



Cruise Weekly today

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

Freely cruise boost

END-TO-END travel insurance application Freely has launched its Explorer Plan, which includes cruise boost with automatic COVID-19 coverage.

Those who purchase the Explorer Plan and cruise boost are automatically covered for COVID-19, whether it's related to pre-trip cancellations, on-trip medical expenses, or trip amendments due to a personal diagnosis of COVID-19 coronavirus.

Automatic coverage for river cruises is also included as a feature of Freely's updated Explorer Plan - more information [HERE](#).

AQV to pull out of the Great Lakes

AMERICAN Queen Voyages (AQV) will sell its coastal cruise ships and pull out of the Great Lakes, it has been reported.

Following this season, AQV will focus on river cruises.

AQV plans to sell *Ocean Navigator* and *Ocean Voyager* ships, although all published voyages will continue as planned through Nov.

The cruise line plans to focus on updating and improving the river product, such as with new partnerships or an elevated culinary program, AQV President Cindy D'Aoust said.

"Our customers consistently tell us our US river itineraries are exceptional and demonstrate this by returning again and again," she said.

AQV is part of Hornblower's "overnight division" led by Journey Beyond Chief Executive Officer Chris Tallent.

Sip sip hooray for Oceania



OCEANIA Cruises has launched a rare wine collection across its fleet, featuring 80 new labels from the world's top vineyards.

The new extensive collection features wines from some of the most well-known wine regions of the world, with exclusive sommelier-led programs on its newest vessel *Vista*.

With various selections of new and old-world options, celebration wines, classic tastings, and dessert pairings, each offering has been hand-selected by Oceania's culinary team, with every bottle taking six to eight months to receive from elite suppliers in the industry.

Highlights from the new collection include rare wine varieties like the classic Penfolds Bin 28 Kalimna Shiraz; the consummate Moët & Chandon Cuvee Dom Perignon; the famous Chateau Mouton Rothschild, 1er Cru Classe; the elegant Ornellaia "Super Tuscan", Bolgheri Superiore; the hard-to-source Mascot; and the newly popular Vina Errazuriz Kai Carmenere.

Guests are invited to try these newly featured labels and more at all restaurants, bars, and suites across all seven ships, as well as various-size bottles ranging from half-sized to magnum.

Complementing the new rare

wine collection, Oceania has additionally launched three new dining experiences and five new pairing menus aboard *Vista*.

Taking inspiration from the new collection, guests now have the opportunity to join the head sommelier and his team during a two-hour exclusive Cellar's Wine Luncheon in the fleet's newest restaurant Ember.

This hand-selected tasting features a five-course menu with each dish paired with a different premium wine.

New for the line, *Vista* has eight-person private dining rooms in its iconic Polo Grill and Toscana restaurants, each delivering two new tantalising menus featuring a specially curated selection of gourmet dishes paired with premium wines from the onboard culinary team.

"As we continue to expand our rare wine program and world-class onboard experiences, we are privileged to rely on the expert knowledge of our top culinary team who are actively collaborating and seeking out new products in the global food and beverage scene," President Frank Del Rio Jr said.

"We look forward to hearing the stories of our guests' memorable moments and shared celebrations".

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY		
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>		26 Jun
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		30 Jun
CAIRNS		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		24 Jun
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		25 Jun
AIRLIE BEACH		
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>		25 Jun
DARWIN		
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>		23 Jun
<i>Silver Explorer</i>		30 Jun
<i>Coral Geographer</i>		30 Jun
AUCKLAND		
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>		30 Jun

HAL Nat Geo tours

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has introduced new National Geographic Day Tours to its Mediterranean Cruises.

The immersive, sustainable tours in Greece, Spain, Turkey, and Italy permit guests to explore in-depth at historically and culturally significant sites.

The exclusive shore excursions were developed with National Geographic, and begin this northern summer on *Oosterdam* and *Nieuw Statendam*.

Guests can discover powerful female figures in Kusadasi, experience a day in the life of a marine biologist in Naples, learn about organic honeybee farms in Rhodes, and meet local families in Santorini.

Each tour is led by a National Geographic trained guide.

The new tours are available on seven-day to 14-day itineraries departing from Trieste, Piraeus, Barcelona, Rhodes, Kusadasi, Santorini, and Naples.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



PASSENGERS aboard Princess Cruises' new ship *Sun Princess* will be able to have their own *Twilight Zone* moment, when she launches next year.

Director Newbuild Guest Experience & Product Development Richard Parker told viewers of a webinar hosted by the cruise line yesterday, about *Sun's* "mystery door", and left no illusions as to why it will be called so.

"We have this mysterious black door...and I'm not going to tell you anything about it," Parker quipped.

"You'll have to come on *Sun Princess* to find out what it is...I think our guests will love it," he added.



The *Sun* revolves around you



PRINCESS Cruises envisioned its upcoming ship *Sun Princess* (render **pictured**) as a vessel which looks "outwards, not inwards", according to Richard Parker, Director Newbuild Guest Experience & Product Development.

Speaking on a webinar hosted by Princess yesterday, Parker said the cruise line not only wanted to build a ship which looks "iconic", but a vessel which champions its environment.

"What we wanted to do is build a ship that looked outward... many ships today for other brands look inwards," he said.

"We're in such a unique environment, we have incredible views when you're at sea, that

view is unmatched.

"What we wanted to do is celebrate those views, we wanted to have the ship looking outwards to see those views, and also allow all of that natural light to come into the ship."

One of the themes Princess considered when designing and constructing *Sun* is "evolution", not "revolution", Parker said, with one of the expanded spaces on board the fan-favourite Piazza.

"What we wanted to do in here also is really embrace it as an entertainment venue," he added.

"We already use the Piazza on the Royal-class and the Grand-class as an entertainment venue, but we really want to embrace it on the *Sun*."

NCL Groups webinar

IF YOUR clients are thinking of cruising in Groups, join Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) dedicated webinar next week.

Viewers will learn all about NCL's Affinity Groups Program, taking agents through the ins and outs of the cruise line's groups program, including the perks involved for travel advisors and passengers, complete with examples.

The webinar will take place on Tue at 10:30am AEST - **CLICK HERE** to register.

Almost sold out!

VIKING'S new Malta, Morocco & the Mediterranean voyage is almost sold out, with all four departures expected to be fully bought up by the end of the month.

The 16-day Barcelona round trip has already become one of Viking's most popular ocean itineraries since it launched in Apr.

"We are encouraging anyone interested in this culturally diverse voyage to secure their staterooms now," Managing Director Michelle Black said.

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