



Viking on tune

VIKING has hired former United States Navy Vice Admiral Raquel Bono as Chief Medical Officer.

A former Director of the Defense Health Agency, Bono most recently led the state of Washington medical and healthcare systems response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bono partnered with Viking earlier this year through RCB Consulting to help develop and define new protocol enhancements, and as Chief Health Officer, will pioneer the line's restart of operations, with a focus on public health.

The Viking Health & Safety Program will be detailed soon.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

MSC eyes Japanese restart in Apr

MSC Cruises is now on track for an Apr 2021 restart in Japan, after it became the first international cruise line to receive a certificate of compliance from Japanese ship classification society Nippon Kaiji Kyokai for its health and safety protocol earlier in the week.

The certification now paves the way for MSC to open sales for cruises homeporting in Japan to locals, as well as start work with ports in the country to prepare for the season.

Health and safety operating protocols of MSC and port authorities in Japan will also follow guidelines established by the Japan Ongoing Passenger Ship Association.

MSC Bellissima (pictured) will be deployed to Japan, homeporting in Yokohama to sail six- to nine-night cruises from Apr to Jun.

Bellissima is also scheduled to



operate in the country during Oct and Nov 2021.

"To be the first international cruise line in Japan to be awarded this key certification of compliance is a further testament to our robust and rigorous health and safety protocol which led the way for the entire global industry

when in Aug we became the first major line to resume cruise operation in the Mediterranean," said Chief Exec Gianni Onorato.

MSC said its protocol is also currently being reviewed by relevant authorities in other regions to support phased and local restarts.

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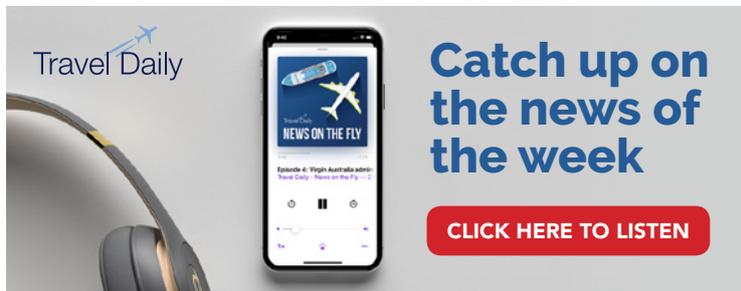


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PORTHOLE

THE noble sheep may be saving our oceans - and they don't even know it.

The humble and unaware heroes they are, sheep are contributing their wool to Planet Protector Packaging, which is marketing itself as an alternative to polystyrene.

Started in 2016, Planet Protector's environmentally responsible WOOLPACK insulated packaging made from sheep wool waste is quickly replacing harmful polymer which can end up in oceans.

It is already dominating the food, pharmaceutical and IVF supply chains owing to its comparable cost, which makes it easier for businesses to make the more sustainable choice.

Planet Protector's clients currently include Baxter Pharmaceuticals, Blackmores and DHL, with the company in the race to become the market leader in sustainable thermal packaging.

RSSC 2021-2022 season

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) *Seven Seas Explorer* will make its debut in Australia in 2021-22, among a range of firsts for the cruise line that season.

From late next year, *Seven Seas Explorer* will embark upon eight itineraries focusing on Australia and New Zealand - her inaugural Asia-Pacific program.

Guests on board the Holiday Down Under voyage will enjoy Christmas and New Year's celebrations aboard *Seven Seas Explorer*, departing Sydney on 20 Dec for 16 nights.

Travellers will explore iconic destinations within the region, including Burnie in Tasmania, where guests will enjoy free shore excursions such as a Cheese, Chocolate & Wine tour.

Following this, cruisers will travel to New Zealand, where they will experience the fjords of Milford Sound, the Bay of Islands and the volcanic hills of Akaroa.

The free shore excursion in New Zealand is horse riding along the secluded beaches of the Waipu Coast.

Seven Seas Explorer will also visit Alaska for the first time

in 2021 on seven-night trips between Vancouver and Seward.

A highlight of *Seven Seas Explorer's* inaugural Alaska season will be the Klondike Adventure, departing 01 Sep on a seven-night voyage to the Hubbard Glacier and Inside Passage.

Travellers can also select from up to 53 free shore excursions, including hikes in rainforests, whale watching, and trips in a float plane.

Other debuts for 2021-22 include *Seven Seas Splendor* embarking on her maiden season to Northern Europe in 2021, including the Baltic.

Guests can choose from a range of itineraries, including a 14-night sailing from London to Copenhagen, departing 06 Aug.

The Magnificent Fjords and Peaks voyage will visit ports of call in Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Estonia, Russia and Finland.

This voyage will offer overnight stays in both St. Petersburg and Stockholm, and at both ports, there will be more than 10 shore excursions to choose from.

For more information please call 1300 455 200.

Bar Harbor to follow Key West?

BAR Harbor, Maine, will explore limiting future cruise ship visits, in a similar vein to Key West, FL's decision earlier this month (**CW** 05 Nov).

A popular seasonal destination for cruise ships, the ongoing debate has seen Bar Harbor Town Council vote to take steps to potentially limit cruise ships next year.

Growing from the ongoing concerns about coronavirus, the discussion also encompassed the broader financial contribution and impact to the community from the cruise ship industry, with the result seeing the Town Council voting to defer any actions until next year.

Some argued business was down as much as 80% due to the lack of cruise ships this year, while others pointed out land-based tourists have a much greater economic contribution than cruise passengers, who are estimated to contribute more than US\$20 million annually to the Maine economy.

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At Viking, we don't believe in non-commissionable fees. Instead, we pay commission on all components of a cruise fare, including taxes and port charges. Put simply, no NCFs means more money in your pocket, where it belongs.



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