



MSC finally singing a full tune again

ALL 19 MSC Cruises ships have now returned to service, with *MSC Musica* (pictured) restarting operations for the first time in more than two years.

The major milestone was reached overnight, with *Musica* sailing from Monfalcone on her first of a series of seven-day Mediterranean cruises.

Musica's first cruise will head to Katakolon, Iraklion, Santorini, and Bari.

Most of MSC's 19 ships are currently in the Mediterranean, except for *MSC Divina* and *MSC Seashore*, which are operating in the Caribbean; *MSC Magnifica*, which is cruising in Iceland, and *MSC Bellissima*, which is sailing through the Persian Gulf.

After completing her European deployment, *Musica* is set to cross the Atlantic to sail on a northern winter program in South America starting in Dec.



Musica will serve the Argentinean market, with cruises to Brazil and Uruguay departing from Buenos Aires.

The ship's resumption of voyages follows the recent return to service of *MSC Orchestra*, which was the only other vessel in the cruise line not sailing.

Musica's future fleetmate, *MSC World Europa*, which will sail later this year, is set to become the first contemporary cruise vessel to incorporate special fuel cell technology with the potential to deliver significant carbon dioxide emission reductions (**CW** 25 May).

Cruise Weekly today

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

A change for cruise?

AHEAD of Vanuatu's yet-to-be-confirmed return of international cruises, the country's tourism industry wants to see some changes to how the sector operates when it calls.

"We would want to see the increase in sales of Vanuatu-made products on the ship... and inclusion of traditional food experiences as part of any tours on offer once cruises return," Chief Executive Officer of the country's destination management organisation Adela Issachar told the ABC.

She added her excitement at the return of cruises, which are an important part of Vanuatu tourism.



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PORTHOLE

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's *Mardi Gras* ought to be celebrated, after the ship rescued 16 people stranded at sea on the weekend.

While cruising in open waters not too far from Cuba, *Mardi Gras* crew members spotted a small vessel in rough seas stirred up by a tropical weather system.

Mardi Gras stopped its leisure trip to assist, taking on 16 stranded passengers - 11 men and five women, Carnival told CNN.

All 16 were seen by medical staff, and they were given food and clothes.

HLO cruise shifts

HELLOWORLD (HLO) has announced the appointment of Karen Deveson to the role of General Manager – Cruise.

Most recently the Managing Director for Insight Vacations and Luxury Gold, Deveson will be filling the big shoes of Catherine Allison, who is returning to the United Kingdom for personal reasons.

Executive Director Cinzia Burnes said despite Deveson's lack of cruise experience, Helloworld's focus was to appoint someone who could "continue to cultivate the excellent partnerships".

"We have big plans for our cruise division and now that we are all sailing again, the next chapter will be extremely exciting," Burnes added.

Virgin shares its impact



VIRGIN Voyages has shared its first Impact Report, highlighting the cruise line's initiatives to make a positive impact on the planet, its guests, crews, partners, community, and oceans.

The Report highlights Virgin's environmental, social, & governance strategy, which is rooted in five key areas: delivering transformational life experiences, securing a healthy future for the ocean, building positive entrepreneurial relationships, developing open and rewarding partnerships, and providing a caring and generous place to work.

On-board examples include Yellow Leaf hammocks hand-woven in Thailand, sustainably sourced coffee beans from Intelligentsia, and Coral Eyewear sunglasses made from recycled plastic.

Other highlights from the Report include the diversity of Virgin's crews, which represent almost 100 different nationalities from all walks of life.

In a recent survey, 87% of Virgin

crew members reported they feel like they can be themselves at work, which relates to the cruise line's "come as you are" ideal.

Interestingly, the Report also noted low- and zero-carbon fuel sources are currently not commercially viable or available at the scale necessary to power Virgin's ships, but that it is exploring alternative fuel options and availability for its fleet.

"From ethically sourced f&b ingredients to reusable items and reef-safe sunscreens, our team has worked hard to integrate sustainable practices into the offering onboard," Senior Director of Sustainability & Social Impact Jill Stoneberg said.

"We've eliminated unnecessary single-use plastics, and the only tip we ask for is a tip for ocean conservation.

"Together these efforts not only minimise the impact we have on our oceans and communities, but we hope they also inspire others to make a difference."

The Report is available **HERE**.

Pictured: Scarlet Lady.

Uniworld 2-for-1

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has launched a friends & family offer on select sailings this year.

Cruise in Europe this season from as little as \$2,949 per person, and book two guests for the price of one.

This limited time offer is combinable with Uniworld's River Heritage Club past guest benefits - [CLICK HERE](#).



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