



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### MSC World Cruise

**MSC Cruises** has opened for sale segments of *MSC Magnifica's* 2023 World Cruise, including the popular 21-night Sydney to Singapore part.

This segment departs on 18 Mar, with ports of call including Mare, Lifou Island, Port Vila, and Alotau, before arriving back in Australia to visit Cairns and Darwin.

*Magnifica* then heads to Tanjung Benoa for an overnight stay prior to arriving in Singapore.

This segment is priced from \$4,529 per person, and also forms part of a larger, 43-night fragment to Civitavecchia, visiting 15 destinations in 11 countries, such as Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and India - where guests will overnight in Mumbai.

Crossing the Indian Ocean to the Arabian Peninsula, *Magnifica* will then stop in Oman and Aqaba before heading home to the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal.

This larger segment is priced from \$8,749 per person.

There is also a 36-night Valparaiso to Sydney segment, visiting 14 destinations in six countries.

Guests will stop at Arica and Hanga Roa, enjoy an overnight stay in Callao; and travel through Bounty Bay to Tahiti.

After an overnight stay in Papeete, *Magnifica* sets sail for the Cook Islands and New Zealand, before arriving in Aus.

This segment is priced from \$7,149 per person.

All fares for the 2023 World Cruise segments include dine & drinks packages - call 1300 028 302.

## RSSC back in Australia



**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Explorer*, dubbed "the most luxurious ship ever built", arrived into Sydney Harbour on Thu, on her first call to Australia during the vessel's maiden voyage Down Under.

*Explorer's* first season in Asia Pacific is seeing her tour through Australia, Asia, and New Zealand, for a season of regional voyages throughout the summer.

The maiden voyages offer travellers a chance to rediscover destinations including Sydney, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Wellington, and more.

To celebrate *Explorer's* arrival in Australia, a number of trade partners were invited aboard the ship for a tour, and to experience a lunch in the art-deco Chartreuse restaurant, hosted by outgoing Senior Vice President & Managing Director Asia Pacific Steve Odell (**CW** 16 Dec).

"We're delighted to be welcoming The Most Luxurious Ship Ever Built into our own backyard with some truly incredible, close to home sailings," he said.

"*Seven Seas Explorer* delivers a level of luxury never seen before in this region, and we can't wait to share her with local travellers."

Living up to her luxurious billing, *Explorer* features deluxe fittings & finishes, including almost 500 chandeliers; a USD\$7 million art collection including pieces by Marc Chagall and Pablo Picasso;

and more than 4,000 square metres of marble.

Onboard amenities range from the relaxing Pool Deck; the Sports Deck, which features a golf net, putting green, paddle tennis court, & bocce court; the Serene Spa & Wellness centre; to the Culinary Arts Kitchen, where guests can take cooking masterclasses from international chefs.

**Pictured** are Director of Marketing Asia Pacific Matthew Vince, Public Relations Manager Asia Pacific Jodi Hart, GM APAC Lisa Pile, and Odell.

### Orion denied entry

**VIKING** passengers are set to be compensated after its *Viking Orion* was denied entry into ports in Australia and New Zealand due to a "marine growth" on her hull.

*Orion* arrived at the Port of Melbourne yesterday evening, having not docked since casting off from Wellington on Boxing Day.

The ship was reportedly denied permission to dock in Christchurch, Dunedin, and Hobart, before setting course for South Australia, where the National Maritime Coordination Centre established *Orion* had small amounts of "biofoul" (marine microorganisms, plants, algae, or small animals) on her hull.

*Orion* was anchored off the coast of Victor Harbour for the cleaning, and before arriving in Melbourne, from where she will continue her cruise as scheduled.

It is the second such cruise biofoul occurrence this past month (**CW** 23 Dec).

Travel & Cruise Weekly

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**THE** return of cruising to Australia meant the return of ships to the country's ports for New Year's Eve, where lucky travellers took in the NYE fireworks from on board.

In the house at White Bay Terminal this year were Azamara Cruises' *Azamara Quest*, which had arrived into Australia a few weeks prior (**CW** 20 Dec).

Guests on board the ship had prime positioning at the premier berth, where they watched the fireworks alongside the Balmain Peninsula on Sydney Harbour.

Also at the party this year was AIDA Cruises' *AIDAmar*, which was in the midst of a world cruise.

The lucky German-majority carrying was able to ring in the new year a full 10 hours ahead of their families back home.



## Cuban damages

**CARNIVAL**, MSC, Norwegian, and Royal Caribbean have been ordered to pay USD\$400 million for the use of a Cuban port which was "unlawfully expropriated" by revolutionary Fidel Castro in the 1960s.

## New year, new Carnival



**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has named American celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse as its Chief Culinary Officer, which will see another Emeril's Bistro feature on *Carnival Jubilee* in Dec.

The restaurant is already proving popular on *Mardi Gras* and *Carnival Celebration*, and in addition to the inclusion of Emeril's Bistro on *Jubilee*, Lagasse's culinary talents will now be utilised fleetwide.

As Chief Culinary Officer, Lagasse will support Carnival's skilled chefs with guidance on food trends and techniques, and will advise on future menu items and dining concepts.

Guests will also see his input on the menus of main dining rooms fleetwide, including entrees designated as "Emeril recommends" picks.

To celebrate Lagasse's new role, he and President Christine Duffy

lit New York City's time ball in Times Square together on New Year's Eve (**pictured**), ahead of the ball drop.

Duffy and Lagasse invited everyone celebrating in New York and watching from home to "Choose Fun Together", which is the theme of Carnival's new advertising campaign, which can be seen throughout Times Square and around the world.

"Food is key to the fun of a Carnival cruise," Duffy said.

"Emeril's restaurants on our two new ships have been a great addition to our dining offerings and guests rave about the food.

"With Emeril's culinary expertise and broader profile on our ships, along with our wildly popular partnership with Food Network star Guy Fieri, Carnival will feature two iconic talents in the food and dining industry across our fleet."

## Repairs completed aboard *Ambience*

**AMBASSADOR** Cruise Line has completed its repairs of *Ambience*, after an unscheduled dry dock last month (**CW** 21 Dec).

Lifeboat station repairs have been completed and load testing is underway, with *Ambience* scheduled to depart from Bremerhaven for the Port of Tilbury on Thu.

*Ambience* is then expected to welcome guests on board the following day ahead of her 42-night 'Treasures of the Caribbean' voyage.

After the safety issue was discovered, *Ambience* was sent for repairs to Germany, as they could not be completed at Tilbury.

Due to the emergency, Ambassador cancelled its three-day Festive Market Getaway sailing which was set to sail on 18 Dec, as well as the 21 Dec subsequent Christmas and New Year Canary Islands cruise.

## AIDA changes

**AIDA** Cruises guests will no longer need proof of a negative antigen test as of 13 Jan, as part of new testing requirements for the line.

The change is applicable to voyages shorter than 16 days, except the 10-day 'From Tenerife to Barbados' cruise on 06 Apr 2023.

For trips of 16 days or more, a certified negative antigen test is still mandatory for all guests aged five and older.