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cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Tuesday 19th October 2021

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover page from Holland America Line.

Celebrate with HAL

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is inviting cruisers to celebrate their return to travel next year with the line.

Those who book by the end of next month will receive six amenities per person included in their Have It All cruise fare, including up to USD\$200 on board spending money, a AUD\$99 down payment, shore excursions, a drinks package, speciality dining and wi-fi - see the **front cover**.

HAL also recently named Princess Margriet of the Netherlands godmother of *Rotterdam*, continuing an almost 100-year-old tradition.

MSC to pay Uniworld crash damages

MSC Cruises has been ordered to reimburse Uniworld Boutique River Cruises €2.4 million (\$3.75 million) to compensate the river cruise operator for lost earnings due to cruises which were cancelled when *MSC Opera* struck *River Countess* in Venice in 2019 (*CW* 03 Jun 2019).

The incident, which saw the 2,679-pax *Opera* collide with the Uniworld vessel at San Basilio, forced the cancellation of a number of *River Countess* sailings.

MSC had previously accepted full liability for the incident, but was seeking clarity on whether it was required to pay Uniworld for the loss of future earnings, arguing this was not in accordance with Italian law. As well as the cancelled cruises, damage to *River Countess* cost over €3m (\$4.7m) to repair. A judgement handed down in

the UK's Commercial & Admiralty

Court last week found MSC was liable for both the physical damage to the vessel as well as some "non-physical damages".

The crash saw *River Countess* out of service for the entire summer 2019 season, with a total of 14 cancelled cruises.

As well as the repair costs, the case saw Uniworld make claims for the loss of revenue from the aborted season, along with airline costs for cancelled or rebooked flights for 1,600 impacted passengers, full refunds made to the 28 passengers who were aboard *River Countess* at the time it was struck, and hospital bills for treatment of those injured.

MSC acknowledged the judgement, noting it had already accepted responsibility for the "unfortunate incident" and had already made some payments. A lawyer representing Uniworld

said the ruling was a "landmark

decision that means our clients will be able to recover the substantial losses they faced as a result of an incident where they were entirely blameless".

"Owners are finally being held to account for the actions of one of [their] vessels, and this case should act as a warning to other operators of ocean liners, not just in Venice but globally," they said.

The incident was a key trigger for rising discontent about large vessels transiting Venice's Giudecca Canal, ultimately leading to a ban being imposed effective from Aug this year (*CW* 15 Jul).

Uniworld CEO Ellen Bettridge said it had taken an incident of this nature to bring about change in Venice, adding "it is testament to the quality of engineering of our luxury river vessel and its well-trained crew that no lives were lost".

Cruises[®]

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Cruise Weekly

Celebrity





Tuesday 19th October 2021

Grand Opening

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has launched its Grand Opening Sale for next year, in hopes of reigniting Australia's love for travel with a range of Super Earlybird Offers.

The Sale will be promoted as a part of the Scenic Love to Travel campaign, which has been developed to inspire Australians to reconnect with the world and to showcase why it is time to book now.

Advertising will run across all major television, print and digital channels.

Available now until 18 Feb on selected suites and departures, the Sale encompasses Economy flights plus a 10% Earlybird saving on selected 2022 and 2023 Antarctica departures aboard Scenic Eclipse.

Travellers aboard the ship can also access air credit worth \$2,000 per person, plus a 10% Earlybird saving on selected Americas departures next year.

For European river cruises, travellers can fly Business class from \$2,995 per person on a range of next year's itineraries.

Three more for Princess



PRINCESS Cruises has announced plans for additional ship restarts for Feb-Apr next year.

Sailing from Los Angeles (pictured), Seattle, Vancouver and Fort Lauderdale, cruises aboard Crown Princess, Island Princess and Royal Princess will take guests to the Caribbean, Hawaii and Coastal California.

Princess cruises sailing through Feb are available for guests who have received their final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the cruise.

Chief Commercial Officer Deanna Austin said it has been thrilling to have guests back on board Princess' ships enjoying vacations in Alaska and on the West Coast of the United States.

"By Apr of 2022 we will have 11 of our ships back at sea, with the support of government and port officials, creating vacation memories for our guests," she said.

To accommodate this restart, a number of cruises aboard Crown will be cancelled.

Guests on these voyages will receive information on their rebooking options.



CRUISES to Saudi Arabia are all the rage right now, and the country will soon play host to one of the craziest ports of call in the world.

Saudi Arabia is building a tourism resort on an oil rig, which will feature three hotels, 11 restaurants, a roller coaster, a water slide, a Ferris wheel and more.

To be able to be reached by cruise ship, THE RIG will also feature kart racing, bungee jumping, scuba diving, and a performance arena.

"This is the ultimate living laboratory for pioneering new thrills, extreme sports and adventure," the website boasts. "Climb aboard and experience

the future of adventure." However, some have pointed out sections of THE RIG's marketing is slightly

questionable. "Offshore platforms were created for discovery," the website also suggests.

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