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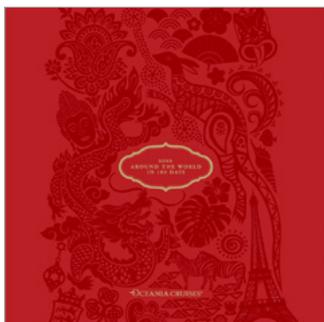
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Cruisewatch launches in Australia

CRUISEWATCH, a platform designating itself as the “first cruise metasearcher”, has gone live in Australia.

The service informs consumers of the best time to book a cruise, with Cruisewatch saying it plans to cooperate with business partners to optimise and implement its platform in more countries.

However, GlobeNet Travel owner Dan Russell questioned how consumers would react to Cruisewatch’s lack of human element.

“Australian consumers would have to decide if they’re comfortable booking their cruise holiday with someone on the other side of the planet, rather than a local accredited cruise agency with local consultants who care,” Russell told **CW**.

“I’m not familiar with any other operators that have succeeded in



Australia without a strong local presence with experienced cruise consultants.”

Based in Germany, the platform has been in the United States market for more than four years, and recently raised \$1 million to enhance its AI-based prediction engine (**CW** 30 Sep 2019).

The website claims to offer over 10,000 trips on more than 25 cruise lines, providing a “new form of market transparency” by comparing various price sources and staying up-to-date in the market.

Pictured, founders Titus Keuler and Markus Stumpe.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover wrap from **Oceania Cruises**.

Oceania’s World

OCEANIA Cruises is going Around the World in 180 days in 2022.

Guests can choose from free shore excursions, a free beverage package and free shipboard credit - see more on the **front page**.

Aurora appoints

ANNABEL Carroll has been appointed Public Relations Manager at Aurora Expeditions.

Carroll started her new role last month.

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Travel Daily



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On location in
Los Angeles

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you from the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles courtesy of Viking Cruises and Air New Zealand.

FRESH from hosting the Golden Globes last week, the Beverly Hilton is today packed with another contingent of VIPs, in the form of almost 300 distinguished Viking Cruises industry partners.

Guests tonight will include Viking Cruises founder Torstein Hagen, who is set to unveil the company's new expedition cruising product.

Follow *Travel Daily* and *Cruise Weekly* on social media, and see tomorrow's issue for all the details.

One Lell of a Summit!



AVALON Waterways Director of Innovation & Research Burghart Lell (**pictured**) will be in Australia from Switzerland in Apr to speak at the 2020 *Travel Daily* Sustainability Summit.

With over 30 years of experience in escorted tours and cruises, Lell joined the Globus Family of Brands as Operations Manager in 2001, and was heavily involved in building the operational structure for Avalon, which launched in 2004.

As head of the Avalon operations team, he was also regularly involved in the planning and development of new vessels, and for the past two years, has been concentrating on the strategic direction of the brand, following up on research and product development, as well as innovation to the product line.

Lell's education in Europe and Canada has exposed him to the

ideas of sustainable tourism, with environmental, social and economic sustainability guidelines in his daily work, including in the planning process, destinations and in the creation of unique experiences, ensuring they fall in line with these principles.

To book tickets for the Sustainability Summit, **CLICK HERE**.

Mystic hits a four

MYSTIC Cruises has confirmed its order of four new expedition vessels, to be deployed via its United States-based brand Atlas Ocean Voyages.

The cruise line initially announced its intentions in Apr, following its securing of a "strategic investment partner" (*CW* 10 Apr 2019), with the new ships to be built with Westsea.

The four new 200-guest ships will be named *World Adventurer*, *World Discoverer*, *World Seeker* and *World Traveller*.

The newbuilds will be sister ships to *World Explorer*, which launched with Nicko Cruises last year, and is currently being chartered by Quark.

Mystic Cruises currently has two ships presently under construction, named *Navigator* and *Voyager*.

More arrivals, mon

MORE than 1.5 million cruise passengers arrived in Jamaica in 2019, representing almost 35% of the country's visitors.

The data was revealed to *Jamaica Information Service* by Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett, who reinforced cruise holidays as integral to the country's tourism growth.

The country is soon planning to welcome cruise tourists to the sunken city of Port Royal.



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PortMiami records

PORTMIAMI saw a record year in 2019, with a 22% increase in cruise passengers, to 6.8 million.

The results were announced yesterday at Miami-Dade County's 2020 State of the County address, with Mayor Carlos Gimenez congratulating Chief Executive Officer Juan Kuryla and his team on such a prosperous year.

Dining afloat: Chartreuse



CRUISE LINE: Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC).

SHIPS: *Seven Seas Splendor, Seven Seas Explorer, Seven Seas Mariner, & Seven Seas Voyager.*

EVOKING memories of a chic Parisian fine dining restaurant, Chartreuse offers RSSC guests a taste of French dining at sea.

French gastronomy.

Menu highlights include hand-cut Charolais steak tartare in a hazelnut-Dijon emulsion topped with Perlita caviar d'Aquitaine, roasted rack of lamb with rosemary persillade and chickpea fritters, and roasted lobster with scallop Mousseline, green asparagus and fava beans.

And if you've got room for dessert, don't miss the praline and creme anglaise and parfait glace - it's worth the wait.

WINE: Chartreuse offers a range of French wines from the boutique vineyards of Bordeaux, Burgundy, Champagne and the Rhône and Loire Valleys.

INCLUDED IN FARE: Yes.

RESERVATIONS: Essential.

DRESS: Smart casual.

HOURS: Chartreuse is open each evening, and for lunch on *Explorer* on all port days where bistro-style food is served.



The restaurant ambiance is complemented by a menu that features dishes expertly prepared using both classic and modern techniques, offering a multiple course celebration of



LAST week we wrote about *Majestic Princess'* rendition of "Love Boat" (CW 07 Jan), and it seems the cruise world's battle of the bands is heating up further.

Popping up for a performance in Sydney's Circular Quay was the Blugold Marching Band, all the way from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, who are on a 20-day cruise-tour of Australia and New Zealand.

The band will board *Radiance of the Seas* on Sat, where they will cruise around Australia and New Zealand, performing six concerts along the way.

To check out the musical stylings of the Blugold Marching Band, [CLICK HERE](#).



New Zealand ports adaptable to itinerary changes

NEW Zealand ports are extremely adaptable when it comes to changes to cruise ship itineraries.

Weather is the most likely reason for any change, and, before a port visit is cancelled, a great deal of forward-planning takes place, as any decision is not taken lightly.

This season is no different from other years, with changes to scheduling occurring from time to time; and the ship's master, cruise line marine staff, deployment team, and the port agent begin to plot a new course to a different port, with the help of the port staff.

The port will do its best to make sure the itinerary changes work, and, once the new schedule is out, ground handlers and tour operators will change their plans too, alerting all their contacts and putting into place a new program.

Safety is the number one priority to make sure guests have a safe and comfortable cruise, so, despite the weather, itinerary changes are made and guests continue to receive a great experience.