



Cruise Weekly today

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

Bottoms up!

SILVERSEA Cruises is cheers-ing travel advisors with a bottle of Champagne Pommery for every booking.

Advisors will also go in the draw to win a spot for themselves and a travel companion on a Silversea famil, with the major prize also offering a weekend stay at any Hilton in Australia.

The incentive will run until the end of Oct, and more info can be found [HERE](#).

Meanwhile, Silversea has also launched a webinar about its 2022/2023 expedition sailings, hosted by ornithologist Malcolm Turner.

Join the webinar on Wed 11 Aug by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Hurtigruten expands Virtuoso pact

HURTIGRUTEN has announced the addition of Australia to its existing agreement with Virtuoso.

The move comes in the lead-up to Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas next week, with the expanded partnership to now offer a range of special benefits and experiences.

The expanded deal includes a dedicated Hurtigruten agent's portal, product destination, and brand training, along with Virtuoso access to a white-labelled Hurtigruten digital magazine for marketing and communications.

Clients will also receive "attractive commercial benefits and an in-depth support model for the full Virtuoso network," according to Hurtigruten APAC Managing Director Damian Perry.

He said the decision to expand the relationship to encompass Virtuoso travel agents in Australia

was an easy one.

"Professional industry partners are more critical now than ever before," he said.

"To move forward and rebound as planned we not only need a robust expedition and cruise operating model, but the very best specialists and professional client-centric businesspeople to be part of this journey.

"Virtuoso brings this to the table and we are thrilled to be working with this leading network.

Perry said he believes the majority of agents across the region have done an extremely good job in difficult circumstances.

Virtuoso Account Director Evan Pierce said he was delighted advisors would be able to access the local partnership to strengthen their direct relationship with Hurtigruten.

He said the move would elevate the cruise line's "ability to deliver unique and transformative travel experiences for their clients".

Perry noted the Hurtigruten fleet had continued to sail throughout the pandemic in support of Norway's coastal communities, with seven vessels now operating.

On top of that, the highly successful Hurtigruten Follow the Lights small group premium tour and cruising program taking in the ultimate adventure across Norway, Finland and Estonia had been a highly desirable travel experience from the Australian market, and will now be available to Virtuoso agents worldwide.

Hurtigruten is the latest of a number of cruise lines to expand its Virtuoso links, with Aurora Expeditions having also recently announced a global deal with the network ([CW 29 Jul](#)).

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MSC's American restart

THERE are many reunions taking place right now, as restrictions around the world start to wind back, but one taking place in Edinburgh recently was not quite as heart-warming.

An iPhone has been recovered from an Edinburgh river after a year underwater.

The phone was recovered by a local diver, who contacted the carrier O2 with details of the SIM card, which enabled a reunion with its owner.

There have been many stories recently about iPhones resurfacing unscathed after being submerged for long periods of time.

In Mar, a diver recovered an iPhone after six months at the bottom of a lake in British Columbia, which turned on fine.

CW wonders if Apple is conducting a weird kind of publicity campaign to market the durability of its phones.



MSC Cruises' *MSC Meraviglia* (pictured) is welcoming guests back on board for its restart in the United States.

Meraviglia is now sailing Caribbean cruises out of PortMiami, with her first cruise a four-night voyage visiting Nassau and Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, where the ship will stay overnight, allowing guests an extended visit to discover MSC's private island.

The ship will sail three- and four-night cruises for the rest of the season, and add seven-night eastern and western Caribbean

sailings starting 18 Sep.

MSC Divina will join *Meraviglia* in the United States, sailing out of Port Canaveral from 16 Sep, and *MSC Seashore*, the cruise line's newest flagship, will get in on the American fun from 18 Nov.

MEANWHILE, MSC Foundation and Ba'a Foundation have joined forces to advance coral conservation to help safeguard marine ecosystems.

The partnership was announced at the maiden call event of *MSC Bellissima* in Jeddah last Thu (**CW** 02 Aug), with the two coming together to advance the practice and science of coral reef restoration, and most importantly, to disseminate the knowledge they acquire.

It will also aim to further the scientific understanding of the best practices for functional restoration of coral reefs, and increase the area of reef habitat actively restored.

The partnership will initially focus on specific locations in the Caribbean and Red seas where restoration efforts are especially needed.

Unique New Year

UNIQUE Cruises is inviting travellers to join it for a NYE Sydney Harbour cruise.

The agency's founder & Director Walter Nand will host Hits on the Harbour for a six-hour cruise onboard *Spirit of Migaloo*.

Guests will bring in 2022 with views of Sydney Harbour and the New Year's Eve fireworks, and with performances by Australian musicians Adam Harvey and Darren Coggan.

Accommodation packages are also available, and for more information, **CLICK HERE**.

USVI vax change

THE US Virgin Islands is requiring all passengers 12 and older to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus.

Royal Caribbean (RCI), one of the chief operators to the Virgin Islands, will now require guests ages 12 and older to provide proof of vaccination in order to sail on itineraries visiting the country.

Guests under the age of 12, who are currently not eligible for the vaccine, will be able to sail with a negative test result at boarding and must follow certain protocols.

Those cruising to the VI who may be impacted by the change, are asked to contact RCI for a full refund or to move their reservation to a later voyage or a different itinerary.

Celebrity Cruises, which also sails to the Virgin Islands, already requires all passengers above 12 to be vaccinated.



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