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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover page from Ponant.

Ponant 10% saving

PONANT is offering a 10% saving on Combined Itineraries for its European program next year.

The deal is offered with Ponant having just launched its new ship *Le Commandant Charcot*, and is exclusive for Australian guests.

Plus, those who book before the end of the month will only pay a half-price deposit.

It allows travellers a half-priced deposit of 12.5% as opposed to the standard 25%.

View Ponant's full slate of 105 itineraries, including Combined Itineraries, on the cover page of today's *CW*.

CLIA welcomes NSW cruise positivity

AUSTRALIA'S two largest cruise markets could be back sailing by the start of next year, after New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet said he was in discussions "right now" with the Australian Government about relaunching the cruise industry.

The Premier said on Fri the talks had been launched by his predecessor Gladys Berejiklian, who had engaged Prime Minister Scott Morrison about a restart.

The revelation comes just a few weeks after Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said plans were underway for a number of intrastate small cruises to begin sailing up and down the state's coast from next year (*CW* 24 Sep).

Perrottet said he was "very on board" with restarting cruising, sentiment welcomed by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz.

The Association's local head said after months of persistence, it is clear there's a positive change in the discussions the industry is having with governments.

"There is now a clear will to make progress towards a careful resumption of cruise operations in Australia," Katz declared.

"The latest comments from NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet are very encouraging and so we look forward to having further discussions to ensure this is translated into action.

"Given the progress Australia is making towards reopening borders and reviving travel, it makes no sense to exclude cruising when our industry has committed to the most stringent health protocols to be found anywhere in tourism."

MEANWHILE, CLIA's membership drive for next year begins today, with bonus

commissions, live events and an expanded education program to be among key benefits.

Back for next year will be CLIA's Travel Agent Rewards Program (*CW* 15 Oct 2020), first introduced one year ago, to provide members with bonus commissions and other rewards when making bookings with participating CLIA members.

The Association's membership program for next year will also see the return of live events, including the annual Cruise360 Australasia conference which is scheduled to be held in Sydney on 04 Mar, after 2021's event was replaced with the online Cruise Forum (*CW* 27 Aug).

With teaching to become a key focus next year, the travelling education program CLIA LIVE will also return to an in-person format, visiting major cities throughout next year.

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WOLLONGONGERS have been wondering the past few days why there is a boat on the beach at Belmore Basin.

The vessel was likely washed up on the last high tide, but there is nothing to worry about, according to a NSW Maritime spokesperson.

Marine Rescue NSW and the boat's owner have both been informed of the vessel's unorthodox docking location, but it is not yet known when it will be removed.

HAL christening

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has named Princess Margriet of the Netherlands godmother of *Rotterdam*.

HAL's connection to the Dutch royal house began almost 100 years ago, when Duke Henry launched *Statendam III*.

Since then, members of the family have launched 11 ships.

Horizon season lost

TRADEWIND Voyages has announced the cancellation of its 2022/23 Australian season for *Golden Horizon*.

Ongoing uncertainty surrounding the resumption of cruising in Australia and the projected status of the country's interstate and international borders has forced the United Kingdom-based cruise line to cancel its maiden summer season Down Under.

The recently launched 272-passenger *Golden Horizon* was originally due to arrive in Australia for her inaugural season in local waters this Dec but pandemic restrictions forced Tradewind to announce plans for the 2021/22 season to be deferred to 2022/23 a few months ago (**CW** 09 Aug).

Tradewind said long-term planning was needed to operate and market voyages in Australia and ongoing & restrictive conditions, and a lack of clarity for cruising and freedom of travel, made the season unviable to operate.

Cruise Traveller has already contacted all Australian guests

and travel advisors affected by the cancellation and is processing full refunds.

"While we have had to advise hundreds of booked guests of the changed program for *Golden Horizon*, it has been more than encouraging for so many of them to clearly indicate they are keen to sail on her in the Mediterranean in 2022 or 2023," said Cruise Traveller Managing Director, Craig Bowen.

"As I have come to expect from Tradewind Voyages, they have managed the delivery of these unavoidable changes with total professionalism and commitment to the Australian market."

There are hopes Tradewind's ship could grace Australian shores in 2023/24, the cruise line said.

There are now plans for *Golden Horizon* to sail in the Caribbean in the northern winter of 2022/23 instead of Australia, with details to be released in coming months, with hopes Australians can patronise the season once outbound restrictions are eased.

Fares for the 2022/23 Caribbean season will be announced soon, Tradewind said.

Key West to backflip?

KEY West could reach a compromise on cruise ships, after the city's lawmakers suggested a meeting of all stakeholders to resolve the populous' long-running opposition to the industry.

A number of Key West's Commissioners are hoping to bring together Safer Cleaner Ships, which led the voter-approved 95% reduction in cruise ship traffic last year (**CW** 05 Nov 2020), and the owners of Pier B, the passenger terminal which has provided the city 25% of its cruise revenue for nearly 30 years.

Key West Attorney Shawn Smith has repeatedly warned about a costly lawsuit if the city infringes on Pier B's business and revenue, and a number of the city's Commissioners support him.

"If we can get Safer Cleaner Ships in the same room as Pier B, that'd be good," Commissioner Greg Davila told *Keys Weekly*.

Commissioner Clayton Lopez added, "we want to satisfy the will of the people," but worried there could be action.



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