



Cruise Weekly today

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

Eclipse II on track

SCENIC Luxury Tours & Cruises' *Scenic Eclipse II* is on schedule to launch in Apr 2023, the company says, with construction on the new "ultra-luxury discovery yacht" in its final stages and progressing as planned.

Eclipse II's inaugural voyage will be the 11-Day 'Incredible Iberian Discovery' from Lisbon to Barcelona, departing 13 Apr.

The sister ship to *Scenic Eclipse* offers a new bar area on Deck 10 with a large pool, as well as an expanded spa and wellness area.

The development of *Eclipse II's* build is showcased in a newly released video from Vice-President of Marine Operations James Griffiths - [CLICK HERE](#) to view.

Crystal Cruises debt offers

A **NEW YORK**-based investment firm is offering payouts to creditors of the collapsed Crystal Cruises, which is believed to owe more than US\$100 million to passengers booked on its voyages prior to the bankruptcy of parent firm Genting Hong Kong earlier this year (**CW** 20 Jan).

Argo Partners specialises in "purchasing distressed claims in bankruptcies and insolvencies" and has reached out to creditors, including Australian travel agencies, offering "immediate cash settlements" in exchange for the assignment of their claims.

Initial bids seen by **Cruise Weekly** involve a payment of 5c in the dollar.

Royal considers Oasis deployment

EXCLUSIVE

WITH the newly opened Brisbane International Cruise Terminal having capacity for Royal Caribbean International's Oasis-class ships, the line continues to look at options for the world-class vessels to operate locally.

Speaking to **CW** earlier this week, VP APAC Gavin Smith was enthusiastic about the new Brisbane facility, where *Quantum of the Seas* will be homeported from early next month.

"We've finally got an Oasis class terminal, at the mouth of the Brisbane River, adjacent to the airport with plenty of parking - so go figure!" he said.

Pre-pandemic, Royal's Oasis plans had involved having

ships in China complemented by a possible 10-12 week local deployment which would "just transform the industry".

"That hasn't happened, but it's still a big prospect," he said.

And despite a lack of other Oasis-capable ports in the region, the huge response to next year's Disney Cruise Line local voyages, where the ship is effectively the destination, has suggested that "we can create an experience on an Oasis class ship," Smith said.

He said Royal had previously spoken to New Caledonia about whether an Oasis ship could get into Noumea's container pier, which would only require some minor modifications.

Royal's planned "Perfect Day"

destination at Vanuatu's Lelepa Island is currently a tender port, and would require significant investment to give it an Oasis-capable terminal, Smith added.

MEANWHILE for the moment the strong focus is on a safe, successful restart for Royal Caribbean in local waters, with *Ovation of the Seas* arriving in Sydney on 29 Oct, followed by *Quantum's* Brisbane debut.

Smith said the Queensland season would see Royal carry about 90,000 passengers on 20 departures, with the company targeting about 40,000 local cruisers from South East Qld, about 45,000 from interstate, mainly Vic and SA, and around 5,000 internationals.

A Majestic Sydney arrival



PRINCESS Cruises' *Majestic Princess* cruised into Sydney Harbour just before 5am this morning before docking at the Overseas Passenger Terminal (**pictured**) in the early light.

More than 3,500 guests were on board, with the ship arriving after a 31-day trans-Pacific voyage from Vancouver during which she visited Los Angeles, Papeete, Tauranga, Auckland and the Bay of Islands.

She's the second Princess ship to cruise locally since the cruise pause, joining *Coral Princess*

which has been homeported in Brisbane since Jun this year.

Majestic Princess will be based in Sydney for the next 197 days, with the MedallionClass vessel to operate 17 voyages including 71 port calls across the region with an estimated \$49 million impact to the economy.

Princess is now also eagerly anticipating the arrival of its third local ship, *Grand Princess*, which will join the line's Australian flotilla early next month after which she will be homeported from Melbourne.

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ALASKA is an increasingly popular destination for cruise passengers to visit, but some recent arrivals by sea are hoping to stay forever.

A pair of Russian men have piloted a small boat to a remote Alaskan island in the Bering Sea, and have requested asylum in the USA in an apparent attempt to avoid military service.

A spokesperson for the office of US Senator for Alaska, Lisa Murkowski, confirmed that the US Coast Guard was involved in the case where the fugitives left one of the coastal communities on Russia's east coast and travelled to St Lawrence Island, which is about 60km from Siberia's Chukotka Peninsula.

The visitors were "transported to Anchorage for inspection, which includes a screening and vetting process, and then subsequently processed in accordance with applicable US immigration laws," officials said.

Explora I delay

MSC brand Explora Journeys' first ship will launch later than previously forecast, with *Explora I* to now depart on her maiden journey from Southampton on 17 Jul 2023.

Previously slated for a May delivery, CEO Michael Ungerer cited global supply chain complications for the change, with impacted guests offered a full refund plus an equivalent Future Journey Credit.

CLIA reports on environmental progress

A NEW Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) environmental update details progress toward the sector's vision for net-zero carbon sailing.

The 2022 Global Cruise Industry Environmental Technologies and Practices Report highlights the sector's advancements, but also its need for the development and deployment of sustainable marine fuels.

The report reinforces the sector's credentials as an innovator and early adopter of other environmental technologies, highlighted by the increasing number of ships launching over the new few years which will be able to incorporate zero-emissions propulsion when available.

More than 15% of the vessels to be launched in the next five years will be equipped to incorporate fuel cells or batteries.

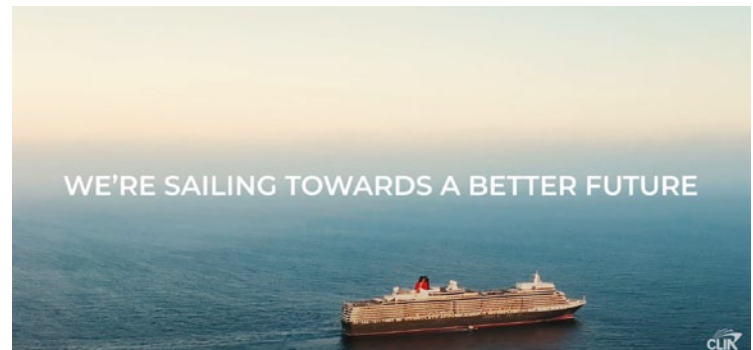
There is also growing investment to equip ships to plug in to shoreside electricity where available.

Ninety-eight percent of new build capacity on order book (between now and 2028) is either committed to be fitted with shore-side electricity systems or will be configured to add shore-side power in the future.

Despite progress made, the report makes clear a transition to sustainable marine fuels is essential to achieving the maritime industry's decarbonisation goals.

Less than two-thirds (61%) of newbuild capacity will rely on LNG fuel for primary propulsion.

"Innovation and engineering



are at the heart of the industry's vision for net zero carbon cruising," said President & Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead.

"The cruise industry continues to lead the way by investing billions to incorporate new technologies, accelerate development of sustainable marine fuels - in particular, engines capable of using sustainable marine fuels - and enable shoreside electricity connectivity on existing and new ships.

"These are the fundamental building blocks for the decarbonisation of global shipping, and we are acting now for the future."

CLIA Chair Pierfrancesco Vago said the cruise sector has always been, and will continue to be, at the cutting-edge of innovation when it comes to environmental and maritime technologies.

"For this next phase of our journey to net-zero as an industry, we now need clear support from governments and policymakers to ensure that the right infrastructure is developed also on land and to encourage the investment and innovation that will be required for the

development of sustainable marine fuels at scale," he said.

The report is based on aggregated data across CLIA's global oceangoing cruise line membership, with full details available at cruising.org, while a video showcasing how the industry is "sailing to a better future" is now online at cruiseweekly.com.au/videos.

To Coral & beyond!

CORAL Expeditions' Circumnavigation of Australia set sail on its pioneering voyage on Mon.

The cruise departed Cairns with 105 guests aboard *Coral Adventurer*.

The sold-out voyage will share experiences ranging from encounters with endemic marine & terrestrial nature & fauna, cultural connections with remote communities, discovering dramatic coastal & tidal landscapes, and learning of the rich heritage of destinations.

At more than 7,000 nautical miles, the cruise will be the largest navigational undertaking in Coral history.