



Cruise Weekly today

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

Splendor to return

IT APPEARS *Carnival Splendor* will not be absent from Australia for as long as thought, with Carnival Cruise Line yesterday announcing the ship's return to the country after the completion of her Alaska season.

Guests will be able to book onto *Splendor's* 'Journeys' cruise back to Sydney, with Carnival President Christine Duffy saying the cruise line appreciated the patience of all throughout the rescheduling process.

"We are also continuing to make plans for a return to guest operations in Australia upon completion of our Alaska season," she remarked.

ACA upbeat despite disappointment

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has lamented the two month extension of the biosecurity ban (**CW** breaking news Fri) as "disappointing" but said it recognises the new 17 Apr expiry date as giving time to work with members in port destinations around Australia to help the industry prepare for a phased restart.

The ACA also welcomed the news from National Cabinet the federal government will work with the eastern states and the cruise industry to implement new protocols to enable the resumption of cruising over the coming months (**CW** 11 Feb).

"This is the most encouraging sign we have had from government that they are now willing to actively engage in dialogue around bringing cruise ships back into the country since the biosecurity ban was put in



place nearly two years ago", said Australian Cruise Association Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel (**pictured**).

"We are confident that the states will be able to draw on the extensive data developed by cruise destinations around the world who have already been through this strategic modelling as they welcomed cruise ships back into their ports...this should help to expedite the process."

In conjunction with Cruise Lines International Association and Tourism Australia, the ACA will also continue its half-day workshops in Victoria next month, following on from those already held in Queensland.

The sessions are designed to help the tourism industry prepare for the long-awaited arrival of cruise ships, crew members and passengers back into Australia's ports and communities.



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IF YOU don't have a Valentine this year, this contest may be just for you.

Holland America Line is inviting travellers to pen a love letter to Alaska, to celebrate 75 years of cruising to the state.

A panel will select 10 winners, with the grand prize a Holland America Alaska cruise in a Neptune suite, departing later this year.

Running through 15 Mar, entrants can submit **HERE**, with nine other winners to set sail on a seven-day Alaska cruise in a Vista or Signature suite.

This prize may be the perfect solution if you cannot a-fjord a trip to Alaska right now.



Spreading the love



SILVERSEA Cruises showed some love to its trade partners on yesterday's commercial celebration of romance, Valentine's Day.

The cruise line's Sales Managers are giving away five gift packs filled with goodies including spa vouchers, Pommery champagne, movie tickets, chocolate and more.

To enter, partners must comment on Silversea's Facebook post **HERE**, and explain in 25 words or less which of the cruise line's voyages you would "love" to experience and why.

"We're extremely proud in the way we have wholeheartedly supported our valued trade

partners during these toughest of years," said Director of Sales Steve Richards.

"We have honoured and protected over \$3m of travel agent's commissions on cruises that didn't sail and had to be cancelled.

"Over these last few years we also ran bonus commission incentives and advance commission programs for travel agents to help with cash flow."

Pictured sharing the love at Suncity Travel Caloundra are Richelle Reeves, Abercrombie & Kent's Emma Smith, Silversea's Jacqui Tufala, Lynne Blair, Rosemary McTeigue, and Michaela Curtis.

Travelmarvel early

TRAVELMARVEL has launched its early release departures for Cambodia and Vietnam next year.

To complement the added dates are earlybird savings of up to \$3,000 per couple, available for bookings made until 30 Sep.

Next year, Travelmarvel will cruise the Mekong River aboard the new *Apsara*, where all guests are guaranteed suites with outside balconies.

While on board, guests will enjoy chef-prepared dining each day, showcasing local cuisine.

Guests can dine on traditional cuisine in Siem Reap, take part in a cooking class in Hoi An, or enjoy a Welcome Dinner at KOTO in Hanoi.

Cruisers will also stay in premium accommodation, including Siem Reap's Shinta Mani Shack and the brand-new Fusion Original Saigon Centre.

Further information can be found online by **CLICKING HERE**, or to book, travel advisors can call 1300 300 036.

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Editors – Myles Stedman, Adam Bishop

Contributors – Nicholas O'Donoghue
info@cruiseweekly.com.au
info@cruiseweekly.co.nz

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au
advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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