neptune</i>	15 Feb
MELBOURNE	<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	14 Feb
	<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	14 Feb
PENNESHAW	<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	15 Feb
PORT ADELAIDE	<i>ms Zuiderdam</i>	15 Feb
BRISBANE	<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	15 Feb
CAIRNS	<i>Europa 2</i>	15 Feb
TOWNSVILLE	<i>Europa 2</i>	14 Feb
HOBART	<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	14 Feb
	<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	15 Feb
	<i>Kilimanjaro VIII</i>	15 Feb
BURNIE	<i>Noordam</i>	14 Feb
PORT ARTHUR	<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	14 Feb
DARWIN	<i>Ocean Odyssey</i>	15 Feb
CHRISTCHURCH	<i>Coral Princess</i>	14 Feb
DUNEDIN	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	14 Feb
	<i>Coral Princess</i>	15 Feb
	<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	15 Feb
FIORDLAND	<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	14 Feb
	<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	14 Feb
	<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	14 Feb
	<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	15 Feb
	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	15 Feb
STEWART ISLAND	<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	15 Feb

CRUISE WEEKLY

On Board: *Oceania Regatta*

Martini's Bar

It has a piano, a bar, and alcohol - what more could anyone want! The urbane and sophisticated Martini's Bar aboard *Oceania's Regatta* is a popular spot for a pre-dinner drink, a nightcap, or just to while away a delightful day at sea. Numerous interpretations of its namesake tiple are on offer, with the bar often featuring live entertainment and even more lively conversations.