



Cruise Weekly today

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

A Legend returns

WINDSTAR Cruises' reimagined *Star Legend* has returned in Portugal.

Sailing from Lisbon on a 10-day voyage to Barcelona, *Legend* will stop at ports including Portimao, Gibraltar, Cartagena, and Palma de Mallorca, and overnight at Cadiz and Malaga.

Windstar's three all-suite Star Plus-class yachts have been undergoing major transformations, with *Legend* the second to relaunch, succeeding *Star Breeze* and preceding *Star Pride*.

Five of Windstar's six yachts are now back in the water cruising full-time.

Industry plea for certainty

CRUISE Lines International Association Managing Director Australasia Joel Katz has reiterated calls for talks with the Australian Government about agreeing on an official launch date for a cruise restart.

Appearing on the Nine Network's *Today* show yesterday, Katz noted Australian passengers are being left behind, with the current Biosecurity Emergency Period banning foreign cruise ships in local waters in place until 17 Dec.

He noted local businesses which rely on the cruising sector were also suffering.

"There are long lead times to get cruising back up and running so we need to be having those discussions now about how we safely and responsibly return those ships to Australia," he said.

Katz said once a start date is confirmed, it can take up to

three months for a cruise line to begin operations, meaning now is the time for talks about recommencement so the industry can begin planning.

He appeared alongside Coral Expeditions General Manager Mark Fifield, who spoke about the cruise line's implementation of new safety protocols in its successful restart.

Coral uses a private pathology firm to undertake PCR testing, with Fifield noting passengers welcome the confidence they can travel safely.

The cruise line, which has undertaken more than 70 successful departures since Oct last year, requires both a negative COVID-19 test and a general practitioner visit for both passengers and crew members.

Katz said getting cruising up and running can be done in a "carefully managed, phased way".

Pursuit inaugural

SEABOURN Cruise Line has named its second new luxury expedition ship, *Seabourn Pursuit* and has announced her inaugural voyage for 04 Apr 2023.

The construction for *Pursuit* is well underway, having began in the northern fall of 2020.

After her delivery, *Pursuit* will embark on a Fire and Ice voyage, departing roundtrip from Reykjavik, and winding along the coast of Iceland and Greenland.

There will be a late night in the northern Icelandic town of Akureyri, which will provide access to the waterfall of Godafoss, and the lava fields of Dimmuborgir and Leirhnjukur.

Pursuit then continues onward, exploring the waters and landscapes of Norway, including a visit to Tromso and the fjords.


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Ultramarine debut

QUARK Expeditions' guests will witness polar history on the inaugural voyage of *Ultramarine* (25 Nov to 14 Dec).

The first journey of the new ship will be the Solar Eclipse 2021: Totality in Antarctica, with South Georgia & Falkland Islands trip, which will see guests witness the solar eclipse on 04 Dec, which can only be viewed in totality from Antarctica.

After the upcoming instance, a total eclipse in Antarctica won't happen again until 2039.

Also on board the cruise will be three of the world's leading solar eclipse experts.

We're halfway there

CARNIVAL Corporation is on pace to restart over half of its fleet capacity by next month.

The company's overall goal is to return to nearly 65% of capacity to begin the new year.

"Based on our initial restart of guest cruise operations across eight brands, it is clear from our guests that there is tremendous confidence in our brands, our health and safety protocols, and the return of cruising as one of the world's most popular vacations," said Chief Communications Officer Roger Frizzell.



RCG wins Italy port build



THE tender to construct and operate the new cruise terminal in Ravenna (render **pictured**) has been awarded to Royal Caribbean Group (RCG).

Partly funded by the Government of Italy's National Recovery & Resilience Plan, Ravenna Port Authority's new terminal will be seamlessly integrated into the natural environment, and will include a transformation of Porto Corsini.

The major revitalisation will be completed by the northern spring of 2024, positioning Ravenna as an attractive world-class homeport and port of call.

With convenient access to Venice, and the airports of Bologna, Forli, and Rimini, Ravenna is expected to see a significant economic boon with pre- and post-cruise visitors, with the total number of guests expected to increase to 300,000 per year when the terminal is fully operational.

Spanning 12 hectares, the new cruise terminal will include public green spaces, pedestrian & cycling pathways, and entertainment areas for residents & visitors, all celebrating the surrounding coastal environment.

Unique artwork depicting the sea and pristine nature of the region will be highlighted throughout the two-storey terminal, which will feature a crew centre, tourist information desk and spaces for local street food.

The terminal building will be connected to ships via an elevated walkway running along the length of the pier, offering guests the chance to enjoy incredible views of the sea and beaches of Ravenna as they make their way to their vessel on a new-generation mobile boarding bridge.

Shore power will also be available on the docks to enable ships to turn off their engines.



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This week's recipe:

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Fly the Flag live

P&O Cruises Australia will make a powerful case for cruise to return when the line broadcasts its Fly the Flag for P&O Live event, direct from *Pacific Adventure*.

The unique show will be hosted by P&O Australia's popular entertaining duo, the newly engaged Julie and Leeron, and will be packaged in a fast-paced chat show format.

The evening event on 14 Oct will be a virtual take on P&O's popular entertainment program with family-friendly comedy, music, interviews, celebrities as well as other guest appearances.

P&O celebrity chef Luke Mangan, radio presenter Kat Davidson and Glandore Estate vintner Duane Roy will appear among other names from the entertainment, travel, and hospitality world.

President of P&O Sture Myrmell said the event will enable loyal cruise guests to again experience the joy that is part and parcel of the cruise line's onboard entertainment.

Back in the NY groove



CRYSTAL Cruises restarted cruising from New York City on Sat (**pictured**), as the first line to set sail from Manhattan Cruise Terminal since the pandemic.

The line's *Crystal Symphony* departed New York on the first of her Luxury Bermuda Escapes - a series of nine, seven-night cruises to Bermuda (**CW** 15 Jul).

Guests wishing to enjoy the city have the option to extend their travels with a pre- or post-cruise stay at The Pierre, A Taj Hotel, New York - a luxury hotel facing

Central Park - or InterContinental New York Times Square, an IHG Hotel - located near Broadway, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and more.

Clients can be transferred between the airport, the hotel and the ship, with daily breakfast, complimentary wi-fi and all hotel taxes and fees included.

Departing every Fri through to 19 Nov, the Luxury Bermuda Escapes series has moved south this month, having been cruising out of Boston since Aug.



IT TURNS out the 2019–20 Australian bushfire season was not only devastating to the country's population - it was also destructive to one of the oceans it borders.

Smoke from the bushfires caused a massive algal bloom in the Southern Ocean, in an event scientists have compared to "the entire Sahara Desert turning into a productive grassland".

The bloom, larger than the entire continent, was caused by iron particles in smoke aerosols.

Smoke clouds travelled into the stratosphere and circumnavigated the globe, depositing aerosol particles thousands of kilometres away.

It occurred in the ocean between New Zealand and South America beginning in Oct 2019, and lasted about four months.

Algal bloom is problematic as it can inhibit the existence of other oceanic organisms such as seagrass.

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