

Bon Voyage 2023

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Wed 6 Dec, 2023 ◆ 6pm ◆ Marble Bar, Sydney Hilton

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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

Win Bon Voyage tix

CRUISE Weekly is giving readers the chance to win one of 10 tickets to our upcoming Bon Voyage event.

To enter, email celebrate@traveldaily.com.au and tell us what you're celebrating from 2023 in 25 words or less.

See the **cover page** to find out more about the end-of-year celebration, which will take place on Wed 06 Dec at the decadent Marble Bar at Hilton Sydney.

The evening is sponsored by CVFR Consolidation Services, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, and Oceania Cruises.

Ponant zero-emission ship progress

PONANT has announced a new partnership with digital modelling platform Syroco to support the design of its revolutionary Swap2Zero project, which will see a "digital twin" of the line's 14th vessel created to help minimise her environmental footprint.

Plans for the zero-carbon ship were formally unveiled earlier this year (**CW 06 Jul**), with the new Syroco EfficientShip design pact announced in Sydney yesterday by Ponant Group Deputy CEO Global Business, Belinda Hindmarsh.

"In alignment with Ponant's striving commitment to the development of a new generation of zero-emission ships, we are excited to announce our partnership with tech startup Syroco," Hindmarsh said.

"We are proud to be at the forefront of maritime innovation by implementing industry leading



technology and to pave the way to a decarbonised maritime transportation future."

The agreement will involve the utilisation of artificial intelligence and physics modelling to simulate the behaviour of different components of the ship to evaluate energy consumption.

Ponant has targeted a 2030 launch for the vessel, which will combine renewable energy provided by the sun and wind

with other sources such as fuel cells and carbon capture devices.

The company believes the ship will be a "catalyst for new energy solutions", with Ponant R&D Director, Mathieu Petiteau, saying the digital twin technology "is clearly part of our strategy to accelerate the decarbonisation of the maritime industry".

Hindmarsh is **pictured** with Ponant's Sarina Bratton, Charles Boutet and Deb Corbett. *BP*

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MSC mini-folder

MSC Cruises has released a "mini-folder" for the northern summer 2024 season, highlighting cruise holidays on the 'All in Plus' promotion from Apr to Nov.

Featured itineraries include the seven-night West Mediterranean aboard *MSC World Europa* from \$2,039pp.

Meanwhile, LNG-powered *MSC Euribia* will take guests through Northern Europe on a cruise to the fjords of Norway, priced from \$1,789 per person.

Cruisers can also explore Italy, Greece, and Turkey over seven nights aboard *MSC Divina* from \$1,949pp.

Prices on the All in Plus promotion are valid until the end of Mar.

The Summer 2024 MSC Cruises mini-folder is available online [HERE](#).

Heritage's epic new Aussie voyage

HERITAGE Expeditions is set to sail uncharted waters on a new voyage through Australia.

The Seabirds & Cetaceans of Australasia voyage cruises for nine nights from Port Vila to Hobart, crossing to the north of New Caledonia, past the remote Chesterfield Islands.

Commercial Director and Expedition Leader Aaron Russ described the new expedition, which cruises in Nov 2024, as "an epic east coast pelagic".

"This voyage has been specially designed with bird, whale, dolphin, cruise enthusiasts and adventurers in mind, and offers guests the rare opportunity to explore an extraordinary cross section of the southwestern Pacific including the shallow waters near Chesterfield Reefs, deep waters of the Coral Sea and the edge of the Southern Ocean," he explained.



"As much of our journey will be through waters poorly or never-before surveyed for seabirds and marine mammals, we expect to make some intriguing discoveries including possible new sightings in Australian waters.

"This voyage offers an incredible opportunity for citizen scientists to significantly expand the

knowledge of the distribution of many poorly known and seldom seen seabird species."

It is the latest of a number of moves made in Australia by the New Zealand-based cruise line, which last week appointed Quark Expeditions' Rob Halfpenny to the new role of Head of Global Sales (*CW* 17 Nov). *MS*



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Cruises Roman around Italy's capital

THE port of Civitavecchia, the gateway to Rome (pictured), has already handled three million passengers so far this year, with the figure comprising a high watermark for any Italian port.

Figures released yesterday showed that between Jan and Oct 2023 Roma Cruise Terminal handled 3,014,491 transit and turnaround cruise passengers - a 53% increase on the same period in 2022 and up 25% on 2019.

The average ship capacity exceeded 4,000 passengers for the first time and the busiest day saw the port turn around over 10,000 passengers.

GM of the port, John Portelli, said the figures cement Civitavecchia as one of Europe's top cruise turnaround hubs.

"Cruise tourism is an important economic driver for Civitavecchia," he said.

"As a result of the presence



of cruise passengers, and in particular turnaround passengers, Civitavecchia has experienced a boom in the opening of B&Bs to complement the existing hotels," Portelli added.

The port's cruise patronage also makes it a key supply hub, with about 60,000 tonnes of produce and other onboard requirements expected to be handled this year.

The terminal is jointly owned by Costa, MSC and Royal Caribbean,

and with strong future demand predicted including solid bookings for 2024 and 2025, a new Donato Bramante Cruise Terminal will commence construction early next year, with completion anticipated before Jun 2025.

Civitavecchia is also working on plans for shore power, which is set to be installed by 2026.

It's estimated that the port generates €400 million in annual economic activity. *BP*

Viking last chance

THE next week-and-a-half is the last chance to save on voyages with Viking by taking advantage of its 'Heart of Exploring' sale.

Cruisers can receive up to \$2,500 flight credit per couple on 2024/25 ocean voyages or save up to \$2,000 on 2024/25 river journeys until 30 Nov.

"This is the last opportunity to book at these prices, so now is the best time to take advantage of the savings," MD Michelle Black said.

"We have recently added new 2024 sailing dates to some of our most popular ocean voyages, including our Malta, Morocco and the Mediterranean journey and we have even more availability across our collection of 2025 ocean and river departures."

For more information, contact Viking on 138 747.



Are you Australia's Rising Star of the Cruise Industry?

Nominations are now open for the 21st Annual Cruise Industry Awards

Nominate yourself or a colleague today

For more information on awards criteria and how to nominate visit www.cruising.org.au
Nominations are open until 30 Nov 2023 and are open to all CLIA Travel Agent Members.



THERE are ever-increasing reports of orca pods “playfully” attacking and even sinking boats off the coasts of Spain and Portugal in recent years (**CW** 08 Nov), but the crew of one fishing vessel believe they may have the answer to the seemingly peculiarly perspicacious cetaceans.

A Facebook group which has almost 60,000 members has shared the encounters as well as potential solutions, many of which involve loud noises such as the use of fireworks and air horns to deter the attacks.

One user cited an instance where “when we had an interaction last year, I’m pretty sure that rattling the hull by playing full volume east European thrash metal was the game changer”.

“They made three approaches, and left after five minutes without doing any damage, which was two or three minutes into the music,” the Facebook member said.

Apparently there is now a special Spotify playlist called ‘Metal for Orcas’ but another user, Florian Rutsch, told *The New York Times* that playing the music through an underwater speaker didn’t work, with the marine mammals ending up attacking his ship’s rudder.

The crew ultimately had to be rescued by Spanish authorities.

Swan Hellenic offers savings

SWAN Hellenic is offering up to 50% on its cultural expedition cruises, as part of special Black Friday deals on offer up to 04 Dec.

Prices start at \$5,299 per person for a 10-night *SH Diana* itinerary between Costa Rica’s Puntarenas and Cartagena in Colombia, with other itineraries available in the North Sea, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, West Africa and more.

MEANWHILE the cruise line has also released details of its 2024 ‘Explore & Restore’ voyages in partnership with Deepak Chopra - more at chopra.com/explore.

Triple RCI rewards

ROYAL Caribbean International’s Club Royal Rewards trade loyalty program is offering agent members the opportunity to claim up to \$75 for every new, eligible booking deposited between 21 and 28 Nov this year.

To earn the rewards, travel advisors must be part of the program and claim their Black Friday bookings online at ClubRoyal.com.au and include the promo code BLACKFRI.

The offer is available on all itineraries, but group bookings are excluded, with example pricing leading in at \$1,499 for an eight-night Tasmania and Adelaide sailing ex Sydney aboard *Ovation of the Seas* departing on 21 Jan.

Bookings must be registered within 30 days of deposit.

MSC smells so sweet



MSC Cruises this week treated some of its travel industry partners to a special perfume party, with BDM Bronwyn Knight working alongside Christine Couley from Christine’s Apothecary to help participants make their own fragrances.

With glasses of bubbles in hand, the travel partners chose their favourite scents to create their personalised aromas, with accurate doses then drawn into syringes and bottled before being professionally labelled and boxed.

Travel’s Leesa McNally & Teresa Christopher are **pictured** displaying their finished products. *BP*

Aurora events

AURORA Expeditions has launched a new series of virtual ‘Dream & Discover’ events, with clients invited to start making their bucket-list items a reality.

Taking place later this month and in early Dec, those who attend webinars are also promised an “opportunity to unlock an exclusive benefit”.

Registration forms for the Zoom events also ask guests for details of their preferred travel agent - details **HERE**.

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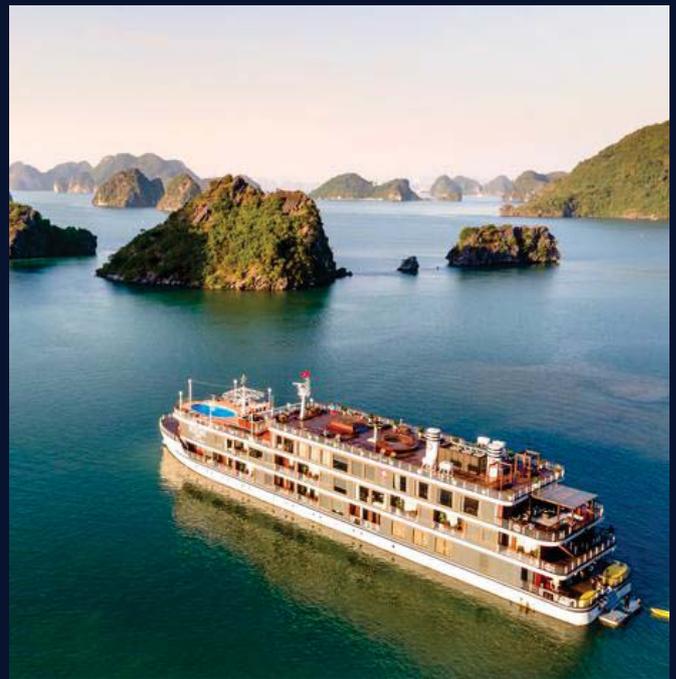
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