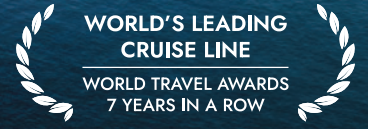


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AUSTRALIA BASED RESERVATIONS TEAM





ACA confirms new committee members

A NEWLY constituted executive team will lead the Australian Cruise Association (ACA), having been elected during the organisation's recent post-conference Annual General Meeting (CW 01 Sep).

Philip Holliday from the Port Authority of NSW (pictured) will continue as ACA Chair, and is joined by Port of Brisbane's Brendan Connell as the newly appointed Deputy Chair and James Coughlan from Shorex Australia as Treasurer.

Scott Lovett from Tourism Northern Territory has stepped down from his role as Deputy Chair this year.

Management Committee members remaining in place include TasPorts' Kristy Little and Shayne Murray from Cruise Broome, joined by Karlie Cavanagh from Inchcape Shipping Services, who was re-



elected for another term, and new member Andrew McKinnon from the South Australian Tourism Commission.

ACA CEO Jill Abel said, "we are in a very exciting time for our industry as cruise continues to go from strength to strength".

"Our newly formed executive and management teams represent a range of organisations who can provide us with the

deep expertise to take us into the future," she said.

Abel paid tribute to Lovett's tenure, saying he had served two terms during a "highly challenging time for our industry".

"Scott provided us with excellent counsel and steered us through some particularly stormy waters...we look forward to him continuing as a trusted advisor in the Association," Abel added. *BP*

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a front cover wrap from **Norwegian Cruise Line**, and a product update from **Virgin Voyages**.

NCL for Europe

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is showcasing its huge offering in Europe, with over 170 ports of call and 250-plus unique itineraries, meaning now is the time to book for clients - more details on the **cover page**.

Virgin revolution

VIRGIN Voyages is building anticipation for the imminent Down Under arrival of its new *Resilient Lady*.

The unique Virgin Voyages cruise offering is detailed via a special feature on **page five**.

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Royal special deals

ROYAL Caribbean is offering 30% savings for every guest plus kids fares from \$29 per day on select *Quantum*, *Icon*, *Ovation* and *Spectrum of the seas* sailings, with deals valid until 31 Oct - [CLICK HERE](#).

Grandeur set to entertain

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises will offer four new entertainment productions aboard its *Seven Seas Grandeur* when she launches in the coming months.

The offerings include *Pasion*, a celebration of the tango; *Marauder's Ball* which is directed by Broadway's John MacInnis; *ICONS*, a collection of popular hits; and *Ignite the Night*, which is described as "a mix of dance, style and design".

Andrea DeMarco, Regent Seven Seas Cruises President, said the new productions "are a testament to our commitment to providing our guests with unparalleled luxury and unforgettable moments".

"*Seven Seas Grandeur* exemplifies more than 30 years of unrivalled experiences, and so we felt it important that the team to bring the ship's new production shows to life were steeped in



Broadway heritage and talent, whether that be decorated performers, accomplished choreographers or creative minds, to ensure that our guests will be captivated from start to finish," DeMarco enthused.

Kai Alan Carrier, the cruise line's Director of Artistic Theatrical Entertainment, explained that guests have a "love for familiar tunes and a zest for lively adventure, we wanted to ensure a diverse range of offerings".

The new productions are showcased in a video online at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos. *BP*

Princess Cruises unveils new vegan menu

PRINCESS Cruises says it's responding to "surging demand for plant-based cuisine" with the introduction of new vegan menus across its fleet.

Guests can request vegan options prior to their cruise via the online Cruise Personaliser or their travel advisor, and select vegan items on board via nightly main dining room menus.

Princess VP of F&B, Sami Kohen, said the update offers



vegan guests "an extraordinary culinary journey while providing reassurance and peace of mind with dishes they know meet their lifestyle preferences".

Celestyal US chief

CELESTYAL Cruises has named Crystal Cruises VP of Sales & Trade Partnerships, Brandon Townsley, as VP and MD for North America.

Townsley has also worked at Atlas, MSC, Virgin and NCL.



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Adora sets sail

THE former *Costa Mediterranea* last weekend formally joined China's Adora Cruises after a Singapore refit, and will operate year-round from its new base in Tianjin, cruising to Japan and Korea.

NCL adds 1,000 solo cabins



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line will more than double its overall complement of solo cabins, with three new single stateroom categories going on sale this week.

Solo Inside, Solo Oceanview and Solo Balcony cabins are on offer for sailings departing 02 Jan 2024 and onwards.

"With pricing and availability dependent on the destination and demand, solo travellers can expect to pay less than a traditional double occupancy room," according to NCL President and CEO David Herrera.

"Since we first launched our solo staterooms in 2010 with *Norwegian Epic*, they have been quite popular with single travellers," he said.

"We are continuously listening to our guests to deliver the experience they want...after realising the growing demand of individuals looking to travel on their own, we have now expanded single occupancy

staterooms across our fleet."

Guests who stay in the new solo stateroom categories will also have access to the key card entry only Studio Lounge on select vessels, offering a dedicated relaxation space, beer and wine and a variety of daily snacks.

NCL is also offering solo cruisers activities scheduled for single travellers to mix and mingle.

Previously NCL offered solo staterooms on nine ships, with the expansion to the full 19-strong fleet meaning single cruisers "have more opportunities to visit bucket-list worthy destinations such as Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand on vessels which historically have not had this unique offering," the company said.

As well as recent statistics showing a surge in demand for solo travel options, NCL said it had seen an increase in guests booking single occupancy in non-studio staterooms in recent years. *BP*

Aranui discounts

ARANUI Cruises is offering 50% off fares for the second guest in a twin-share room, and has also removed the single supplement on its 2024 Pitcairn and Austral Island departures.

The offer means the 11-day roundtrip cruise from Papeete to Pitcairn via the Tuamotos and Gambiers is priced from \$9,234 for solo travellers in a stateroom on the 17 Feb 2024 departure (on sale until 31 Dec) - a saving of over \$6,000.

A twin share stateroom on the same voyage is priced from \$14,134, saving \$4,334.

Similar discounts apply on 30 Mar and 02 Nov 2024 departures to the Austral Islands (for bookings confirmed by 30 Nov 2023), with the special itineraries offering the only way to see all five inhabited Austral islands - Tubuai, Rurutu, Rimatara, Raivavae (known as the Bora Bora of the south) and Rapa Iiti, only accessible by sea and where *Aranui 5* is currently the only cruise ship permitted.

The Pitcairn voyage includes an overnight stay at Adamstown as well as two visits to Mangareva in the Gambier Islands, famed for French Polynesian black pearls.

Aranui 5 fares cover weekly laundry, three daily meals with French wine, in addition to shore excursions.

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PORTHOLE

THE cruise industry is so intoxicating some people just can't stay away - for example former Carnival Corporation public affairs chief David Jones.

Recently retired after more than a decade helping with PR and media management, Jones has started experiencing a new side of the industry in a role with Abercrombie & Kent ground handler Akorn, which serves 29 cruise lines in ports across the globe.

The early morning starts are worth it, Jones told *CW*, because "you meet happy people who've just cruised and then hundreds of others who are excited to be beginning their cruise holiday".

His first shift evoked years in his previous job, welcoming *Carnival Splendor* as she poked her bow around the Sydney Opera House in the harbour's enchanting pre-dawn light.

Jones' job involved meeting and greeting passengers, checking their bags were properly tagged and then directing them to the bag drop area, saying he's now "proud to call myself a ground handler".

"And to make it all the sweeter, that little kiosk under the tree near the OPT forecourt makes a wonderful flat white coffee and an energy-boosting toasted bacon and egg roll.

"Just the thing for a hungry ground handler," he said.

Albatros' Arctic success



ALBATROS Expeditions has successfully wrapped up its 2023 Arctic season onboard its newest vessel, *Ocean Albatros* (pictured), the sister ship of *Ocean Victory*.

The 189-pax newbuild, which only recently joined the fleet (*CW* 26 Jun), "exceeded all expectations" during her maiden season, according to the cruise line, putting her in good stead for her debut in the southern hemisphere next month.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the success of the 2023 Arctic season onboard the *Ocean Albatros*," enthused Albatros CEO Hans Lagerweij.

"The ship exceeded both our and our guests' expectations, and

we can't wait to see her continue to host adventurous travellers as she sails Antarctic waters for the rest of the year."

The eco-conscious vessel journeyed to a diverse range of destinations during this year's Arctic season, including Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Iceland, Northwest, South and Northeast Greenland, crossing the 80-degree north latitude five times.

Ocean Albatros sailed with an 87% capacity, highlighting her popularity among adventurous cruisers desiring intimate and immersive Arctic experiences, as well as setting a new record for Albatros Expeditions' maiden seasons. *JM*

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CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

October is Cruise Month

Cruise Month is here, and millions of people around the country have already received a wealth of spectacular cruise inspiration thanks to special cruise editions of the weekend travel pages.

And there's more to come.

Throughout Oct our media partners will be putting a spotlight on cruising with special cruise lift-outs and extended cruise coverage in weekend newspapers, magazines & online.

CLIA has also launched its biggest social media campaign yet, targeting cruise-friendly audiences on Facebook and Instagram with Cruise Month images, videos and messaging.

The aim is to build excitement around the summer cruise season and encourage travellers to book their next cruise.

Importantly, our messaging will stress that cruise fans should book via a CLIA-accredited travel agent, highlighting the knowledge and professionalism of our most highly trained cruise specialists.

Cruise Month is something everyone can get involved in, so we're encouraging agents to launch their own initiatives.

CLIA has created a comprehensive toolkit with social media assets and other resources to help get the most from Cruise Month, and you can view a Video Guide to Cruise Month for information and inspiration.

Follow @CLIAAustralasia on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn for updates.





Virgin's Superyacht-inspired ships

With exclusively adult, superyacht-inspired lady ships featuring signature red hammocks on every balcony and a focus on offering nothing but exceptional service, Virgin Voyages' unique vision has been dropping jaws and winning awards (like Cruise Critic's Best Value-for-Money) since their lady ships first hit the water.

After all, Virgin Voyages set out to create a revolutionary way to explore the world. Every voyage is adults-only and always luxury included, with dining at 20+ eateries, WiFi, group fitness classes, tips, entertainment, and essential drinks all on them.

And with late stays and overnights in captivating destinations on itineraries of 2 to 16 nights, visiting 100+ ports across

the globe, these are transformative travels that give your Sailors a chance to get to know the real people and experiences that make each place so special.

Share with your Sailors that they'll have to leave any preconceptions about cruising (and cruise food!) behind; Virgin has ditched buffets and pre-set dining times to bring fresh flavors and unexpected pairings with made-to-order food. They'll dine on hanger steak and lemon cheesecake at The Wake, mezze bites and glasses of rosé in the open air of The Dock, or get their crew together for a lively Korean BBQ night at Gunbae.

And now that Virgin Voyages is bringing the Virgin flair to cruising in Australia this December, it's time to

see your Sailors get out there, to gaze into the sky of glittering southern constellations at night and marvel at the sunrise on the eastern horizon.

SET SAIL FROM AUS & NZ

Virgin brought 'wonderful to flying', and now they're bringing the Virgin flair to cruising. Virgin Voyages sets sail for the first time from Australia and New Zealand starting this December — with their newest lady ship, Resilient Lady, leading the way.



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