



Celebrity tick

CELEBRITY Cruises has become the first in the cruise industry to achieve the Sharecare Health Security Verified designation, an appointment which will help mitigate coronavirus risks.

Genting restructure

GENTING Hong Kong has secured new money facilities of US\$700 million, completing the recapitalisation of the group, and amending & extending its debt of US\$2.6 billion (**CW** 26 May).

The recapitalisation was finalised on Mon, and is made up of a new €300 million loan facility provided by Germany's stabilisation fund to Genting-owned shipyard MV Werften, and amendments to Genting's indebtedness.

The financing, guaranteed by Genting, is in order to fund the completion of *Global Dream*, as well as the recently christened *Crystal Endeavor* (**CW** 28 Jun), which will also be the recipient of €313 million of post-delivery funding from existing lenders to the company.

The maturity of Genting's debt has been extended until 31 Jul 2026, and the company has also secured backstop funding arrangements to be provided by Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the stabilisation fund in an aggregate amount of US\$118 million, which shall be secured by *World Dream*.

In a business update, Genting confirmed it continues to operate under the many uncertainties caused by pandemic-related factors.

Genting said it is working actively to deploy passenger cruising opportunities across the world, acknowledging it may face

unforeseen disruptions and incur additional start-up costs in the process.

It has voluntarily suspended *Explorer Dream* cruising since 12 May, with the new coronavirus outbreak in Taiwan, and the country's government indicating cruises can only resume when the current level 3 alert is lowered to level 2.

The Government of Hong Kong has permitted *Genting Dream* to resume service at the end of next month, but any outbreaks between now and then may affect the starting date, the company noted.

In Singapore, passenger capacity of *World Dream* was returned to 50% from 25% on 14 Jun.

MEANWHILE, in more positive news for Genting, the company is eyeing a listing in the United States, on the back of growing market confidence following the launch of the US\$4.3 billion Resorts World Las Vegas (RWLV), which is the latest in a number of the company's American interests.

Genting is looking to make a move sooner rather than later, Chief Executive Officer Lim Kok Thay told Bloomberg Television.

"As the numbers pick up and when investor confidence returns, that is something we will seriously look at in terms of consolidating our US investment and then seeking a listing," he said.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Euribia steel cut

MSC Cruises has begun the construction of *MSC Euribia*, its most environmentally advanced vessel yet.

Euribia's first steel was cut on Mon, ahead of it becoming the 22nd ship in the MSC fleet, and the second powered by liquefied natural gas.

The ship, which is being constructed at Chantiers de l'Atlantique in Saint Nazaire, is set to come into service in 2023.

The start of *Euribia's* construction was marked by a traditional steel cutting ceremony, bringing together MSC Cruises Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago and Chantiers de l'Atlantique's General Manager Laurent Castaing to launch the cutting of the first steel.

"This ship marks a new milestone in our journey towards net zero impact operations and is testament to our commitment to foster and develop next generation environmental technologies," Vago said.

"*Euribia* will...be one of the world's most environmentally high-performing contemporary vessels".

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PORTHOLE

A MICHIGAN boat captain has found a 95-year-old message in a bottle while cleaning the bottom of their boat.

The message, from Nov 1926, was found by boat tour agency Nautical North Family Adventures, and implored the finder to return it to George Morrow of Cheboygan, Michigan, detailing where the bottle was found.

The finder said the Morrow family name is fairly common to the area, and so they posted a picture of the find on Facebook in hopes of locating the family of the letter-writer.

On American Father's Day, they received a call from George Morrow's daughter - either it is all a mighty coincidence or a mighty good prank.

Sao Gabriel debut

BOOKINGS are now open for Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection's newest ship *Sao Gabriel*, which debuted in Portugal on Sun.

President & Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge was on board to christen *Sao Gabriel* with her Godmother Joke De Bruyn, Director of Hotel Operations and a long-standing loyal employee since 2009.

The christening events included speeches, surprise gifts, dinner, and a much-deserved toast.

Scenic Americas 22/23



SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has shared *Scenic Eclipse's* North and Central Americas Collection for 2022/2023, featuring four new Discovery Voyages and five new Land Journeys.

The program will offer helicopter tours above the continents' sierras (pictured), as well as front-row seats aboard the *Scenic Neptune* submarine to view the wildlife of the Sea of Cortez.

New itineraries for 2022/2023 include a Baja and Costa Rica Discovery - a new 14-day voyage from San Diego to San Jose, departing 28 Sep 2022.

Travellers will explore the Baja Peninsula, the world's second-longest, uncover the rich cultural heritage of Oaxaca, spot an abundance of wildlife at Parque Nacional Huatulco and head to San Rafaelito Island for the opportunity to snorkel with a colony of Californian sea lions.

Prices start from \$15,635 per person, including Super Earlybird savings of \$4,290pp.

The new Central America Discovery, a 13-day voyage from

Panama City to Los Angeles, departing 04 Apr 2023, sails from Panama along the colourful coastline of Central America into the Sea of Cortez.

Travellers will also explore the hiking trails of Cebaco and visit Jacques Cousteau Island, which is surrounded by a plethora of marine life, such as sea turtles and humpback whales while exploring the waters by kayak and Zodiac.

Prices start from \$11,745 per person, including Super Earlybird savings of \$2,400pp.

Travellers can also extend their trip with the Costa Rica Nature and Wildlife seven-day land journey, from Monteverde to San Jose, departing 04 and 11 Oct 2022, where they will learn about the conservation of native flora and fauna at the NATUWA before taking the Sky Tram to the Continental Divide.

Travel advisors will receive a bonus 2% commission on all new bookings made online through ExpressBook until the end of next month.

To book, call 1300 025 968.



America's revival

THIS week our industry reached another major milestone on its path to recovery as the first cruise passengers to sail from a US port since the start of the pandemic departed from Florida.

Travelling aboard *Celebrity Edge*, this seven-day Caribbean cruise marks the restart of operations in the world's biggest cruise market, and is the culmination of many months of collaboration between cruise lines and health authorities.

At the same time, two more lines joined the UK's cruise revival on the weekend, with P&O UK's *Britannia* setting sail from Southampton and Saga Cruises' *Spirit of Discovery* departing from Tilbury.

Together these ships provide further examples of how extensive new health protocols are supporting a careful revival of cruise operations, adding to the almost 600,000 passengers who have already sailed successfully in countries where cruising has resumed.

Despite our frustration with a lack of action from governments, CLIA and cruise lines are pressing on with important discussions aimed at breaking the current deadlock and opening a path forward.

Travel agents will again be a key part of our message as we continue to speak loudly on behalf of the 18,000 Australian workers whose livelihoods depend on a resumption of cruising.

