



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Monday 20th Nov 2023

NTIA cruise winners celebrate in style

THE Viking Cruises team (pictured) couldn't wipe the smiles from their faces after being named Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator at the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) on the weekend (**CW** breaking news).

The glittering event at Melbourne's Crown Palladium saw the whole travel industry out in force, including cruise lines and cruise specialist travel agents, kicking up their heels following a strong year of recovery.

Viking's first-time NTIA win came against strong competition from worthy finalists in the category, which also included Norwegian Cruise Line, Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean International and Virgin Voyages.

The Travel Corporation's Uniworld Boutique River Cruises was also on the podium as Most Popular River Cruise Operator, coming out on top against a



cohort of strong rivals including APT, Avalon, Scenic and Viking.

Hurtigruten Group was another maiden NTIA winner, with Marketing Manager Joel Victoria accepting the Sustainability Award - Supplier from category sponsor Amadeus.

Helen Courias from Holland America Line was a delighted winner earlier in the evening after being named Most Outstanding

Sales Executive - Cruise.

Cruise lines were also on stage during the night as key category sponsors, including Silversea, Viking, Celebrity Cruises, MSC Cruises and Royal Caribbean, while Viking cemented its presence as sponsor of the NTIA After Party and Fri night's pre-NTIA Holey Moley Extravaganza.

More from the NTIAs on **page four** of today's **Cruise Weekly**. **BP**

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise industry news including a full page of photos from the **National Travel Industry Awards** and a page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

NCL Black Fri sale

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering Black Fri savings for travel advisors and their clients, with any booking deposited between 16-27 Nov through Partners First Rewards earning double dollars.

For cruisers, the Black Fri sale offers \$500 airfare credit on all sailings, as well as up to 50% off voyages, a free beverage package, and more.

NCL also offers a flexible booking policy with refundable deposits - for more information, head to the **last page** of today's **CW**.

Receive up to \$2,500 flight credit per couple for your clients when you book a new 2024 or 2025 ocean voyage.

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Euro Black Fri sale

EUROPEAN Waterways has announced a Black Fri special of 25% off on select hotel barge charters in France for next spring.

The specials are good for 07 Apr and 31 Mar departures.

Cruise kicks off in Qatar

QATAR has seen an impressive start to its 2023/24 cruise season, with the Middle Eastern country welcoming more than 4,000 cruise passengers at Doha's Grand Cruise Terminal last month.

A total of 81 cruise arrivals are anticipated at Old Doha Port during this season, including eight ships set to make their inaugural call to Qatar.

"We are thrilled to present our Oct 2023 figures, marking the successful launch of the cruise season," Qatar Tourism shared in a post on X.

"Grateful for the notable increase in international visitors, attributed to Qatar's exceptional attractions and warm Arabian hospitality."

The season kicked off with Crystal Cruises' *Crystal Symphony* making her first-ever visit to Qatar on 28 Oct, carrying 214 passengers, followed by TUI Cruises' *Mein Schiff 2's* inaugural call on 30 Oct, with 2,800 pax.



This month will see *Silver Spirit* and *Azamara Journey* embark on their maiden voyages to Qatar, while *Mein Schiff 2* is scheduled to call in again on 18 and 24 Nov, followed by Silversea's *Silver Spirit* on 27 Nov and Ponant's *Le Bougainville* on 28 Nov.

The country is preparing to welcome over a dozen more cruise ships this season through to 25 Apr 2024, including *MSC Virtuosa*, *Norwegian Dawn*, *MS Hamburg*, *Seabourn Encore*, *Queen Mary 2*, and more. *JM*

Multi-gen offers

CROISIEUROPE has launched a brand-new multi-generational offer, in response to increasing demand.

Discounts are being offered for second- and third-generation travellers - [HERE](#).

Travel Daily

Bon Voyage 2023

Signing off 2023 in style!



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◆ 6pm ◆
◆ Marble Bar, Syd ◆

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Princess to add more for wine-lovers

FOLLOWING the success of Royal Princess' wine-themed cruise from Sydney to Tassie, which wrapped up yesterday, Princess Cruises has revealed its considering bringing the concept to domestic cruises that call at the top wine-producing ports of Newcastle.

Hosted in partnership with Australian company Wine

Selectors, the four-day voyage featured a guided masterclass hosted by acclaimed winemaker Dave Mavor, as well as a five-course dinner with Tasmanian winemaker Jeremy Dineen.

Princess' Senior Marketing Manager Australia & NZ Chloe Jones said future wine-focused cruises may also include shore excursions to local wineries.



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CLIA names Cruise Month winners

MTA'S Sarah Fenton has been named the winner of Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) Cruise Month competition after hosting a successful client event to mark the occasion in Oct.

Fenton, a Masters-Accredited CLIA member based in the Hunter Valley, hosted a cruise night in her region, which drew more than 30 of her clients (pictured).

Norwegian Cruise Line Business Development Manager Samantha Morgan and Oceania Cruises Business Development Manager Martine Nunes were on hand to help Fenton at her event, talking all things cruise, and how to choose the right sailing for the right traveller.

Fenton posted about her event on LinkedIn under the Cruise Month theme "More Reasons to #LoveCruise".

"What a wonderful way to celebrate CLIA in Australia



#CruiseMonth2023 this week - hosting a cruise night in Maitland," she shared.

"It was great fun and I cannot wait to do it again...I have missed hosting events like this over the last few years."

Fenton has won a luxury weekend for two in Sydney with tickets to the 21st Cruise Industry

Awards in Mar.

CLIA also ran a consumer competition during Cruise Month, won by a Victorian man, who has received \$1,000 toward his next cruise when booked through a CLIA-certified travel advisor.

The consumer competition was run to highlight the benefits of booking through an agent. MS

Seattle saw it all

THE Port of Seattle recently completed its record-breaking season, which saw the facility host almost 300 cruises with a record 1,778,193 passengers.

The final departure of the season was Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Sun*, which left Bell Street at Pier 66 at the end of last month.

It is estimated each homeported ship brings in US\$4 million in economic impact to the region, with a total of nearly US\$900 million in economic impact throughout a cruise season.

More than a third of cruise ships utilised shore power at Smith Cove Cruise Terminal at Pier 91 this season, setting a record number of plug-ins for a Seattle cruise season.

The Port is working to make its third cruise berth at Pier 66 shorepower-capable next year.

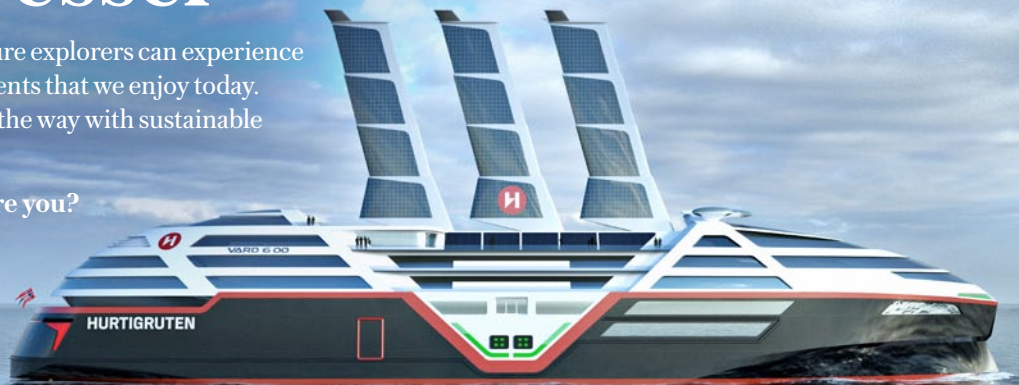


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Monday 20th Nov 2023

THE vital role that cruising plays in the wider Australian and New Zealand travel sector was celebrated at Australia's National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs) over the weekend, with categories awarded including Most Popular River Cruise Operator (Uniworld Boutique River Cruises), Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator (Viking), Sustainability Award - Supplier (Hurtigruten Group) and Most Outstanding Sales Executive - Cruise (Helen Courias, Holland America Line).

The gala event saw more than 1,300 people pack the Crown Palladium Ballroom in Melbourne, with host Anthony (Lehmo) Lehmann keeping the night going without too much shooing!

Dean Long, CEO of the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA), said the night was truly one to remember, "in no small part due to the high calibre of entries we received and the exemplary standard of travel professionals and businesses all throughout Australia".

These photos were taken during the weekend, including at the pre-NTIA Extravaganza on Fri night, with lots more online - [CLICK HERE](#).



"V" IS for Viking - and victory, as the Viking Cruises team celebrates its Most Popular Ocean Cruise Line NTIA win.



HANDS up who loves Most Popular River Cruise Line winner, Uniworld Boutique River Cruises!



IGNITE Travel Group (MyCruises and MyHoliday), winner of Best Hybrid-Online Wholesaler category sponsored by Celebrity Cruises.



GOING off with a bang - literally! Helen Courias Holland America Line with Stuba CEO Ruchir Bang.



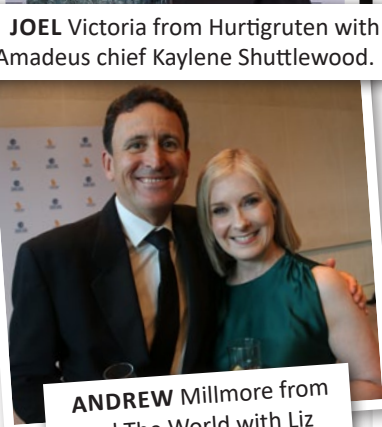
JOEL Victoria from Hurtigruten with Amadeus chief Kaylene Shuttlewood.



BEN Angell from Norwegian Cruise Line with Virtuoso GM Fiona Dalton and CLIA MD Joel Katz.



FCTG Head of Leisure James Kavanagh with Silversea Cruises' Philippa Walker.



ANDREW Millmore from Travel The World with Liz Glover of News Corp.



AT THE pre-NTIAs extravaganza, *Cruise Weekly's* Anna Piper with Keira Smith, Michelle Black and Lee Siefken of Viking Cruises.



LYNNE Clarke of MSC Cruises with Virgin Voyages' Sharon Hando.

NOTES:

- History
- Bouillabaisse



YOU have to hand it to Viking Cruises - they definitely don't do things by halves.

The cruise line's backing of the National Travel Industry Awards included sponsorship of the NTIA after party at Crown Melbourne's The Palms nightclub - with flashing horn hats and Viking-branded VIP wristbands a-plenty.

Alongside CVFR Travel Group, Viking was also a sponsor of the Fri night pre-NTIA Extravaganza at InterContinental Melbourne, followed by a Holey Moley event featuring branded golf hats as **modelled** by ATIA CEO Dean Long, Black Sheep's Trish Shepherd, and Anna Shannon from Travel Agent Finder.



Did Juneau about Alaska?



A GROUP of 11 of the TravelManagers team from Australia recently experienced Alaska with Princess Cruises on a famil co-hosted with Air Canada.

The group sailed from Vancouver to Anchorage aboard *Grand Princess*, which called in Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, and Glacier Bay.

Following the cruise, the group embarked on a three-day, land-based tour to Denali National Park & Preserve and Fairbanks.

Personal travel manager Amy Ferguson said although

she'd sold Princess before, her Alaskan experience resulted in a "perception change" on what a cruise can offer.

"It became clear that the cruise category really does have something for everyone," she enthused.

Pictured ready for their dog-sledding adventure in Juneau are TravelManagers' Claire Camins, Princess' Rachaelle Tyrrell, TravelManagers' Rebecca Tiedgen, Michelle Lehn, and Karen Whitehead, plus Princess' Elly Eves. *MS*

China demand up

CHINA has been seeing an upbeat performance for cruises departing the country recently, according to local industry executives.

Wee Hoon Tan, Senior Vices President Product Development for the joint venture between China Merchants and Viking, told the English-language newspaper *China Daily* the company is bullish on the country's climbing demand for cruising.

"Many of our returning guests have booked other voyage itineraries, and new guests have shown great interest in cruise information," she explained.

"China will continue to be one of the most critical markets for the future development of Viking."

The joint venture announced new international itineraries aboard the former *Viking Sun* earlier this year, with the first voyage to depart on 03 Dec (*CW* 11 Sep).

China is said to be the second-largest cruise market in the world after the US.

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