

Cruise Weekly today

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

RSSC's new BDM

EXCLUSIVE



ANJI Montgomerie (pictured) has joined Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC), bolstering the line's Australian sales team, **CW** can reveal.

Montgomerie has been appointed RSSC's Senior Business Development Manager for Queensland & the NT, where she will be charged with continuing growth for the luxury cruise line.

She was previously a BDM for GFOB, which saw her last year nominated as an NTIA finalist in the 'Most Outstanding Sales Executive' category.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Regent Seven Seas Cruises team and working with existing and new partners across the region," she said.

NCLH records Q1 drop



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) has posted disappointing first quarter results, missing its estimates for revenue and profit, while warning of weak consumer spending.

Revenue declined 3% to US\$2.13 billion from one year earlier, with NCLH saying it is expecting annual net yields below the prior stated range of a 3% increase, instead anticipating a result of around 2%.

Adjusted EBITDA declined 2% to US\$453 million compared to US\$464 million last year, while adjusted EPS fell to US\$0.07, slightly below guidance due to currency losses of US\$0.05.

The company maintained its annual profit forecast of US\$2.05 per share and said bookings for the 12-month period were softening but remained within the optimal range.

NCLH forewarned of weak spending on its premium voyages with Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Oceania Cruises, in part due to growing concerns of a possible recession in the United States.

The company also saw pressure

from increased investments related to ship maintenance, more dry docks, and new fleet expansions, as the company expects to take delivery of eight new vessels over the next 11 years (**CW** 09 Apr 2024).

"We are seeing consumers just get a little bit tighter in terms of their willingness to take a longer haul vacation, i.e. Europe at this stage versus closer to home where we're seeing continued strong demand," Chief Financial Officer Mark Kempa told Reuters.

President & Chief Executive Officer Harry Sommer believes the company's cost-cutting measures will allow it to manage macroeconomic factors.

"While we recognise there may be potential pressures on the top line, we believe these can be effectively offset by the continued execution of our cost savings initiatives," he said.

"Our focus remains on managing the business for the long term - balancing disciplined pricing and cost control with guest experience and strategic investments for the future." **MS**

Pearl gets Fogg-y

NEW luxury small ship line Pearl Expeditions has appointed Mick Fogg as GM & Head of Sustainability.

The experienced cruise hand joins from Ponant, where he was Director of Expeditions.

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Celestyal, RAK pact

CELESTYAL Cruises has agreed to a multi-year partnership with Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority at this week's Arabian Travel Market.

The cruise line will promote the Emirati destination (pictured) to its passengers, further establishing Celestyal's affiliation with the Middle East, where it began sailing this season (CW 12 Mar).

The agreement also sets out plans to work in partnership with Ras Al Khaimah to offer immersive, guest-exclusive shore experiences, when Celestyal begins visiting the destination later this year (CW 05 Mar).

Celestyal Discovery will make weekly calls to Ras Al Khaimah over the next three seasons.

"We're proud to build strong partnerships with the regions we visit, and are thrilled to enhance our award-winning shore excursion program by working with the Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority," Celestyal CCO Lee Haslett said.

"Together, we'll offer our guests even more immersive and culturally rich experiences," he added.



Oceania's new tune



OCEANIA Cruises has unveiled reimagined entertainment across its fleet, headlined by a new celebratory evening, The Blue Horizons Party (pictured).

The cruise line will embark on a "sweeping revamp" of its onboard entertainment program, which will include original shows, immersive wellness experiences, and more.

The new program will roll out across Oceania's fleet of eight ships, with many of the new experiences to debut with the launch of *Allura* (CW 02 Jul) later this year.

Taking place on every voyage, The Blue Horizons Party will invite guests to dress in hues of blue as they sip signature cocktails, enjoy live music, and mingle with their fellow travellers.

Guests will also be able to access new guided immersive

stretch and yoga sessions for all fitness levels.

The new entertainment offering will also build on Oceania's guest speaker series and Artist Loft creative workshops, with passengers able to engage in a calendar of performances, classes, and events.

"We're thrilled to introduce this evolution of Oceania Cruises' entertainment," Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

"These enhancements reflect our commitment to delighting our discerning guests with experiences that match their sophisticated tastes - combining enrichment, wellness, and celebration into unforgettable onboard moments.

"It's entertainment with meaning and heart, and we cannot wait to reveal more in the coming months." MS

Thai cruise dreams



THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the newly badged Star Cruises (CW 27 Feb) are partnering to home port *Star Voyager* in the country, with aims to anchor the market as a cruise hub.

Voyager, which most recently sailed for P&O Cruises Australia as *Pacific Explorer*, will now be based in Laem Chabang, as Thailand attempts to elevate its cruise profile.

The ship will operate two five-night sailings, visiting Ko Samui and Singapore.

Thailand welcomed 162 cruise ships last year, carrying almost 400,000 passengers, and generating 6.9% more revenue than 2023.

"We're excited to home port *Star Voyager* in Bangkok as we introduce the revitalised StarCruises brand in Thailand," the cruise line's President Michael Goh said.

"This launch represents a significant step forward in our vision to position Thailand as a cruise hub in Southeast Asia.

"With this regional deployment, we aim to attract a diverse range of travellers while supporting the country's growing tourism economy," Goh added.

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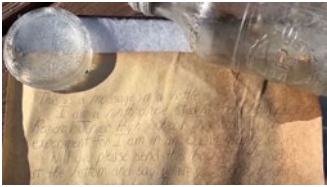


A MESSAGE in a bottle from 1976 (**pictured**) has been found in The Bahamas, with hopes it can be reunited with its author.

An American teenager wrote the note, which was recently found by a man who claims he has found more than 100 bottled messages.

The man and his brother were exploring a Bahamian island a few weeks ago when they made the discovery: a Pepsi bottle containing a note written by a Massachusetts high school student during an oceanography class.

The brothers have even been able to get in touch with the author of the note, who claims to have no memory of it.



Fox in Intrepid's henhouse

INTREPID Travel has partnered with slalom canoeist Noemie Fox (**pictured**) for an exclusive Antarctica adventure next year.

The 'Best of Antarctica: Whale Journey' will see guests paddle alongside the Olympian as part of an 11-day expedition on board *Ocean Nova*, well-known to Australians through her charter deal with Chimu Adventures.

Travellers will get the chance to explore Antarctica's pristine landscapes, and witness the migration of humpback whales.

A number of lucky guests will also get the chance to kayak alongside Fox as part of Intrepid's day paddle program.

Guests will be able to hear Fox's inspiring story, which saw her become the first-ever gold medalist in women's slalom kayak cross at last year's Summer Olympics in Paris.



"I've always found empowerment through adventure and travel, and I'm thrilled to partner with Intrepid Travel, a company that shares my passion for meaningful, responsible travel" Fox said.

GM Sales & Marketing Yvette Thompson added: "Partnerships are all about alignment, and Noemie's energy, humility, and love for travel make her the perfect fit for Intrepid." *MS*

Hurti's food cruise

HURTIGRUTEN has launched a new culinary themed itinerary, showcasing the best of Norway's food and beverage, and building on the cruise line's Coastal Kitchen.

The seven-day voyage, launching in the autumn, includes three nights on board the Original Coastal Express from Bergen to Stamsund, two nights at partner farms in Lofoten and Vesterålen, and one night at a distillery by Lyngen fjord.

Beginning in Bergen, guests will savour a fresh shellfish platter from the local fjords, enjoy a tasting session at the women-owned Feddie Ocean Distillery, a five-course tasting menu featuring fjord and mountain produce, a Trondelag-inspired lunch, and a four-course Sami dinner.

Guests will also sample Hurtigruten's unique 'Bubbles of the Sea' sparkling wine, matured for 12 months deep beneath the Arctic Sea.

Departures for this itinerary have been set for 21 Sep, 05 Oct, 19 Oct, and 02 Nov.

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