



Cruise Weekly today

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

Virgin arrives in Qld

VIRGIN Voyages' Resilient Lady has entered the home straight of her repositioning voyage to Melbourne, with the ship today calling into Cairns.

Sailors disembarked in Cairns at 10am as part of *Resilient's* 44-day repositioning voyage, which departed Athens late last month.

Resilient entered Australian waters earlier this week in Darwin, and will next anchor at Airlie Beach.

She'll then continue on to Sydney, which marks the end of the historic journey, and the beginning of her first season in Australia - more from Virgin on **page three**.

Fees force Carnival out of Melbourne

CARNIVAL Corporation is calling for closer collaboration with the Victorian State Government, as two of the company's brands, Cunard Line and Princess Cruises, are set to cease deployment from Melbourne from 2025 (**CW** yesterday).

The company's Chief Strategy Officer Teresa Lloyd confirmed the reason the cruise lines are leaving Melbourne is due to a "significant" and "unexpected" increase in fees and charges from Ports Victoria.

She said the decision for the two cruise lines to leave the state was not made lightly, given their 15-year history of home porting in the region.

"We love Melbourne and so do our local, interstate, and international guests," Lloyd said.

"The cultural capital of Australia is the gateway into Southern Australia but also a much-loved

destination for millions.

"Our economic benefit to Victoria is immense and we appreciate the importance of maintaining our ports but to be expected to carry a 15% increase with no notice is unreasonable."

Lloyd said Carnival wants to have a presence in Melbourne, and remains open to finding a long-term solution together with Ports Victoria and the state govt.

MEANWHILE, the loss of the two Carnival brands from Victoria will undermine an industry worth \$380 million to the state, Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director Joel Katz said.

He said the fees, which it is thought will contribute to the ongoing costs of managing Station Pier, are already some of the highest in the world.

"Australia already has some of the highest operating costs in the world for cruise lines and further

increases directly impact the viability of operations," Katz said.

"Cruise lines paid \$227 million in fees and charges to Australian ports and governments during 2022-23, which is almost 20% of their spending in this country.

"This ultimately impacts holidaymakers and makes Australia an expensive country for cruise operators."

Katz said the success of the industry is not guaranteed without close partnerships between ports, governments and cruise lines.

"To sustain and foster cruising's presence in Australia, there needs to be better alignment and rationalisation of fees, taxes and other costs, to make us competitive with other countries.

"Without strong commitments from governments and careful planning for the long-term future, these benefits risk being lost." *MS*

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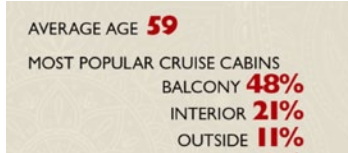
AUSTRALIANS are enthusiastically booking the premium accommodations aboard cruise ships, according to Flight Centre.

The *Australia's Year In Travel 2023* report found more than half (57%) of Flight Centre's cruise bookings this year were in either a Suite, Penthouse, or Balcony - the most expensive accommodations in the sector.

A further 11% cruised in "Outside" staterooms (cabins which come with a window), while under a quarter (21%) chose an Interior.

Australia's preference for premium staterooms at sea is no different to our partiality for higher-end accommodation on land, with almost three-quarters (73%) of customers booking four- or five-star hotels this year.

Domestic cruises were most popular with Australians this



year, with most sailings booked departing from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, with Adelaide and Perth also on the list.

Rounding out the top 10 was Auckland, Honolulu, Athens, Amsterdam, and Southampton.

The findings are similar to Flight Centre's general booking trends, which found Australia's 'Golden Triangle' as the three most popular booking destinations for this year.

The similarity between cruises and general Flight Centre customers also saw Auckland as the top international destination.

The biggest cruise booking made this year was \$312,647, Flight Centre noted. *MS*

Cunard's Capsule Collection

CUNARD Line has launched its fashion Capsule Cruise Collection, in collaboration with British stylist Bay Garnett and pre-loved styling service Circle of Style.

The partnership will give passengers the opportunity to have pre-loved outfits curated and made available for them to purchase ahead of their next voyage.

The collection serves as an ode to the trends of each decade from the 1900s to 1990s, "but with a modern twist for today's cruise guests", Cunard said.

The exclusive Capsule Cruise collection is inspired by the line's extensive archive images, with 10 looks from 10 decades of cruising, each one inspired by the fashion trends of the time.

The pieces come from a variety of renowned designers such as Chanel, Burberry, APC, and Alexander McQueen.



The first 100 who visit the Cunard Circle of Style landing page ([CLICK HERE](#)) and follow the instructions will get exclusive access to the service, where they will be paired with an expert who will artfully assemble a curated wardrobe they may purchase for use on their next voyage.

"We're incredibly excited to see this partnership come to life and offer customers the opportunity to celebrate 100 years of cruise couture with us," Cunard President Katie McAlister said.



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NOTES:

- History
- Bouillabaisse



New TUI ship arrives

TUI Cruises' *Mein Schiff Relax* has been launched in Monfalcone, Italy.

The ship is the first of two vessels Fincantieri is building for TUI, as part of the cruise line's new InTuition dual-fuel powered concept.

Relax will be powered by both liquefied natural gas and marine gas oil, and will be future-proof thanks to her ability to also burn low-emission fuel options, such as bio- or e-LNG.

The ship will also be equipped with catalytic converters, a generative turbine, and electrical shorepower, which will allow emission-free operations while in port.

Feeling free with MSC!



MSC Cruises took to Sydney Harbour yesterday in a smaller vessel than usual - the *ONEWORLD* luxury superyacht.

Some of MSC's key industry partners were on board, including representatives of House of Travel, itravel, Helloworld, Flight Centre, Dreamlines, and more.

As well as a thank you for their support throughout the year, the gathering also gave an insight into the MSC Yacht Club - the exclusive "ship within a ship" which is available on the cruise line's sailings across the globe.

MSC's Bronwyn Knight highlighted key Yacht Club features, including customer demographics, butler service, extensive inclusions, and of course, high yields - plus the fact that 50% of passengers travelling in the exclusive private area of the ship are repeat guests.

The group is **pictured top middle** are Jeff Lecky from House of Travel with MSC's Brigita Devries, and **bottom** is MSC Managing Director Lisa Teiotu with Dreamlines chief Ash Ghasemi and CruiseHQ General Manager Caroline Hitchen. *BP*



YOU'RE not allowed to bring insects back from overseas, but you can hardly blame this British man for his infraction.

The man, who was on a cruise in France, first presented to the ship's doctor with a purple toe.

The physician told him a wolf spider had bitten him and laid eggs in his toe.

The man initially thought his new sandals were causing him grief, but when the doctor decided to cut the skin open with a scalpel, a milk-like pus that looked like it contained tea leaves came out - which turned out to be the spider eggs.

However, the saga wasn't over, as four weeks later, after returning home, the man discovered yet another foreign body inside his foot.

It turns out one of the spider eggs hadn't been flushed, and had hatched, and was eating its way out of his toe.

Sell one, get one with Virgin Voyages

VIRGIN Voyages founder Richard Branson has set the Australian cruise sector a new challenge, inviting travel advisors to "sell one, get one".

Those who make a new booking for Virgin's Australian season on a departure sailing between 11 Dec and 15 Mar will receive a voyage themselves.

Advisors who book 10 cruises will have the exclusive opportunity to enjoy a private high tea with Branson on board *Resilient Lady*.

Those who are eligible for the sell one, get one incentive must log their booking with Virgin's sales tracker to receive their free voyage.

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