



NCLH reports “robust” pax demand

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) overnight released its results for the three months to 31 Mar, with CEO Frank Del Rio (pictured) saying “we are encouraged that customer demand remains robust, with net booking volumes not only back to pre-Omicron levels but now approaching historical levels, despite a temporary retreat due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict”.

The group’s overall loss for the quarter was US\$1 billion, an improvement on the US\$1.4 billion for the previous corresponding period, while major achievements included the full return to service of the entire Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises fleet (CW 09 May).

Del Rio said NCLH’s strategy was now to “ramp up occupancy in a disciplined manner,” with the goal of exceeding historical net



yield figures for the full year 2023 “while maintaining the high guest satisfaction scores and strong onboard revenue generation we are currently experiencing”.

“Pricing remains very strong for future periods, and our value-add bundling strategy is working better than ever”.

Due to the temporary setbacks related to Omicron and the

European conflict, the company’s current booking levels are lower than for the same period in 2019, but “at meaningfully higher pricing even when including the dilutive impact of future cruise credits,” the NCLH CEO said.

Del Rio added that barring another “black swan” event, 2023 was likely to be an extremely strong year for the group, with four new ships to be introduced across the brands over the next 18 months.

They include Norwegian Cruise Line’s *Norwegian Prima* and *Norwegian Viva*, Oceania’s *Vista* and Regent Seven Seas Cruises’ *Seven Seas Grandeur*.

Del Rio told analysts that new vessels are a “meaningful driver of net yield growth and overall profitability, attracting new customers and reigniting loyal past guests to return for new and elevated experiences”.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Ponant bargain

PONANT is offering savings of up to 30% on the brochure fare on two upcoming Kimberley departures, available for Australian and New Zealand guests looking to experience the region in 2022.

Valid on all new bookings made by 20 May for the 28 May (ex Darwin) and 07 Jun (ex Broome) voyages aboard *Le Soleal*, the deal also includes a bonus onboard credit of 150 Euros per person, as well as an \$800 “welcome offer” for guests new to Ponant.

Both departures also have no solo supplement available for single usage of a double cabin - reservation.aus@ponant.com.

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A green guide for cruise

ACA member InterCruises has made huge steps forward in its shore excursion planning with its recent announcement it has achieved certification for an exciting Sustainability Management System, which they have developed.

The certification, obtained from independent organisation, the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, gives InterCruises' tours a "green tick of approval" which will make it easier for cruise passengers to make more sustainable choices when they go ashore.

InterCruises' goal is to have all their experiences worldwide certified against the criteria in the next 12-18 months, which is great news as the cruise industry restarts in our region and passengers are looking for our industry to take a leadership role as ships once again enter our ports.

This announcement also comes as ACA continues its roadshow to key cities throughout Australia, meeting with members and industry colleagues to ensure we are cruise ready in each urban gateway and regional destination.

Following our visits to Queensland and Victoria, our team is in Darwin this week where we will conduct workshops with local operators and also experience firsthand some of the key shore excursion inclusions.

Beyond's new godmother

AMERICAN gymnastics sensation Simone Biles was overnight announced as the official godmother of Celebrity Cruises' new *Celebrity Beyond* which debuted in Europe last month (**CW** 27 Apr).

Biles is a 19-time World Champion and seven-time Olympic medallist, and will formally name the vessel in a ceremony in Fort Lauderdale scheduled for 04 Nov this year.

Celebrity Cruises CEO Lisa Lutoff-Perlo said "Simone is truly the G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time) inside and outside of the gym, and I'm humbled and thrilled to welcome her as godmother of our newest ship *Celebrity Beyond*".

"While I've marvelled at her abilities and historic accomplishments as a gymnast, it's Simone's courage to speak out and her ability to help others be better in sport and in life that has impressed me the most.



"She has risen to the occasion and overcome challenges time and time again...she is an inspiration," Lutoff-Perlo added.

A video showcasing the news is online at cruiseweekly.com.au.

Quest sails again

SEABOURN Cruises has confirmed the resumption of passenger cruises aboard its *Seabourn Quest* after a 26 month operational pause.

The fourth ship in the Seabourn fleet to restart, the 450-guest *Quest* is today welcoming passengers on board in Barcelona for an 11-night itinerary to Italy via Spain, Croatia and Slovenia.

The ship will remain in the Mediterranean until mid-Jul before a 24-night repositioning to North America for a series of Canada and New England voyages.

NZCA conference

THE New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) has announced its 2022 conference will be held on Thu 18 Aug, at the Aotea Centre in Auckland.

The gathering will be "the best opportunity of the year to connect with cruise-focused professionals and network with the very highest levels of industry, both nationally and internationally," the Association said.

Registrations are now open for the conference as well as accommodation offers, with greatly reduced rates thanks to sponsor support - **CLICK HERE**.



AN AMERICAN couple is now living aboard a cruise ship, after calculating the arrangement made "more financial sense" than living on land.

After crunching the numbers, the pair, who are only in their 50s, realised they could live the rest of their lives hopping from cruise ship to cruise ship for less than USD\$30 per day.

Early last year, the wife began to calculate at what age they could afford the venture, and incorporating the sale of their house in the blue-chip city of Seattle, realised it was far sooner than initially thought.

The couple has been living the life of seafaring nomads for 12 months now, and in a declaration which their friends may one day use to taunt them with, the couple told *Life* "we do not plan to permanently live on land in the future" - let's hope their accounting is sound!

Emmylou flash sale

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers' overnight cruises aboard *Emmylou* are now 90% sold for this year, with the line offering a saving of 10% off the final cabins.

The five-day sale allows cruisers to book any 2022 sailing before midnight on Sun for 10% off using the promo code '15May'.

Special Solo Streamer rates are also available, with more details available by calling 03 5482 5244.

CLICK HERE to see the range of current offers.