



Cruise Weekly today

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

Spring has sprung

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has launched a new Spring into Savings offer, providing up to US\$2,900 in value for a range of sailings.

Also offering savings of AU\$250 per stateroom, the promotion is able to be taken advantage of until the end of the month.

The promotion is provided in addition to all five of NCL's Free at Sea offers, including a free beverage package, shore excursion credit, specialty dining package, wi-fi package and a third and fourth guest sailing at a reduced rate on select itineraries.

CLICK HERE for more info.

Celestyal Cruises' ship has sailed

CELESTYAL Cruises overnight confirmed the sale of *Celestyal Experience* (pictured) to an unnamed buyer, despite the vessel having never undertaken a passenger sailing for the line.

Experience, which was formerly operated by Carnival Corporation's Costa Cruises as *Costa neoRomantica*, was acquired by Celestyal about 15 months ago (**CW** 20 Jul 2020), with initial plans for her to debut with her new brand in Mar this year (**CW** 28 Sep 2020).

Celestyal Chief Executive Officer Chris Theophilides described the vessel as a "game-changer" for the cruise line, with *Experience* adorned with the company's new logo and new livery.

However, ongoing pandemic disruptions pushed back the inaugural sailing by a year, with Celestyal announcing a Mar 2022 debut for *Experience* about three



months ago (**CW** 11 Jun).

The sale of the ship has surprised the market, with Celestyal saying the deal will "provide the company with increased liquidity which, in combination with zero third-party debt, constitutes a solid financial foundation, thus ensuring a successful restart by Mar 2022".

It's understood *Experience* is worth more than US\$20 million, with speculation Chinese interests showed intent

in acquiring the vessel after inspectors from China were spotted on board during her lay-up.

The sale leaves Celestyal with its two existing vessels - *Celestyal Olympia* and *Celestyal Crystal* - with the cruise line saying both had undergone "significant investment in recent years".

Passengers disrupted by the sale of *Experience* will be moved to *Celestyal Crystal* departures, the cruise line added.



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Who's your Daddo?

PONANT has announced the appointment of entertainer Andrew Daddo as the cruise line's first brand ambassador for Australia.

In celebration of the appointment, a 45-minute documentary, *Beyond the Polar Circle*, showcasing Daddo's trip to Antarctica aboard *Le Boreal* will debut via Ponant's website from 30 Sep.

The documentary sees Daddo chronicle his thoughts on the trip, sharing with viewers his emotions as he discovers the magic of the destination.

Ponant Chair Asia Pacific Sarina Bratton said Daddo's approach to travel, his engaging & laconic style of commentary, and his passion for exploration & discovering the unknown align perfectly with Ponant's values.

Spirit of...Sydney?



AN EAGLE-EYED *Cruise Weekly* reader late last month spotted *Spirit of Tasmania II* (pictured) in unusual waters - Sydney Harbour.

The ferry, which usually travels between Devonport and Melbourne, was in Sydney for dry dock work, its owner TT-Line said.

While in dry dock, *Spirit of Tasmania II* received a thorough inspection of all her underwater

areas, while routine maintenance to propulsion and manoeuvring systems was performed.

Spirit of Tasmania II's internal areas, carpets and cabins were also refreshed.

About 1,500 litres of paint was used during dry dock to paint internal and external areas.

Spirit of Tasmania II will return to service next Thu.

Dream + Singapore

DREAM Cruises has announced a new collaboration with Singapore Airlines, allowing cruisers to earn KrisFlyer miles.

The partnership, which will begin later this month, will also see an exclusive charter cruise aboard *World Dream* for KrisFlyer affiliates.

The 17 Nov sailing will see members enjoy a variety of Singapore Airlines-themed activities ranging from photo opportunities with the airline's cabin crew, savouring signature SQ satay, and attending grooming workshops by the carrier's trainers.

All KrisFlyer members on board the cruise will also take home a limited-edition souvenir bag containing a variety of special amenities, and enjoy Dream's signature year-end festive programs.

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Meat me halfway

VIKING has donated meat to a number of worthy causes across Sydney.

The line has donated more than four tonnes of quality Australian meat, including prime cuts of beef, lamb and veal worth over \$100,000.

The meat was distributed among three of Viking's partners - Australian Venue Co, Lucas Restaurants, and Sydney Street Kitchen - to utilise across their networks, distributing meals to those in need during this extended lockdown period.

It was originally intended for consumption by guests on board Viking's Asia Pacific ocean cruises this past season, before it was cancelled.

"I don't think anybody would have ever thought that we would be in this situation 18 months on, with the second Sydney lockdown having a greater impact on many than the first," said Viking Managing Director ANZ Michelle Black.

"We are so pleased this excellent quality meat has not gone to waste".

FACE-2-FACE: Fiona Heron

Strategic Sales Manager
Queensland, Celebrity Cruises



1. What is your favourite part of your job?

I love working with trade partners to grow their Celebrity sales and love hearing how much their clients enjoyed their experience onboard. It's also fantastic to see the look on our trade partners' faces when they get to experience one of our stunning ships firsthand.

2. What attracted you to a career in the cruise industry?

I have always loved to travel and started travelling at quite a young age, it was a natural progression into cruise as cruising provides freedom, convenience and luxury and allows you to explore a multitude of destinations with only having to unpack once. There is also something relaxing and mesmerising about the ocean and I love to be in or around the ocean at

any given opportunity.

3. What is key to success in the cruise industry?

Delivering on your promises, honest, open and consistent communication and keeping your product knowledge up to date by experiencing the product both personally and professionally.

4. How has COVID-19 changed the way you do your job?

As I am based regionally away from our head office in Sydney I am used to working from a home office environment, however the major change was not being able to meet up with trade partners face to face which definitely takes away some aspect of the personal relationships you build on when visiting someone in their office.



A NUMBER of colourful and quirky boats have taken over Darwin's Mindil Beach for the iconic Beer Can Regatta.

Boats made from items such as beer cans and milk cartons took over the Beach on Sun as one of Darwin's best-loved annual events returned in full force for the first time in two years.

About 7,000 people flocked to the Beach for the quirky event, which has been a staple of the local social calendar since 1974.

It was started as a novel way of cleaning up empty beer cans on Darwin's streets, but is now a fully fledged meet, with five different categories — beer can boats, soft drink boats, milk carton boats, novelty boats, and junior boats.

This year saw a 10-strong team of United States Marines take out the grand prize.



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