



# CRUISE

WEEKLY

*delivered daily!*



cruiseweekly.com.au  
cruiseweekly.co.nz  
Monday 18th Dec 2023

## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Princess' new stars

**PRINCESS** Cruises has announced the two captains who will take control of *Star Princess* when she makes her debut: Captain Gennaro Arma and Commodore Nick Nash.

The two skippers were announced during *Star's* official keel laying ceremony in Monfalcone (**CW** 12 Dec).

Captain Arma currently serves as the newbuild site lead for the construction of both *Star* and *Sun Princess* and will take control of the former ship when she makes her debut in 2025.

Commodore Nash will take control of *Star* when Captain Arma is on leave.

# Viking launches new China cruises

**VIKING** is expanding its global portfolio, with the launch of new coastal ocean cruising itineraries in China.

Three cruises are on offer, allowing clients to "discover the best of China the Viking way".

"For more than 15 years, Viking explored the Yangtze River and China's iconic sites - the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Terra Cotta Warriors - and with our new itineraries we are offering the unique opportunity to explore seldom-seen coastal ports to which only Viking has access, as well as the most celebrated landmarks," the cruise line said in an update to past passengers yesterday.

The program kicks off in Sep 2024, using the former *Viking Sun* (**pictured**) which is now part of the company's Chinese joint venture, China Merchants Viking Cruises, and named *Viking Yi Dun*.



Itineraries include the 20-day Wonders of China which combines land content from Shenzhen to Chengdu, Lhasa, Xi'an, Beijing, and Shanghai with a coastal voyage on the *Viking Yi Dun* from Shanghai to Hong Kong via Zhoushan, Dantou, Pingtan, and Xiamen.

The 10-day China Discovery allows guests to just experience the coastal cruise segment, while there's also a 15-day Classic China

& the Coast which adds on a Beijing-Xian-Shanghai land tour.

Viking is also promoting a portfolio of pre- and post-cruise extensions in Beijing, Hong Kong, Suzhou, Quxi, and Guilin.

Launch savings of up to \$2,000 per couple are on offer for clients who book before 24 Dec, with fares for the 10-day cruise component leading in at \$7,695 per person twin share. **BP**

More at [vikingcruises.com.au](http://vikingcruises.com.au).



CHRISTMAS MARKETS, STRASBOURG, FRANCE



## CHRISTMAS ON THE RHINE *Amsterdam to Basel or vice versa*

8 DAYS | 4 COUNTRIES | 9 GUIDED TOURS  
SET SAIL: NOV-DEC 2024; 2025

From **\$3,995PP** in Standard stateroom

SAVE up to **\$2,000** per couple



VIKING

GIVE YOUR CLIENTS THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE

7 UNIQUE ITINERARIES

8 TO 12 DAY JOURNEYS

VISITING EUROPE'S BEST CHRISTMAS MARKETS

ON THE RHINE, MAINE, DANUBE, OR SEINE RIVERS.

2024 & 2025 NOW OPEN

138 747

VIKING.COM

FIND MARKETING ASSETS AND BOOK ONLINE AT

[MYVIKINGJOURNEY.COM/AGENT](http://MYVIKINGJOURNEY.COM/AGENT)

SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL T&CS

MOST AWARDED | VIKING INCLUSIVE VALUE | LARGEST & MOST MODERN FLEET

NOTES:

- Museums
- Culture



**SORRY** to fans of Ben & Jerry's but it appears the ice cream manufacturer's relationship with Royal Caribbean International is unfortunately melting.

The cruise line's unofficial blog has reported Ben & Jerry's is being dropped from ships.

Travel advisors were apparently informed of the change, with the Ben & Jerry's brand to be replaced by an in-house make.

Royal Caribbean has not announced any further details about the brand which will replace Ben & Jerry's, but the blog post speculates it will likely be the same as what the cruise line has planned for *Icon of the Seas*.

Ben & Jerry's is currently stocked aboard 13 of Royal Caribbean's ships.

## Emerald culinary

**EMERALD** Cruises has announced an eight-day Danube Delights cruise with Celebrity Chef Dale MacKay.

The voyage will depart 21 Jun with the Canadian celebrity chef, as well as Scenic Group Vice President Hotel Operations Tom Goetter, who will co-host the itinerary.

The Budapest-Munich cruise starts from \$4,435 per person.

For more information on the cruise, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Ama "unlike anything else"

### EXCLUSIVE

**AMAWATERWAYS** Managing Director Steve Richards (**pictured**) believes his line's sole focus on river voyages allows it to be the strongest offering in the market.

*Cruise Weekly* exclusively revealed some of AmaWaterways' plans for the Australian market last week (**CW** 15 Dec), and Richards believes the line's undivided attention to river is what makes its offering so strong.

"Of all the river cruise operators in the world, we're the only one which just does river cruising, everybody else dabbles in some other forms of travel," he explained.

"We like to think that this is our sole focus, and by being solely focused on something you can be the strongest at it."

AmaWaterways officially launched in the Australian market just two months ago (**CW** 22 Sep), announcing its GSA arrangement with APT will end after next year.

Richards said what particularly thrills him about AmaWaterways' Australian launch is the chance to offer locals cruises and destinations they have never had the chance to book before.

"The exciting thing is, by going on our own, we're going to expose Aussies to products they've never seen or had opportunity to book before," he enthused.

"*AmaMagna* for example has never been sold in Australia before...now we're going to sell [her] direct to Australian travel agents, and other areas of our product range which APT haven't really pushed will now be



exposed to Aussie clients."

AmaWaterways will be adding four new ships in the next two years, including *AmaMelodia* and *AmaSintra*, while Australians will also be able to download the cruise line's official application, which was designed in Brisbane.

Passengers can use the app to book shore excursions, locate themselves and their ship using a GPS, share their voyage with their family & friends, and more. *MS*

## Another Virgin sale

**VIRGIN** Voyages, which just dived head-first into its Australian debut (**CW** 06 Dec), is now diving into wave season with a new offer.

Travellers can purchase a voyage for one sailor and get 70% off the second, plus up to US\$600 in a bar tab, depending on voyage length.

Cruises of four nights or less will score a US\$100 bar tab, cruises of five and six nights will get a US\$200 bar tab, cruises between seven and 13 nights will pick up a \$300 bar tab, and cruises of more than 14 nights will collect the full \$600 bar tab.

The offer is available between now and the end of next month.

## SUPPLIERS & DESTINATIONS

Do travel advisors know your product to sell in 2023?



**The Travel Daily Training Academy offers training modules starting at \$3500**

For more information email: [training@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:training@traveldaily.com.au)

**Travel Daily**

### EDITORIAL

**Associate Editor** - Myles Stedman  
**Journalists** - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai  
**Publisher** - Bruce Piper  
**Editorial Director** - Damian Francis  
**Associate Publisher** - Anna Piper  
[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[info@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

**Head of Sales & Marketing** - Sean Harrigan  
**Advertising Operations** - Nicki Harford  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.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

Sign up free at  
[www.cruiseweekly.com.au](http://www.cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[www.cruiseweekly.co.nz](http://www.cruiseweekly.co.nz)