

cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Friday 7th Jul 2023

## Cruise Weekly today

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

### Invading Canberra

A PREMIUM Viking Explorer lunch will be held this month in Canberra, featuring exciting presentations and exclusive offers.

The lunch at the QT Canberra is an opportunity for prospective guests to learn more about Viking's range of voyages.

The afternoon will include welcome drinks and canapes, followed by a two-course lunch with a selection of beer, wine, and beverages.

The lunch will be held on 27 Jul from 11am to 2:30pm, at a ticket price of \$40 per person.

Places are limited, so attendees are encouraged to secure their booking **HERE**.

# Hurtigruten brings up 130 years

**HURTIGRUTEN** is celebrating 130 years of journeying along the Norwegian coast this month.

The cruise line celebrated the anniversary earlier this week with a day of commemoration held at its birthplace Stokmarknes, on the Norwegian island of Hadseloya.

The day started with members of the local community joining staff, crew members, and guests to witness a flotilla of small boats accompany Hurtigruten's ships into the harbour, after which they were invited on board to explore each vessel.

Celebrations continued throughout the day and included complimentary entry into the Norwegian Coastal Express Museum and a free concert.

In a gesture exemplifying the strong historical bond between Hurtigruten and Stokmarknes, the event also saw Captain of *Richard* 



With, Geir Arne Johannessen, present Mayor Siv Dagny Aasvik with a new bow, recognising the town as her new home port (**pictured** with Chief Executive Officer Norway Hedda Felin).

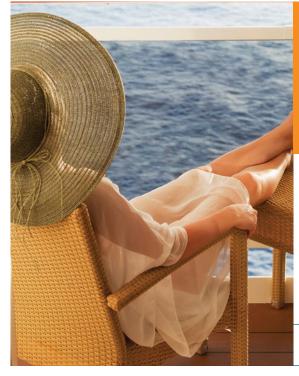
"For over 130 years, Hurtigruten has sailed continuously between the north and south of Norway, accommodating everything from traditional cargo to passengers and international guests," MD Damian Perry said.

"During that time it has always

strived to provide its guests with unforgettable experiences, and this anniversary is a testament to the company's enduring legacy and its significant contribution to the region."

"As a company, we're looking forward to continuing our rich heritage, delivering exceptional voyages, and creating cherished memories for our guests for many more years to come."

To watch the celebrations, **CLICK HERE**.

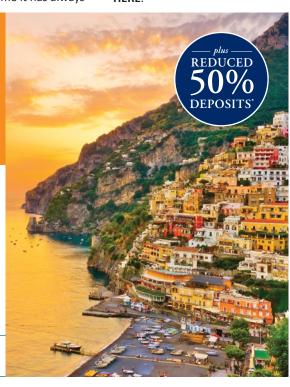




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TRAINING ACADEM



Friday 7th Jul 2023

#### Travelmarvel + Hurti

TRAVELMARVEL has partnered with Hurtigruten on a 10-day Norwegian Coastal Express itinerary.

New for next year, the cruise begins with stays in Oslo and Kirkenes before traversing the Norwegian coastline with five nights aboard a Hurtigruten vessel, with an experienced Travelmarvel tour leader.

Local guides will provide insights into the region's history, geography and geology with a range of onboard lectures and onshore excursions.

Prices begin at \$5,945 per person, twin share, with earlybird savings of up to \$2,500 per couple currently available, including a limited time \$1,500 per couple early payment discount when booked by the end of next month - CLICK HERE.

AURORA Expeditions has thrown its hat in the ring for the assets of collapsed American travel company Vantage, which ceased trading last week and has declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy (CW 03 Jul).

The cruise line's Managing Director Michael Heath (pictured) confirmed it has expressed interest in Vantage, "and should the opportunity arise and the terms reasonable, we are interested in submitting an offer".

Aurora's involvement comes despite the Boston-based company having already detailed a proposed acquisition by interests associated with New Zealand-based Heritage Expeditions and its vessel operator, Nordic Hamburg, under an affiliated Singapore-based firm called United Travel Pte Ltd. Vantage's website notes it is seeking court approval to



complete the sale to United promptly, "subject to any higher and better offers that may be submitted through the courtsupervised sale process".

At a hearing on Wed, a representative of Aurora subsidiary Pacific Travel Partners Inc also confirmed the cruise line's interest in Vantage, saying if United pulls out, it would match the US\$1 million offer for various assets, including the customer

list, website and brand, and could "wire the money immediately".

Another unnamed potential bidder was also represented by an attorney at the hearing.

Vantage operated two expedition vessels under a charter arrangement from Sunstone Ships, which are in the same series as Aurora's Greg Mortimer and Sylvia Earle.

After the hearing the court issued an order approving the sale procedures to United Travel, but specified additional documentation including information on the parent company of the proposed buyer.

As well as the US\$1m price, United will pay a percentage of gross revenues over a fiveyear period from 01 Jan 2024, and provide a credit to Vantage customers who have paid, in whole or part, for a trip reservation made with the firm.

NCL'<u>S CLASS OF</u>

# **SEMESTER 2 - DESTINATION AMERICAS** တြဲ့ Class is in session

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Travel Daily

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**FRED.** Olsen Cruise Lines has made the holiday of a lifetime for 100-year-old Betty Wright, who became a centenarian on board one of the brand's ships.

Wright celebrated her milestone birthday on board *Bolette* with four generations of her family - 13 relatives in total.

The team on board arranged a surprise upgrade for Wright from her single cabin to a Premier suite, filling her room with balloons and scattering petals on the bed.

She was treated to a private tour of the bridge to meet the Captain, presented with three cards with messages from all the 645-strong crew, and had a champagne breakfast and dinner party on her big day.

A century-themed birthday cake was freshly baked by the ship's galley - and was given the seal of approval by Wright.



The beautiful life in Venice

**EUROPEAN** Waterways has announced the addition of a new Venetian Lagoon island-hopping cruise, taking advantage of the banning of larger ships from the Giudecca Canal (*CW* 15 Jul 2021).

The cruise explores the smaller islands of the Venetian Lagoon, and sails aboard European's 20-passenger luxury hotel barge La Bella Vita (pictured).

The vessel cruises between Venice and Mantua along the Po and Tartaro-Canalbianco-Po di Levante, introducing guests to islands such as Burano, Murano, Lido, and Chioggia.



EDITORIAL

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Other highlights of the weeklong voyage include Sant'Erasmo, Pellestrina, and San Lazzaro degli Armeni.

The last stop will be in historic Venice itself, mooring just outside the Museo Storico Navale di Venezia, where guests will visit St. Mark's Square, Basilica di San Pietro di Castello, and Doge's Palace.

Venetian Lagoon cruises start from €3,890 per person based on double occupancy.

Private whole-barge charters are also available starting at €72,500, based on 20 passengers travelling.

"The islands within the lagoon are truly the hidden gems of Venice," Managing Director of Derek Banks noted.

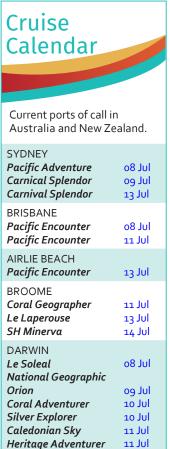
"They are often less crowded, yet equally steeped in the history, culture, art, and traditions of this sophisticated city."

The cruise starts with a Prosecco welcome aboard the barge, with passengers greeted by the captain and crew, followed by the first cruise through the Giudecca Canal at sunset.

For more info, CLICK HERE.

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AUCKLAND Pacific Explorer og Jul

#### Creative + Pandaw

**CREATIVE** Cruising has revealed its exclusive offer with Pandaw, with those who book a seven-night Classic Mekong cruise or a sevennight Lower Ganges cruise to receive a complimentary free flow drinks package.

Travel advisors will also earn 5% bonus commission on the cruise fare.

The offer is valid to the end of next month - call 1300 362 599 for travel dates.

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