

Cruise Weekly today

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

Silversea record

SILVERSEA Cruises has witnessed "unprecedented demand" for its 2023 world cruise, which sold out within hours of its general opening.

The South Side Story - All the World's a Stage journey also enjoyed the most successful pre-sale in Silversea's history, with the immersive voyage to take guests deep into the Southern Hemisphere, calling in 66 destinations in 34 countries across five continents.

President & Chief Executive Officer Roberto Martinoli said the triumph reinforced the strong demand Silversea was seeing in the market.

Carnival, Norwegian, cancel cruises

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has extended its rolling pause in operations for Australian sailings aboard *Carnival Splendor* (pictured) through to and including 10 Aug.

The line said passengers booked on a *Splendor* cruise impacted by this change will be communicated with via their travel advisor.

Full details of the changes and specific offers available to passengers are also available **HERE**, with guests asked to review the information.

Carnival will continue to protect the commission on all bookings paid in full, on both the original booking and the final rebooking, when a cruise credit is redeemed.

Carnival Spirit's Australian deployment is also currently on pause until mid-Sep (**CW** 11 Feb).

MEANWHILE, Norwegian Cruise Line has also cancelled select voyages through to Nov



due to "fleet redeployment."

The cruise line has cancelled all voyages on *Norwegian Encore*, *Norwegian Jade* and *Norwegian Jewel* through Nov, as revealed in a letter sent to pax overnight.

All sailings with embarkation dates before 06 Oct on *Jewel* have been cancelled, all sailings with embarkation dates before 28 Oct on *Encore* have been

cancelled, and all sailings with embarkation dates before 04 Nov on *Jade* have been cancelled.

It's unclear at this stage where the three vessels are being redeployed, but there is speculation they may be headed to destinations where cruising is beginning to open up, such as Asia, the North Atlantic, and the United Kingdom.





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ROYAL Caribbean International has celebrated International Day of Happiness on the weekend by delivering heartfelt messages from the cruise line's guests to its crew members.

A digital group greeting card was set up on Royal Caribbean's Facebook page to collect special memories for the crew members (pictured) - some zooming may be required.

The campaign is live for contributions until 25 Mar.

Thank you to all the crew on my first cruise just over a year ago on Spectrum of the Seas. The staff were fantastic and always friendly. Jess

We miss you and the crew. We have a lot of memories on Ovation and can't wait to start back. Fern

To all the crew aboard our voyage of the Seas cruise in Jan 2020 - thank you for making us all feel special and loved after and we can't wait to cruise with you again. Sue

Thank you to Jamie who was an Explorer of the Seas when we went to Panama three years ago. He was always singing at the Windjammer and always made me laugh. We hope we can cruise with him again! Jack

Countess is christened



AMERICAN Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC) christened its new vessel, *American Countess* in New Orleans on Mon.

The new riverboat received a bourbon blessing at Mardi Gras World in New Orleans, which was followed by the commencement of an abbreviated one-week preview cruise for VIPs, sailing northward along the Mississippi River, stopping in Nottoway and Natchez.

Angie Hack, who is the daughter

of AQSC's founder, was named *Countess'* godmother, and christened the ship with a bottle of Maker's Mark bourbon - one of the line's signature traditions.

Special guests included Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, Port of New Orleans President & Chief Executive Officer Brandy Christian, Hornblower Group Chief Executive Officer Kevin Rabbitt, and New Orleans restaurateur Dickie Brennan.

"As we celebrate the grand debut of the *American Countess*, I could not be more appreciative of the incredible team that made it possible," shared Waggoner.

"We listened to our returning guests' feedback on what they would like to see in a new riverboat and created a contemporary American masterpiece that guests are eager to experience."

Pictured: Captain Bobby Duncan, Angie & Jerry Hack, Claudette & John Waggoner, Kristin Fary and Dickie Brennan.



Progress across the world

A SUCCESSION of positive announcements over recent days has highlighted the encouraging progress cruise lines are making around the world as they work toward revival.

With stringent new health measures in place, cruise lines have been able to announce plans for new sailings in locations including Malaysia, the Caribbean, the UK and Israel.

Together with cruises already underway in parts of Europe, Singapore and Taiwan, these new resumptions show the increasing confidence governments and health authorities are showing in our industry's COVID-19 response.

Though operations remain suspended in Australia and New Zealand, the success of cruising in other locations will provide important insight for our governments as we continue pressing for a local revival.

The strict health protocols working overseas - together with the bubble concepts several countries have created for domestic cruising - can provide a model for local cruising in our own waters while international travel restrictions remain.

Importantly, the domestic-first concept CLIA is proposing for Australia and New Zealand would initially mean no passengers could cruise to any destination they wouldn't otherwise be able to visit by air or land.

Together with 100% testing of all guests and crew, this will provide important reassurance for communities as cruising returns.



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