

Passengers sue cruise lines

COURTS in the US are beginning to rule on a number of cruise-related COVID-19 lawsuits, with verdicts this week clearly limiting the liability of operators for pandemic-related damages.

A Los Angeles federal judge delivered his verdict on Mon, in a case brought by the widow of a 71-year-old man who died in Apr this year after allegedly contracting COVID-19 on board *Coral Princess*, according to a report in insurance industry publication *Insurance Journal*.

The ruling cited the 1920 *Death on the High Seas Act*, which relates to incidents occurring "beyond three nautical miles from the shore of the United States" and which limits damages to "pecuniary" amounts such as how much the deceased contributed through wages or housework.

The report says in the case of retirees, that means any payout

could be limited to "little more than burial costs," dampening expectations of a bonanza for personal injury attorneys.

The man's executors argued that since he died on shore the Act did not apply, but the judge dismissed all claims on the basis the alleged negligence occurred offshore.

The report also cited another recent US court decision in favour of Princess Cruises, where the judge ruled that mere exposure to COVID-19 was not grounds to sue for emotional distress.

In Australia, Shine Lawyers is still seeking registrations for a *Ruby Princess* Class Action from passengers on board, executors of anyone who contracted COVID-19 and subsequently died, as well as families of any ill or deceased passenger who have "suffered a psychiatric injury as a result of their loved one's contracting the virus on the cruise".

Viking Big Easy

THE Port of New Orleans has signed a potentially 15-year long berthing agreement with Viking for the operation of the company's upcoming Mississippi River cruises from the city's Robin Street Wharf.

The pact will see Viking guarantee at least 30 departures each year and contribute US\$20,000 annually to dredging costs.

The 386-guest *Viking Mississippi* is scheduled to start sailings in Aug 2022 (**CW** 03 Jul).

Sail close to home

CRUISECO is advertising their close to home sale with Norwegian Cruise Line for 2021-22, offering \$500 of savings and allowing guests to choose up to five free offers - see the **back page**.

Regent record

ALL Penthouse suites and above aboard the 2023 Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) World Cruise sold out within hours of the itinerary going on sale earlier this week, with reservations coming in at twice the rate of the 2022 World Cruise.

The 143-night *Seven Seas Mariner* itinerary is the line's longest since 2011, with just a few categories still available priced from \$103,000.

Regent Seven Seas also earlier this week unveiled a range of "Regent Forward" trade initiatives including a Facebook Group, virtual events and online sales team appointments.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news, as well as a full page from **CruiseCo**.

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Clipping the prices

SAVINGS have been released on new triple cruise packages in 2022 with Star Clippers.

Travellers can fly free to Europe and save \$8,380 per couple on the packages in the Aegean and Mediterranean.

Available through Cruise Traveller, the packages are offered in Jun and Sep 2022.

To book a sailing with Star Clippers, [CLICK HERE](#).

A regal rescheduling



ROYAL Caribbean International has updated its 2021 cruises, with new homeports for *Adventure of the Seas* (pictured), *Independence of the Seas*, *Vision of the Seas* and *Jewel of the Seas*.

Now sailing from Barcelona, Miami, San Juan and Barcelona & Copenhagen respectively, the updates will see new four- and five-night Mediterranean getaways from northeastern Spain, and more island time in the Caribbean.

Guests with confirmed bookings between Apr and Nov 2021 will be notified directly, as will those whose cruises are affected by the changes, with existing bookings covered by Royal Caribbean's Cruise with Confidence program (CW 23 Jul).

From her new homeport, *Adventure of the Seas* will sail to destinations such as La Spezia, Rome, Ajaccio, Nice, Marseille, Palma and Ibiza.

Jewel of the Seas will sail Northern Europe's ports of Helsinki, Tallinn and Visby.

In the Caribbean, *Independence*

of the Seas will offer a combination of six- and eight-night cruises to the Southern and Western Caribbean, visiting islands such as Aruba & Curacao.



INVESTIGATORS in Utah have concluded a watery investigation which found two men cheated in a fishing contest.

There are no cruise ships on the state's Lake Powell, but plenty of anglers who each year vie for thousands of dollars in prize money.

Suspensions were aroused in a largemouth bass tournament in 2018 where two of the biggest fish caught did not quite look the same as the others.

Forensic tests found they had actually caught the whoppers 250km away at Quail Creek Reservoir a few days earlier.

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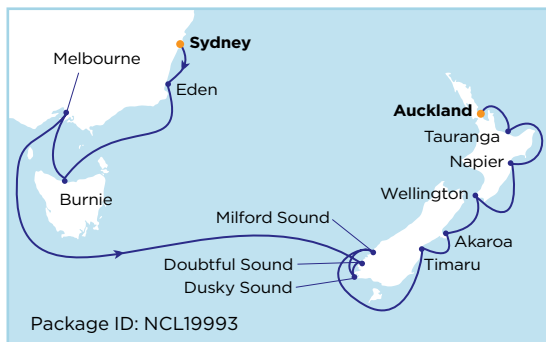
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SYDNEY TO AUCKLAND Cruise departs 16 Jan 2022 aboard Norwegian Spirit



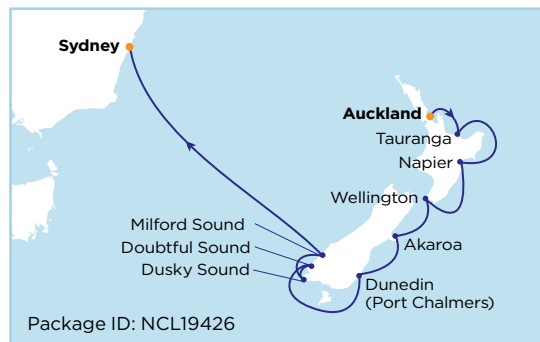
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- 12 night cruise from Sydney to Auckland all main meals+ and entertainment onboard
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AUCKLAND TO SYDNEY Cruise departs 21 Feb 2022 aboard Norwegian Spirit



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