



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Diana in Amsterdam

**SWAN** Hellenic has announced the naming ceremony of its largest ship *Diana* will be held in Amsterdam.

Luxury travel icon Valerie Wilson, founder & Chief Executive Officer of US-based Valerie Wilson Travel, will serve as godmother of Swan Hellenic's third purpose-designed expedition cruise ship at a ceremony on 04 May.

Wilson will perform her duties in the presence of Swan Hellenic Senior Management, local dignitaries, VIP guests, and members of the travel and cruise industry from around the world.

## Celestyal acquires former P&O ship

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has announced the acquisition of a new ship, Seajets' *Aegean Goddess* (pictured).

The 1,260-guest ship will be renamed *Celestyal Journey*, and will undergo an extensive €20 million refurbishment and technical maintenance overhaul before entering service for the cruise line.

Originally built for Holland America Line as *Ryndam*, the ship also operated as P&O Australia's *Pacific Aria* (CW 16 Oct 2020).

Before being bought by Seajets, the ship was also owned by the now-defunct Cruise & Maritime Voyages, which intended to sail her under the name *Ida Pfeiffer* (CW 29 Nov 2019).

"While the global events of the past few years have placed our growth plans on pause, the positive industry outlook along with strong bookings for



the coming season, provides Celestyal with the opportunity to recommence the process of renewing our fleet with new vessels," said Chief Executive Officer Chris Theophilides.

"In addition to her expansive open decks, numerous bar and dining options as well as spacious public areas and staterooms,

the *Celestyal Journey* provides our guests with a significant increase in premium and balcony staterooms, which continue to be in high demand.

"We look forward to welcoming her to the Celestyal fleet."

Details regarding the onboard experience and itineraries will be forthcoming.

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## The cat's journey

**SAIL** Croatia's new catamaran *Alley Cat* has started her journey from the shipyard to her new home in Croatia.

*Alley Cat* has left Les Sables-d'Olonne in France and is on a five-week journey to her new home port in Split.

Covering 2,545 nautical miles over 35 days, a team of five skippers will travel across the Atlantic Ocean, Bay of Biscay, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Mediterranean, and more.

## Euribia to launch in Denmark



**MSC** Cruises is set to launch its new flagship *MSC Euribia* in Copenhagen (pictured) in Jun.

The ship will be MSC's second vessel powered by LNG, which is one of the world's cleanest marine fuels available at scale.

Starting her inaugural season in Northern Europe on 10 Jun, *Euribia* will offer seven-night sailings from Kiel and Copenhagen to the Norwegian Fjords including Geiranger, Alesund, and Flaam.

Key highlights of *Euribia* include a Mediterranean-style promenade with a LED Dome, a wide array of shops, specialty restaurants, 21 bars & lounges, live entertainment every evening, five pools, and a coral-themed

Water Park.

*Euribia* also features state-of-the-art environmental systems including a 'Baltic Standard' advanced onboard wastewater treatment system, waste management handling, energy efficiency measures, and shorepower connectivity to enable zero emissions from the ship in the ports in which it is available.

This vessel will also utilise an underwater radiated noise management system to minimise the effects of vibrations on marine life.

*Euribia* will feature a mural painted on her exterior that represents MSC's commitment to protect the marine environment.

## FDA warns American

**THE** United States' Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has sent a warning to American Cruise Lines after a number of its guests contracted Legionnaires' disease.

The letter said American had not provided sufficient proof of changes to procedures, after the FDA found evidence of the bacteria on two vessels between 2021 and 2022.

## AU Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia.

SYDNEY	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	24 Feb
<i>Silver Whisper</i>	24 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	25 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	26 Feb
<i>MSC Poesia</i>	26 Feb
<i>Asuka II</i>	27 Feb

MELBOURNE	
<i>Viking Mars</i>	24 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	27 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	27 Feb

PORT ADELAIDE	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	24 Feb
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	27 Feb

BRISBANE	
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	26 Feb
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	27 Feb

AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Arcadia</i>	24 Feb

CAIRNS	
<i>Arcadia</i>	25 Feb
<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	26 Feb

TOWNSVILLE	
<i>Seabourn Sojourn</i>	27 Feb

HOBART	
<i>Viking Orion</i>	25 Feb
<i>Viking Mars</i>	26 Feb
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	26 Feb

DARWIN	
<i>Seven Seas Mariner</i>	24 Feb
<i>Coral Princess</i>	26 Feb
<i>Island Princess</i>	27 Feb

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## NZ Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND	
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	24 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	24 Feb
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	25 Feb
<i>ms Noordam</i>	25 Feb
<i>Europa</i>	26 Feb

CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	24 Feb

BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Europa</i>	25 Feb
<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	25 Feb
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	26 Feb
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	27 Feb

DUNEDIN	
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	25 Feb
<i>Grand Princess</i>	27 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	27 Feb

FIORDLAND	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	26 Feb
<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	26 Feb

GISBORNE	
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	24 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	25 Feb

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND	
<i>Nat Geo Orion</i>	26 Feb

NAPIER	
<i>Noordam</i>	27 Feb

TAURANGA	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	24 Feb
<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	24 Feb
<i>Queen Victoria</i>	25 Feb
<i>ms Noordam</i>	26 Feb

WAIHEKE	
<i>Europa</i>	26 Feb



## Ponant Opera cruise

**PONANT** has aligned with the Paris Opera Ballet for a special voyage next year.

The eight-day cruise from Athens to Venice via Corfu and Dubrovnik in Aug 2024 will take place on board *L'Austral*.

From 01 to 08 Aug 2024, six dancers from Opera Ballet, including prima ballerinas Valentine Colasante and Mathieu Ganio, will take part in two privileged meetings with guests, two performances, and two screenings, including excerpts from documentaries and what goes on behind the scenes.

Guests can also take part in an introductory classical ballet class with a dance teacher from the company.

"What the Paris Opera Ballet and Ponant have in common is that both are driven by an all-consuming desire to share, to be open to others and the world," Paris Opera Director General Alexandre Neef declared.

Find out more about this sailing, which retails at \$6,240 per person, by **CLICKING HERE**.

## NCL winemakers return

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has announced its 2023 Meet the Winemaker series, which is returning for its seventh year.

The one-of-a-kind program features renowned winemakers and culinary experts bringing their knowledge and expertise to an intimate group of guests on board NCL's ships, including the cruise line's newest vessel, *Norwegian Prima*, which will host its first Meet the Winemaker cruise.

The immersive program offers guests seminars & activities, intimate wine tastings, wine-paired dinners, interactive culinary demonstrations, and meet-and-greets.

Guests can also purchase wines on board which are otherwise only available by visiting their wineries directly.

A new and noteworthy addition to this year's lineup is master Johnnie Walker-blender Emma Walker.

She has spent more than a decade perfecting the whisky production, maturation, and blending processes.

Walker will join the 17 Sep

sailing on *Prima* in Northern Europe for NCL's first-ever Johnnie Walker cruise, where guests can learn the history of the brand and savour the wide range of aged whiskeys.

Also notable to the program is Chef Ashley Breneman, Executive Chef at Certified Angus Beef, one of the best beef brands in the United States.

Certified Angus Beef product is featured across the NCL fleet in its specialty restaurant Cagney's.

Breneman began her career studying at Le Cordon Bleu cooking school, and has worked for numerous celebrity chefs, including Gordon Ramsay.

She will join returning winemaker Antonio Hidalgo for the 09 Jul sailing aboard *Norwegian Encore*.

"Our Meet the Winemaker series is back and better than ever," said President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer.

"Every year we aim to elevate this exclusive experience and I believe we've done just that as we enter the program's seventh year with an impressive guest lineup."



**COULD** the cooler be the new EPIRB?

Two men have been rescued after clinging to an esky following their boat's capsizing off the coast of Queensland.

The brothers, aged in their 20s, had been out fishing near the northern tip of K'gari when a rogue wave rolled their boat and cast them into the ocean.

The pair activated their emergency locator beacon and put their life jackets on as they watched their boat sink.

It happened just three weeks after three other men were themselves rescued while clinging to their own cooler after their boat capsized off the coast of Western Australia (**CW** 03 Feb).

Hopefully for the two brothers, their story ends better than that of the three Western Australians, whose capsizing is now the centre of a drug plot (**CW** 13 Feb).

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