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Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Viking**.

\$10k up for grabs

ONE travel advisor will win \$10,000 in Rewards by Viking points, as part of Viking's "The Heart of Exploring" competition (**CW** 05 Jun) - "the industry's biggest incentive".

To enter the competition, advisors must book a Viking river, ocean, or expedition voyage between 01 Jun and 31 Aug.

Every new booking will automatically earn an entry into the draw.

For more information and to discover how you can win your share in the points, contact agents.anz@vikingcruises.com, or head to the **cover page** of today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Island Escape sold for US\$5.5 million

THE receivers of the collapsed Island Escape Cruises have confirmed the sale of the line's 32-passenger *Island Escape* newbuild for just US\$5.5 million, under orders made by the Federal Court of Australia subsequent to the ship's arrest in Broome last year (**CW** 25 Aug 2022).

The buyer is understood to be associated with the Paspaley Group, which took the vessel over in Feb this year, according to the ABC, although the proceeds are yet to be distributed by the Federal Court, according to the most recent report to creditors.

While significantly less than the cost of similar vessels, Federal Court judge James Feutrill noted that *Island Escape's* condition has deteriorated, while the vessel has "some unusual features that render the pool of potential buyers limited, and it is difficult to accurately estimate the value

of the ship".

Liquidators from New Zealand-based accounting firm Chapman Atkins confirmed the sale has left a significant shortfall to secured creditors, with the *Island Escape* group owing \$11.8 million to Export Finance Norway and another \$8.5 million to the Bank of New Zealand.

Island Escape's most recent balance sheet recorded almost \$1 million in unsecured trade creditors and \$1.7 million in customer deposits.

Forward bookings amounted to \$1.5 million for New Zealand cruises, and \$4.7 million for Australian departures, the liquidators said.

"Subject to further verification, given the shortfall to the financiers, there will be no distribution to unsecured creditors, including cruise ship customers of the company," the

report noted.

Trade creditors include several Kimberley- and NZ-based suppliers, as well as APT-owned Captain's Choice, which had planned a charter of the vessel.

Tour operator World Journeys and shore excursion providers Fjordland Tours and Southern Lakes Helicopters are also owed money, as are more than 100 individual customers, who are listed as unsecured creditors.

Island Escape ceased trading just weeks after Chief Executive Officer Erik Helseth assured **Cruise Weekly** guests booked on a series of abruptly cancelled Kimberley departures would receive full refunds (**CW** 21 Jul 2022).

Island Escape was delivered by Norway's VARD shipyard in Oct 2021 and started sailing in Jan 2022, just eight months before the cruise line's collapse.



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Travel Daily

New NCLH post

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has strengthened its executive team with the addition of maritime veteran Patrik Dahlgren.

The long-time Royal Caribbean Cruises doyen has joined NCLH's leadership team as Executive Vice President Vessel Operations.

Dahlgren will oversee marine and technical operations, hotel operations, entertainment, cruise programs, and security across NCLH's three brands, reporting to President and Chief Executive Officer-elect Harry Sommer.

He has succeeded Robin Lindsay, who will serve as Executive Vice President Newbuild & Refurbishment overseeing NCLH's robust newbuild program and refurbishment projects.

MSC Euribia named in Copenhagen

MSC Cruises has officially named its new flagship *MSC Euribia* (pictured) in Copenhagen.

The traditional maritime ceremony also marked a significant step toward MSC's net zero 2050 pledge, with *Euribia* the cruise line's most energy-efficient cruise ship ever.

Featuring a range of technologies and solutions which minimise her impact on the air and marine environment, *Euribia* is also MSC's second vessel powered by LNG.

The celebratory naming event was presented by Danish model Sarah Grunewald, and was attended by distinguished guests, key travel partners, and more.

Godmother of MSC's fleet and Italian actress Sophia Loren was also in attendance to officially name *Euribia*, continuing her long-standing close relationship with the cruise line.



The momentous occasion also included live entertainment and speeches, combined with the important maritime tradition of cutting the ribbon to break a bottle of champagne over *Euribia's* bow.

Guests were also treated to a gourmet gala dinner and a performance by French record producer Bob Sinclar, who closed

out the evening.

Euribia has now set sail for her inaugural season in Northern Europe, offering guests a wide variety of new and enriching experiences.

During her maiden voyage, *Euribia* completed a net zero GHG emissions journey from Saint-Nazaire to Copenhagen (CW 26 May).

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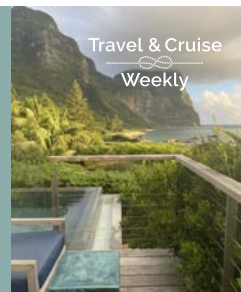
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TWO Chinese farmers have been detained after an “illegal dragon boat race” was held on a river in Rui’an.

Local police detained the two for organising the race without the proper permit or approval.

The incident saw a dragon boat capsize, throwing all passengers into the water; fortunately, none were injured.

The organisers were punished with a total of 16 days administrative detention.

The incident occurred after an announcement by the local government in Apr, banning privately organised dragon boat races without permits, citing quality, and safety concerns.

According to local news reports, dragon boat races have led to conflicts and violence in the region since the Qing dynasty.

Holland America gets up close



HOLLAND America Line has expanded its ‘Alaska Up Close’ program with new culinary and cultural experiences.

Fresh fish, wildlife spotting, and even new cocktails with authentic glacier ice will highlight the enhanced experience, which will be introduced throughout this year’s Alaska season.

Added to every cruise in the state, guests will find new localised cuisine, an Alaska-themed brunch, a Huna native presentation, as well as wildlife experts to help guests spot the abundance of indigenous animals from the ship’s deck.

The program will also continue to deliver workshops and lectures, EXC Talks exploring the stories of real Alaskans, and dining events featuring the culinary traditions of the region.

“Since launching Alaska Up Close we’ve introduced incredible programming that brings an authentic Alaska experience to our guests like no other cruise

line,” Senior Vice President Guest Experience & Product Development Michael Smith said.

“This season we’re growing the program to embed Alaskan fresh fish and wildlife spotting into the cruise on an even more expansive scale, from new localised cuisine and cocktails to exciting lectures and wildlife viewing.

“We want our guests to have experiences they can’t find anywhere else.”

Pictured: *Nieuw Amsterdam*.

Shop ‘til you drop

CARNIVAL Cruise Line’s (CCL) new ship *Carnival Venezia* will offer a “fun Italian style” shopping experience, as well as the fleet’s first luxury boutiques.

CCL has partnered with Starboard Cruise Services to deliver Italian-inspired retail offerings, as well as the new and exclusive *Carnival Venezia* Collections.

The ship’s boutiques will feature iconic brands such as Bvlgari, Cartier, Versace, Tom Ford, Love Moschino, Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, and Fendi.

Venezia’s upscale offerings will also include a dedicated luxury leather shop with unique items from Marc Jacobs and Emporio Armani.

Meanwhile at Front Street Watches, guests can indulge in classic timepieces from Bremont, Gucci, Longines, Michele, and Philip Stein.

The three distinct *Carnival Venezia* Collections include Masquerade Accessories, the Racing Stripes Collection, and the Inaugural Collection.

Tee best cruise yet

PASSENGERS on a sailing with Costa Cruises during Sep and Oct can experience the excitement of the Ryder Cup.

Costa is the official cruise line of the biennial men’s golf competition, and is offering the opportunity to watch the tournament on board *Costa Smeralda* or *Costa Toscana*.

The Ryder Cup is being held in Italy for the first time this year from 25 Sep to 01 Oct.

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