

MSC crash sparks Venice cruise ban talk

MSC Cruises' 2,679-pax vessel *MSC Opera* has collided with Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's *River Countess* while attempting to dock at the San Basilio pier in Venice, Italy.

The accident was caused by a suspected mechanical issue on board *Opera* which resulted in the ship losing control and ploughing into the moored Uniworld ship & grazing the dock.

Four *Countess* passengers were injured during the incident, including one Australian and one New Zealander.

In a statement released a short time ago, MSC Cruises said following the technical failure "the captain immediately applied all required procedures" and are collaborating closely with the Venetian maritime authorities.

"MSC Cruises is committed to offer its full support to all the persons involved in the incident...



SOURCE: Youtube.

especially the four pax who were injured," the cruise line said.

In response, Uniworld has dispatched a crisis team to Venice to evaluate the *River Countess* and assist affected guests including organising alternative hotel accommodation.

The accident has already earned the ire of the Italian Government, with the country's Minister of the Environment Sergio Costa taking to Twitter to call for a ban on cruise ships sailing the city's Giudecca canal.

"Cruise ships must not sail down the Giudecca. We have been

working on moving them for months now," Costa posted.

Venice has been the subject of overtourism fears in recent times, with the city's Govt revealing its intentions this year to introduce a new visitor tax (TD 02 Jan 2019).

The MSC Cruises mishap follows a similar incident in 2018 when its *MSC Armonia* ship struck a dock in Honduras (CW 12 Apr 2018).

Cruise Weekly today

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

CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in Shanghai

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

TODAY'S Cruise Weekly is coming to you from Shanghai, China where we are preparing to board the new *Spectrum of the Seas* for its inaugural sailing and official naming ceremony.

The first of Royal's Quantum Ultra class ships features an array of new onboard attractions such as the Sky Pad, a high-flying virtual reality bungee trampoline experience.

Stay tuned to **CW** and **Travel Daily** for more details.

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Monday 3rd June 2019

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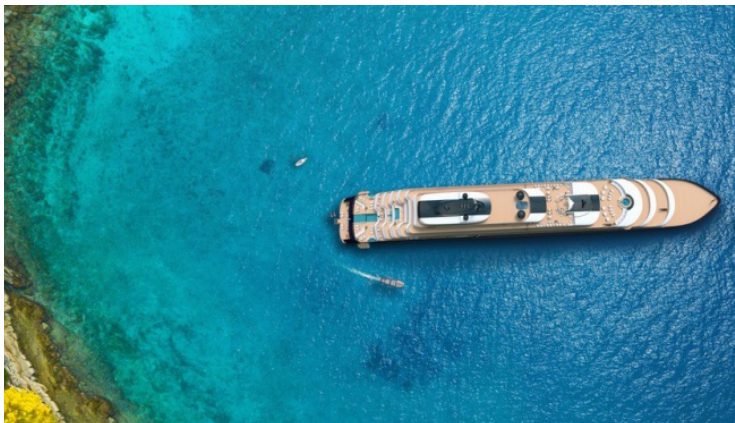
THE travel agency which organised the tour that left dozens of South Koreans either killed or missing on the Danube has flagged its intentions to take legal action against Viking River Cruises.

The tour boat ferrying South Korean tourists on a Very Good Tour trip capsized after colliding with the *Viking Sigyn* in Hungary last week (**CW** 31 May 2019).

"We'll decide on our position after the investigation...but we plan to take legal action against the cruise operator, owner and the captain," a spokesperson for Very Good Tour told South Korean media.

"We're not sure whether we will do so or the insurance company will, but there will be action taken because it is related to compensation for our customers".

Ritz-Carlton asks for seconds



THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has announced plans to construct a second ship, lending further weight to its burgeoning cruise ambitions.

"The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection is delighted to announce the construction of its second yacht at the Hijos De J. Barreras Shipyard in Vigo, Spain," said the cruise line's Chief Executive Douglass Prothero.

"This custom-built yacht will be a true sister ship and follow the same design and styling as the first yacht," he added.

An official keel laying ceremony is expected to take place later this year, with the delivery of the company's first vessel also due later in 2019.

Pictured: A rendering of one of Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's upcoming vessels.

American discounts

THE American Queen Steamboat Company is currently offering savings of up to US\$1,600 per couple on 20 river cruises departing in 2019 and 2020 aboard two of its largest paddlewheel ships.

The deals apply to eight-night river cruises on board either *American Queen* or *American Empress*, sailing between Memphis and New Orleans or Alton on the Mississippi River.

Round-trip sailings departing Vancouver, Washington on the Columbia River are also available under the deal.

Deals are available until 31 Jul and packages include pre-cruise accommodation, hop-on-hop-off shore excursions, beer and wine with dinner, and specialty coffees throughout the cruise.

For further info regarding the deal, call 1800 507 777.

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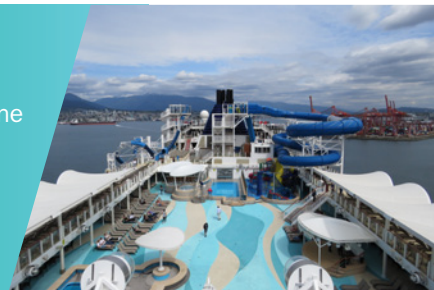
CRUISE

WEEKLY

Monday 3rd June 2019

See why NCL's new *Joy* is perfect for Aussies heading to Alaska in June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read
travelBulletin



Travelmarvel deals

TO MARK the launch of Travelmarvel's new 2020 Europe brochure, the company is offering earlybird savings including fly free deals on all dates and cabins on European Gems and Russia River Cruises.

The special offer includes savings up to \$3,000 per couple on select Portugal River Cruises, as well as great discounts on Croatia coastal cruises, rail or land journeys.

Up to \$1,000 per couple can also be saved on select Travelmarvel Gems River Cruises, city stays, rail and land tour combinations.

To find out more about the offer, call Travelmarvel on 1300 205 408 or visit travelmarvel.com.au.

Riviera boasts new style



OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled a host of enhancements to its *Riviera* ship during her recent dry dock in Marseille, France as part of the cruise line's OceaniaNEXT program.

The ship's most notable change is its all-new coffee bar, in addition to deck 14's new lounge which boasts sweeping sea views.

Featured in the new bar is a new silver Victoria Arduino espresso machine, referred to by coffee aficionados as the "Rolls Royce of coffee".

Riviera's 200 concierge and 244



veranda staterooms, and 124 penthouse suites also received stylish new makeovers, now featuring new carpeting and



fabrics with tones of caramel, ivory and espresso.

Designed by Los Angeles-based Trevor R Howells Interior Design, the Owner's Suites are intended to reflect the glamour and style of the label Ralph Lauren.

"With the evolution of OceaniaNEXT, this was a great opportunity to not just enhance the guest experience aboard *Riviera*, but to elevate it through the addition of surprising new elements," said Bob Binder, President & CEO of Oceania.

Similar enhancements will be carried out on *Riviera's* sister ship *Marina* in May 2020.

Pictured top: Owner's Suite Living room, **inset left:** Owner's Suite Foyer and **inset above** Penthouse Suite.

Evergreen Russia

EVERGREEN Cruises & Tours is currently offering discounted rates on its Russia and the Dalmatian cruise program for 2020 when bookings are made by 30 Sep.

Earlybird deals include the 20-day Imperial Charms of Russia and Enchantment of Eastern Europe River Cruise available for \$9,010pp - a saving of \$3,800.

Call 1300 383 747 for more.

Cruise Calendar

This week's port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY

Carnival Spirit 07 Jun
Pacific Explorer 08 Jun

BRISBANE

Pacific Dawn 04 Jun
Pacific Dawn 08 Jun

DARWIN

Silver Discoverer 03 Jun
Coral Discoverer 06 Jun

AUCKLAND

Pacific Aria 03 Jun

CRUISE

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