

Hagen: Viking is “just getting started”

VIKING Chair Torstein Hagen (pictured) has celebrated the cruise line's 25th anniversary on Fri with a video message flagging further growth ambitions.

“It is hard to believe that the little company we started on 05 Aug 1997 has become the Viking of today,” he said.

“We knew right from those early days that we wanted Viking to be different...we had a vision that travel could be more destination-focused and culturally enriching,” Hagen added.

Hagen traced Viking's history, claiming to have “invented the category of modern river voyages” in 1997.

Growth accelerated in 2012 with the launch of Viking's longships, which have “now become synonymous with European river voyages,” he said.

“With the introduction of our small ship ocean voyages in 2015



we reinvented the category and brought the focus back to the destinations,” Hagen added, while the latest innovation is Viking's new *Viking Octantis* and *Viking Polaris* expedition product.

“We have become a global brand, one Viking with 10,000 employees exploring 20 rivers, five oceans, five Great Lakes and all seven continents.

“We still think of ourselves as a little company but I must say that what we have accomplished

is remarkable,” he said, paying tribute to Viking's global team & thanking guests for their loyalty.

The line's growth continues, with the recent launch of the new *Viking Saigon* on the Mekong, this month's debut of *Viking Osiris* on the Nile, and the upcoming *Viking Mississippi* which will “bring modern river voyages to America,” he enthused.

“The first 25 years have been good but I feel we're just getting started.”

Cruise Weekly today

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

Another Island Escape cruise off

THE 10 Aug Kimberley departure of the beleaguered *Island Escape* appears to have been cancelled, according to messages from passengers on *Island Escape Cruises'* Facebook page.

There has been no update from new CEO Erik Helseth, who last month told *CW* “we are aiming to resume normal operation from 10 Aug” (*CW* 22 Jul) but has not responded to further queries.

It is the fourth *Island Escape* voyage in a row to be called off, with travel agents and clients furious at a lack of communication from the line.

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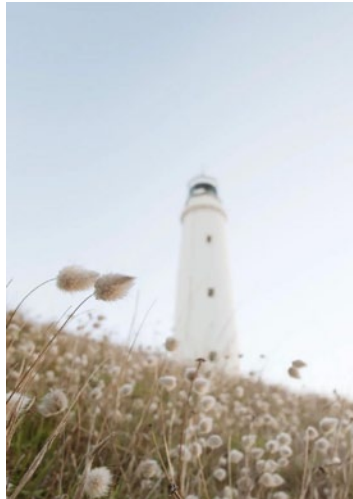


CARNIVAL Cruise Line has made a number of recent "cuts" to its food service permanent, and it's bad news for around-the-clock pizza-lovers.

In a notice sent to travel advisors in recent days, Carnival said it would not be reintroducing 24-hour service to its Pizza Pirate and Pizzeria del Capitano restaurants, which will now close every night at 4am, and reopen at 9am.

Cruise Weekly does not make a habit of staying out until 4am, so is largely unaware of how full said restaurants are at that time.

A jewel for King's crown?



OUTGOING King Island Mayor Julie Arnold has told *Cruise Weekly* she is keen to see the Bass Strait destination develop its cruise industry over the next few years, off the back of the overburden created by the Dolphin Mine.

One of the largest tungsten reserves in Australia, Arnold said the mine provides a "one-off" opportunity to build an all-weather port for King (pictured), which would change the Island's tourism market "quite substantially".

Presently, King can only accept tender visits, which results in a disappointing number of missed calls, a number of tourism stakeholders on King expressed to *Cruise Weekly*.

The expansion of the Island's current port to be able to take larger ships would ensure the viability of all cruise calls, providing confidence for King's tourism businesses, Arnold said.

"We'd like to see an expansion of the time cruise passengers

spend on the island, and that's a bit difficult when you don't have an all-weather port," she said.

Arnold added investment in an expanded port should go into the Island's accommodation offerings, which could see King attract overnight calls.

"What we need to do is to work with the cruise companies to make sure that we fit in with what they want as well," she said.

"We have to be very careful if we have large delegations, and we've got three or four promotions with Keep Australia Beautiful, our golf open, etc, we have to try and schedule those so they don't clash, because we need to make sure that everybody has acceptable accommodation."

Ponant roadshow

PONANT is set to host its 'Explore to Inspire' roadshow series events again in 2022, after two years of allowing for only virtual meetings.

Taking place across Australia from Aug through Oct, the series invites travellers and travel advisors to discover and learn about Ponant's upcoming experiences at sea, and immerse themselves in the cruise line's luxury expeditions and small ship voyages.

Presentations and stories from Ponant's expedition experts will be shared, from speakers including Director of Expeditions & Destination Development Asia Pacific Mick Fogg - register [HERE](#).

Oceania package

A **LUXURIOUS**, three-week summer voyage with Oceania Cruises tracing the sunniest coasts in Europe will set sail in Aug 2023, with keen, early-booking Australians able to enjoy extensive onboard bonuses and a complimentary pre- or post-cruise stay through Cruise Traveller.

Available for bookings made by the end of next month, the new 24-night 'Favourite Mediterranean Rivas' package is centred around an extensive, destination-rich voyage across the Mediterranean from Barcelona to Istanbul aboard *Nautica*.

Sailing on 25 Aug 2023, fares for the package start at \$9,090 per person, twin share - to book, [CLICK HERE](#).


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