



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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Friday 9th Jun 2023

10 more for Viking

VIKING founder Torstein Hagen has confirmed the cruise line's plan to launch another 10 newbuild ocean ships by 2030.

Speaking aboard Viking's 10th ocean ship during her christening ceremony in New York City (**CW** yesterday), Hagen said "after COVID we've been ordering ships left, right and centre...they're coming fast and furious".

The first of the new vessels will debut next year as *Viking Vela*, with the ships slightly larger than the current fleet, carrying 998 passengers each.

Six of the newbuilds are firm orders and four are options, with a delivery schedule involving one launch every year until 2028 and then two in each of 2029 and 2030, reflecting Hagen's belief in an upcoming cruise industry capacity crunch.

Scenic \$26m settlement

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours said while it is disappointed at the decision in the long-running class action relating to the 2013 European floods (**CW** breaking news), "the outcome is in line with our financial provisioning, given the previous court decisions and subsequent appeals".

Speaking to **Cruise Weekly** yesterday in the wake of the announcement, Scenic Group General Manager Sales & Marketing Anthony Laver also stressed the headline figure of \$26 million was subject to court ratification and was a "worst case scenario" based on full payouts to the estimated 1,200 plaintiffs.

"Of course we are not happy about it, but we're relieved that after 10 years we have finally reached a point where we can move on," he said.

Somerville Legal, the North Sydney law firm which started

the case after one of its partners was caught up in the floods, said members of the group would be compensated "for the reduction in value of their respective cruises, and the distress and disappointment suffered as a consequence of the failure by Scenic to provide cruises in accordance with the purpose and result guaranteed".

A test case in 2021 estimated the claims of 32 "sample" group members at damages of up to \$20,635 each, and Scenic's appeal of that decision was recently dismissed by the NSW Court of Appeal, leading to yesterday's settlement announcement.

Scenic said it is committed to delivering scheduled itineraries, adding "we take nothing for granted and continue to invest in our River Cruise Cover and itineraries for the benefit of our guests."

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY

<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	09 Jun
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	09 Jun
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	12 Jun
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	13 Jun

CAIRNS

<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	14 Jun
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	16 Jun

AIRLIE BEACH

<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	15 Jun
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BROOME

<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	09 Jun
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	14 Jun
<i>Le Ponant</i>	16 Jun

DARWIN

<i>Coral Geographer</i>	09 Jun
<i>Silver Explorer</i>	10 Jun
<i>Le Laperouse</i>	12 Jun
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	15 Jun

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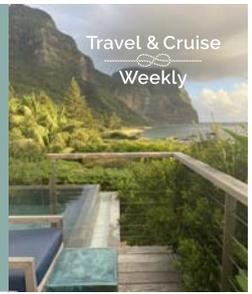
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THE cruise industry is very forthright about its environmentally friendly credentials, and one lucky cruiser will be soon also!

A new contest from Princess Cruises and Xponential Fitness in the United States offers the opportunity to "walk to win" an all-electric Porsche Taycan.

American XPASS app users who achieve a 30-day fitness streak can qualify for the contest, as can Princess guests who use MedallionPay Shoreside when shopping at almost 30 destinations throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, and Alaska.

The contest follows a similar giveaway last year which drew nearly a million entries.



No CW on Mon

CRUISE Weekly will not be published on Mon due to the observance of the King's Birthday on Mon in all states and territories except Queensland and Western Australia.

CW will return on Tue to bring the cruise industry all the latest news.

CW readers say no to Yarra Bay

ALMOST every Cruise Weekly reader supports the development of a third cruise terminal in Sydney - but not in Yarra Bay.

A survey recently conducted by the Australian cruise news leader found 97% of respondents endorse the development of a third terminal, but only about a quarter of them believe it should be in Yarra Bay.

Almost two-thirds (61%) of respondents believe the Government of New South Wales was right to eliminate Yarra Bay as an option for the third Sydney terminal (CW 29 May), while 12% said they are unsure.

However a pre-existing port located outside of metropolitan Sydney (such as Port Kembla) should not be considered either, with almost two-thirds (64%) voting against this proposal.

The remainder (36%) would favour this approach, which

is often seen in Europe, in destinations such as London, Rome, Athens, and Venice.

The inner-city harbour locality of Garden Island, currently used by the Royal Australian Navy, was favoured by most readers as the site for the third terminal, with other popular suggestions including Neutral Bay, Kirribilli, the Opera House, and Manly.

Almost three-quarters of respondents believe Sydney is at threat of losing out to other Australian destinations if no third cruise terminal can be realised.

Seventy-three percent think rival ports such as Melbourne and Brisbane could poach business from Sydney, while 18% think Sydney is in no danger.

Readers also warned against future obsolescence of a new cruise terminal, with many stressing it must be able to accommodate two Oasis-class ships.

Former cruise line executive and Cruise Lines International Association Chair Steve Odell told Cruise Weekly the Government of NSW cancelling Yarra Bay without announcing an alternative left it open to speculation and criticism.

"First and foremost the key stakeholders, including the cruise industry, the Sydney business community, and tourism bodies, need clarity and reassurance around how the region can continue to capitalise on the booming resurgence and demand for cruise travel," he explained.

"Sydney is not operating in a vacuum - Melbourne and Brisbane especially are capitalising on the opportunity.

"The most dramatic scenario is that cruise lines simply won't come at all with additional capacity and deploy cruise ships elsewhere, which will be a lost opportunity for everyone."

Aurora offers

AURORA Expeditions has announced limited-time offers for the 2023/2024 Antarctica season, including an air credit of \$1,000 per person on the Antarctic Explorer Express.

The cruise departs Ushuaia on 10 Feb, on board Aurora's latest ship *Sylvia Earle*.

Aurora is also offering up to a 25% saving on its Special Guest and themed voyages for this Antarctic season plus a \$100 cash voucher for each new booking until the end of Sep.

The offers must be booked and deposited by 30 Sep - see auroraexpeditions.com.au.

Tahiti looks nice!

ARANUI Cruises has announced significant savings on several upcoming cruises in French Polynesia, aboard its *Aranui 5* freighter.

On offer until sold out, discounts of 30% apply to Marquesas Islands voyages departing in Jul and Aug, meaning prices start at \$5,596 per person - a \$2,200 saving.

Children aged 3-17 can also travel for a set price of \$1,982 in any cabin with their family.

There's also 20% off the 12-day Austral Islands cruise departing Papeete on 09 Sep - more at aranui.com.

UnCruise fire

THERE were no injuries from the engine room fire on Mon aboard UnCruise Adventures' *Wilderness Discoverer* in Glacier Bay National Park.

All 78 passengers and crew members are safe after being successfully evacuated from the ship with the help of the nearby *Sapphire Princess*, and were provided hotels and flights home, as well as offered full refunds.

The cause of the engine room fire is yet to be determined and an investigation is currently underway, UnCruise said.