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INTERNATIONAL



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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover from **Royal Caribbean International**.

MSC fully vaxed

MSC Cruises will require all guests to be fully vaccinated, under a new policy announced overnight.

The cruise line said for its winter sailings, guests must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and also take a coronavirus test up to 72 hours before their scheduled embarkation date.

The measures have already been in place for MSC's winter voyages in other regions, with Med sailings now added with the new requirements, which have been extended to guests on both *MSC Fantasia* and *MSC Grandiosa*.

Guests on any of MSC's winter sailings on its two ships operating in the Med from 04 Dec will now also need to be fully vaccinated.

"Our health and safety protocol has led the way in the industry not just because we were the first major cruise line to resume international operations but also because of its flexibility to adapt to the evolution of the pandemic ashore," said Chief Executive Officer Gianni Onorato.

Viking revamps Rewards

VIKING has relaunched Rewards by Vikings after an extensive upgrade.

The new loyalty program offers more opportunities to earn points, increase engagement, and enhance the overall user experience.

New features include pending points, which will appear after booking a Viking cruise, and allow advisors to see the points value of each sailing they book, no longer having to wait until after departure.

There is also a wish list, allowing advisors to set themselves a Rewards target and work toward it; interactive online games, providing opportunities for agents to earn points in real time without selling a cruise; and training modules, which can be completed to earn points.

"We are proud of the enhancements we have made to our loyalty program, providing agents with more opportunities than ever to earn points even during quieter selling periods," said ANZ Managing Director Michelle Black (pictured).

"Rewards points will accumulate automatically with some of the new features and may be redeemed within minutes from being earned—without the wait for manual point uploads like many loyalty programs.

"It's important to us that our trade partners are rewarded for their hard work and support,



which is why our online rewards store has remained open for the past 18-months—allowing agents to access and redeem points through these challenging times."

Black said Viking is "more committed than ever" to its trade partners, given it is also one of the only cruise lines with no NCFs, paying commission on all aspects of a booking of one of its cruises.

Travel advisors wishing to join Rewards by Viking can register at www.rewardsbyviking.com.

As a special bonus, the cruise line is giving 500 Rewards by Viking points to new advisors who register before the end of the year.

For additional information, advisors should contact 138 747.

AQV saving in '23

A SAVING has been announced on 2023 expeditions with American Queen Voyages.

Cruisers can save US\$600 per couple and pay no deposit on a 2023 all-inclusive expedition cruise in Alaska.

For bookings made this year, no down payment will be needed until the end of Jan.

Adding to the value are a host of complimentary inclusions such as a pre-cruise hotel stay, all onboard meals and beverages, comprehensive shore excursions, port charges and ships gratuities.

An Alaska expedition with American Queen in 2023 is available from USD\$4,684 per person, twin-share for a 12-night nature-infused journey in an Oceanview stateroom from Sitka to Vancouver aboard *Ocean Victory* in Jun 2023.

CLICK HERE for more.

Royal Caribbean holiday savings

ROYAL Caribbean International is hosting a Black Fri and Cyber Mon sale, offering up to \$400 onboard credit, 60% off a second guest, and \$250 in instant savings.

Hurry though, the sale ends on 30 Nov.

Head to the **cover page** for more information.



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LINDBLAD Expeditions co-Chair and founder Sven Lindblad recently captured the moment (pictured) when *National Geographic Endurance* and *National Geographic Explorer* met up in Antarctic waters.

The latter ship had run out of arugula and chutney so, of course, *Endurance* came to the rescue.

There were lots of cheers and happiness as the two ships rendezvoused. - both for the uniqueness of the moment, and the replenishing of deliciousness.



Minerva is christened



SWAN Hellenic confirmed the christening of *Minerva* (pictured) yesterday, in a private ceremony with godmother Johanna Makela, the University of Helsinki's professor of Food Culture.

The celebration follows global supply chain disruptions and recent spikes in COVID-19 in Finland, which caused Swan Hellenic to make the difficult decision to delay the start of *Minerva's* inaugural season.

She is scheduled to depart the shipyard early next week.

Minerva has been completed after only 26 months from the

signing of the contract (**CW** 24 Jul 2020), which Swan Hellenic Chief Executive Officer Andrea Zito called "a remarkable achievement".

"We now very much look forward to taking our guests to see what others don't, exploring in exceptional comfort and style," he added.

"I too would like to congratulate everyone at [the shipyard] for their impeccable work in difficult circumstances and the tight safety measures which have kept *Minerva* a safe environment at all times."

Genting Dream up to 75% capacity

DREAM Cruises will increase *Genting Dream's* passenger capacity to 75% from next month, based on the latest guidelines by Hong Kong authorities.

The expansion will see more than 2,500 guests able to enjoy a Super Seacation each voyage.

With overall demand for cruises at a consistently high level since operations resumed, this increase will provide a boost to the holiday season for guests who have been unable to book a Super Seacation.

Christmas and New Year's sailings are already sold out based on the previous 50% capacity limit.

"Since we resumed cruises on 30 Jul, we have welcomed over 70,000 passengers on *Genting Dream* without any COVID-19 related incidents, and we are grateful to the residents of Hong Kong for putting their trust in our hands," said Genting Cruise Lines President Kent Zhu.

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