



Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC Bellissima to stay in Saudi

MSC Cruises' *MSC Bellissima* will continue sailing in Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea into the northern winter season from Jeddah.

Bellissima will offer seven-night cruises calling at Aqaba, Safaga, and three ports in Saudi Arabia - Ras Al Abyad, Al Wajh, and Yanbu.

She will replace *MSC Magnifica*, which was previously scheduled to serve in the region during the winter.

At the end of Mar, *Bellissima* will leave the region and reposition to Japan for her planned cruises out of Yokohama from 21 Apr.

Darwin so hot right now for Silversea

EXCLUSIVE

SILVERSEA Cruises' Darwin to Darwin itinerary, departing from 23 Jun 2023, is selling extremely well, the cruise line's Director of Sales Australia & New Zealand Steve Richards told *CW*.

The latest Kimberley brochure offers both a Darwin to Darwin and Darwin to Fremantle itinerary, in addition to the traditional port of Broome.

"Darwin is just a better port to embark and disembark from... you've got more infrastructure there, you've got easier connections into the city, you get more pre- and post tour-options," Richards explained.

The fact Silversea is the only cruise line offering the Darwin-Darwin itinerary has been a boon, with the journey already almost sold out, despite being released earlier this week (*CW* 15 Sep).

Darwin's greater potential as

both a pre- or post- land program destination meant the NT capital was likely to trend going forward, Richards believes.

"You've got Kakadu, you've got Katherine George, Litchfield, all the national parks, but then you've got The Ghan as well, connecting you down to the Red Centre and then down to Adelaide," he said.

Not only is the Darwin-Darwin itinerary selling well, but 75% of Silversea's Kimberley sailings for next year are already sold out - a positive surprise, given the potential for the return of international travel in 2022.

Silversea's booking rates for next year are a healthy fifty-fifty between domestic and international, Richards revealed, largely due to the uncertainty of what int'l travel will look like.

"We've seen more popularity of wanting the latter half of the

season, we've got a Med season going deep into Nov, which is normally not a traditional time to cruise the Med, and we see people have more confidence that they'll be able to get there.

"We've got more options internationally in '23 than we do domestically, because we're still waiting to see whether we get final approval on the summer.

"Everyone is optimistic the Kimberley season will definitely take place compared to the last two seasons."

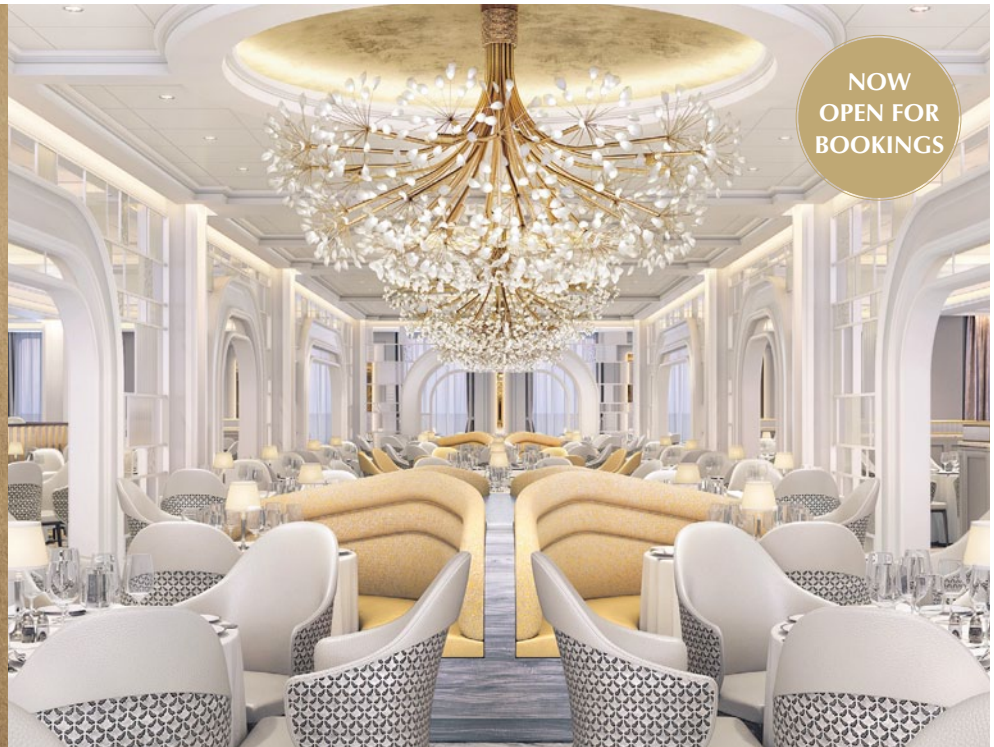
Also selling well is Silversea's 2023/2024 program, highlighted by *Silver Whisper*, as well as *Silver Explorer*, which will farewell the Kimberley (*CW* 28 Jul).

"*Whisper* is a ship that hasn't cruised in that region...she's come through on the World Cruise, but never stayed, so she's quite attractive to some of our Silversea loyalists," Richards said.



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Viking 2024 out

VIKING has announced its 2024 ocean cruises are open for bookings.

A selection of cruises are now open in Australia, as well as Alaska, Asia, and New Zealand, departing aboard the 930-guest *Viking Orion*.

The itineraries include the 17-day Komodo & the Australian Coast sailing from Sydney to Bali, the 23-day North Pacific Passage from Tokyo to Vancouver via Russia & Alaska, and the 15-day Far Eastern Horizons from Hong Kong to Tokyo.

Viking's risk-free guarantee is also available until 30 Sep.

Celebrity offer

FOR a limited time, travellers who book a holiday with Celebrity Cruises anywhere in the world next year can save 20% off their cruise fare.

Celebrity is also offering loyalty members the chance to earn double points if they book before 28 Sep.

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A test of Resolution



LINDBLAD Expeditions' *National Geographic Resolution* polar vessel has successfully completed her sea trial.

The test was carried out earlier this month, departing from and returning to the shipyard, Ulstein Verft, ahead of the final construction phase before her first expedition cruise in Antarctica.

The trial included various manoeuvres such as the 360-degree turning test and power tests, as well as emergency tests.



Resolution is the sister vessel to *National Geographic Endurance*, which was delivered in Mar 2020, and carried out her first expeditions in Iceland this northern summer (**CW** 21 Apr).

Pictured is the Lindblad Ulstein team, and **inset**, *Resolution* undertakes zig-zag testing.



THE boat building industry wants to come together to drive action for the planet, a new survey has found.

The study by The Ocean Race has found an overwhelming number who work in the sailing and boat building industries want their field to become more sustainable.

Almost all (90%) of the respondents feel not enough is being done to reduce the environmental impact in their area, with three main barriers to change identified: a lack of technical knowledge of alternative materials, a lack of funding for research & development, and a concern sustainable developments could affect boat speed.

The results were shared at The Ocean Race's Innovation Workshop on Sustainable Boat Building, which aims to tackle the main challenges that need to be met for the industry to become more sustainable.





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