



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from **Windstar Cruises**.

### Windstar in Greece

**DISCOVER** Windstar Cruises' degrees of difference in Greece, with the voyage of a lifetime on one of the line's 148-guest sailing yachts, or its newly reimagined 312-guest *Star Legend*.

The cruise line will sail through the Corinth Canal and visit hidden destinations such as Patmos and the ancient fortress-town Monemvasia.

Almost all of Windstar's Greece voyage will include a complimentary white-glove dinner at the ancient Library of Celsus, exclusive to Windstar guests - see **page 4** for more info on the cruise line.

## Hurtigruten's net zero ship possible by 2030

### EXCLUSIVE

**HURTIGRUTEN'S** Sea Zero project (**CW** 08 Jun 2023), the line's journey to building its first zero-emission ship, will be key to its efforts to achieve net zero, ahead of the introduction of stricter cruise regulations in Norway from 2026 (**CW** 18 Jan).

Although Sea Zero is based on technology which does currently exist, Chief Executive Officer Hedda Felin told **Cruise Weekly** construction on the ship, which is being co-funded by the Norwegian government, has not begun yet.

Building will need to begin by 2028 for her 2030 timeline to be realised, following the phasing out of traditional marine fuel from Norway's World Heritage Listed fjords from 2026.

Despite this, the Sea Zero project is "progressing as it should", Felin reported.

"Construction is not decided yet, it has some, I [wouldn't] say barriers, but dependencies to make it possible," she said.

"We need more powerful power stations along the coast, so that's a discussion with individual governments," Felin said.

"The partners are selected, feasibility studies and all technology has been tested and proven, concepts and models are designed, we need to start building," she added.

Felin has backed her line's position of more regulations on the Norwegian cruise industry (**CW** yesterday), admitting she would personally like to see even stricter management along the entire Norwegian coast.

She said Hurtigruten will be prepared once the stricter regulations commence their roll-out, however Sea Zero will be key to ensuring this readiness.

The project started as a mission to see what is possible with current technology, and what it will take to reach net-zero.

Felin said all ideas were on the table at the start, including nuclear, wind, hydrogen, and ammonia, among others.

The project will be completed transparently, Felin added, in hopes of inspiring the industry.

Hurtigruten's hybrid retrofitting plan (**CW** 23 Sep 2022) is also going well, with one ship remaining to be modified.

"We're very pleased with the project execution; we only have one ship left this year and then the entire fleet has been done," Felin said.

"The ships will last for 10-20 more years because of the energy efficiency measures.

"The fuel savings have been amazing, and then we'll integrate biofuel also," she enthused. **MS**

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## Scenic announces sub for *Eclipse II*

**SCENIC** Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced the delivery of its next-generation submersible *Scenic Neptune II* (pictured), on board *Scenic Eclipse II*.

The new submersible features 270-degree panoramic views while diving up to 100 metres below the surface, and arrives in time for *Eclipse II*'s inaugural season in Oceania, which will commence today with a voyage from Valparaiso across the Pacific.

*Neptune II*, which was built in collaboration with Triton Submersibles, recently received its safety certification after completing sea trials.

"The clarity of the acrylic hull once submerged is such that you feel at one with the water," Scenic Director of Discovery Operations Jason Flesher said.

"Encountering the vibrant marine life of the South Pacific and Australia's Great Barrier



Reef within *Scenic Neptune II* will create memories to last a lifetime," he added.

*Eclipse II* will arrive in Australia, where Scenic was founded, for the first time on 20 Apr, and will journey along the eastern states and Northern Australia, the Kimberley, Indonesia, the South

Pacific, New Zealand, and East Antarctica over next two years.

The ship will also include two state-of-the-art helicopters, and four seabobs which will glide below the surface of the ocean.

Each voyage will be led by an expert Discovery Team who will provide destination insights. *MS*

## Vancouver record

**AN ESTIMATED** 1.27 million cruise travellers are expected to pass through Port of Vancouver's Canada Place terminal over the 2024 season, marking a new record for the Western Canadian city.

The anticipated number was revealed as the first cruise ship of the season, Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Wonder*, arrived to begin her 2024 seasonal Alaska deployment.

The season began this week, and will run until 29 Oct, with the record passenger influx around 2% more than the previous record set last year, with 329 ship visits scheduled.

Each vessel calling in Vancouver injects an estimated \$3 million into the local economy, supporting nearly 7,000 jobs across Canada.

*Wonder* arrived in Vancouver after her Australian season.

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**CHOPS** Grille has been voted the best specialty restaurant on board Royal Caribbean International ships, according to a passenger survey.

More than 1,000 of the cruise line's loyalists voted in the poll, according to the unofficial *Royal Caribbean Blog*, with the popular steakhouse coming out on top.

Chops beat out 13 other options, garnering 28% of the vote, while 150 Central Park, which serves up modern fare, came in second with 22% of the vote.

In distant third and fourth were teppanyaki joint Izumi Hibachi (9%) and experimental kitchen Wonderland (8%), leaving little doubt as to the two most popular specialty dining locations on board Royal Caribbean's ships.

### Viking Explorer sale

IT IS the last chance to save with Viking's Explorer sale for those booking a 2025 or 2026 river, ocean, or expedition cruise, which is available until 28 Mar.

The sale includes return economy flights to Europe on river journeys, and to Southeast Asia on 15-day river cruises, as well as up to \$3,000 flight credit per couple on '25 and '26 ocean voyages.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

## Swan's new Arctic season



**SWAN** Hellenic has announced Arctic special Northern Lights Voyages exploring Greenland, the Northwest Passage, and Northern Canada in Aug and Sep.

The four new voyages will sail when the Northern Lights are most visible, cruising across the Arctic aboard *Vega* (pictured).

The first is the 'Iceland, East Greenland and the Northern Lights' from 18 to 30 Aug - a 12-night circumnavigation of Iceland which cruises round trip from Reykjavik.

This cultural expedition cruise can be joined with *Vega's* next voyage, the 10-night Greenland in Depth, which departs from Reykjavik to Kangerlussuaq from 30 Aug to 09 Sep.

The 'Canadian Northwest Passage and the Northern Lights', from 09 Sep to 25 Sep, is a 16-night expedition which sails return from Kangerlussuaq, making its way through the Northwest Passage.

This voyage is one of Swan Hellenic's 'Maris Culinary Discovery at Sea Series', in partnership with JRE-Jeunes Restaurateurs, with Michelin-starred chef Alexandra Muller from Switzerland to accompany

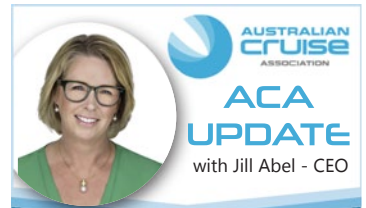
guests throughout the cruise, serving a different signature dish every night in the lead-up to a sumptuous gala dinner.

This cruise is also one of Swan Hellenic's 'Explore Space at Sea Series', in partnership with the SETI Institute (*CW* 12 Dec 2022), with renowned astronomer Uma Gorti, an expert in star and planet formation, to accompany guests on board and ashore, giving two talks during the voyage.

The fourth of these special Northern Lights cruises is the 'Canadian Arctic and Northern Lights', from 25 Sep to 10 Oct, which sails from Kangerlussuaq on a 15-night voyage to Halifax. The cruise discovers Greenland's glaciers, fjords, and icebergs to the wilds and Inuit cultures of Northern Canada.

"We are very proud of these Arctic Northern Lights voyages with their exceptional onboard experiences," Chief Commercial Officer Patrizia Iantorno said.

"They not only offer rare access to the raw beauty, history and cultures of these remote, pristine regions, but also bring special opportunities to witness the Northern Lights from land and sea," she added. *MS*



### Govt and cruise unite

LAST week's quarterly Visitor Economy Stakeholder Forum provided the perfect opportunity for government and industry representatives to continue important discussions around sustainability.

ACA was able to showcase what is being done by our members to deliver results onshore.

Many of our ground handlers and DMOs for example have partnered with organisations like Earthcheck to undertake training modules covering the foundations of sustainability for their operations.

Several have also worked with Ecotourism Australia to access the Strive 4 Sustainability Scorecard evaluation program - a pathway to eco-certification.

Our Port Authorities are also taking a leading role looking at shorepower options as well as battery, solar and energy efficiency upgrades.

Today I am attending the Destination Australia conference in Sydney.

The event, themed 'The next chapter for sustainable growth' will again focus on the future of our broader tourism industry, regarding best practice as we move beyond pre-COVID growth.

I am sure there will be much to take away from this forum as we look at the next steps for the Australian tourism industry.

I want to close by recognising industry colleague and friend, Cruise New Zealand founder Craig Harris, who was inducted into the CLIA Hall of Fame at the Awards ceremony last weekend.

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