

Issue 026

Travel & Cruise



Weekly

keep *dreaming...*



special cruise edition



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Front cover image: Viking Sea ©Viking Cruises

From the Publisher

Jenny Piper



The Travel & Cruise Weekly team are very excited about this week's special CRUISE edition. It has been months in the planning. We know many of our readers are avid cruisers so we hope you enjoy this issue.

I have to confess that I hated cruises for a while – about 10 years ago we went on a family cruise on one of the world's biggest ships, it was over Christmas and out of the USA – so needless to say, a full ship. We had a family cabin, no balcony and as the kids referred to their sleeping quarters – a 'claustrophobic hell hole'. It wasn't my most fun holiday – but I tell you what, we still remember it and laugh about it to this day. It took 7 years for my husband, Bruce, to get me back on a cruise ship, and I have since discovered the diversity of offerings. We have been privileged to have been hosted on many

amazing ships with our work, as well as taking personal holidays on cruises. We have seen amazing places, and shared fantastic family times together. I would highly recommend a cruise for multi-generational family groups. I am now a cruise convert.

There is a cruise for everyone, and this is where your travel agent can help – they know the options and can recommend what will suit your style and budget. Don't be shy about booking NOW, cruising will return soon, and our feature this week looks at the safety of cruising going forward. Also, there are awesome deals for 2021/2022 out now. I have optimistically booked a cruise for February 2021 – I just hope ScoMo will let us out by then!

Enjoy the read, and send us your thoughts. We love hearing from our readers!

xx Jenny

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Santorini, Greece

With dramatic scenery, sun-drenched beaches, ancient ruins and thriving food scenes, the Mediterranean cruise offers something for everyone. A perfect cruise destination where you can explore the iconic whitewashed villages of Santorini one day, and relax on the beaches of Mykonos the next, all without having to pack your bags!



© Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre

For foodies

Smack your lips around these

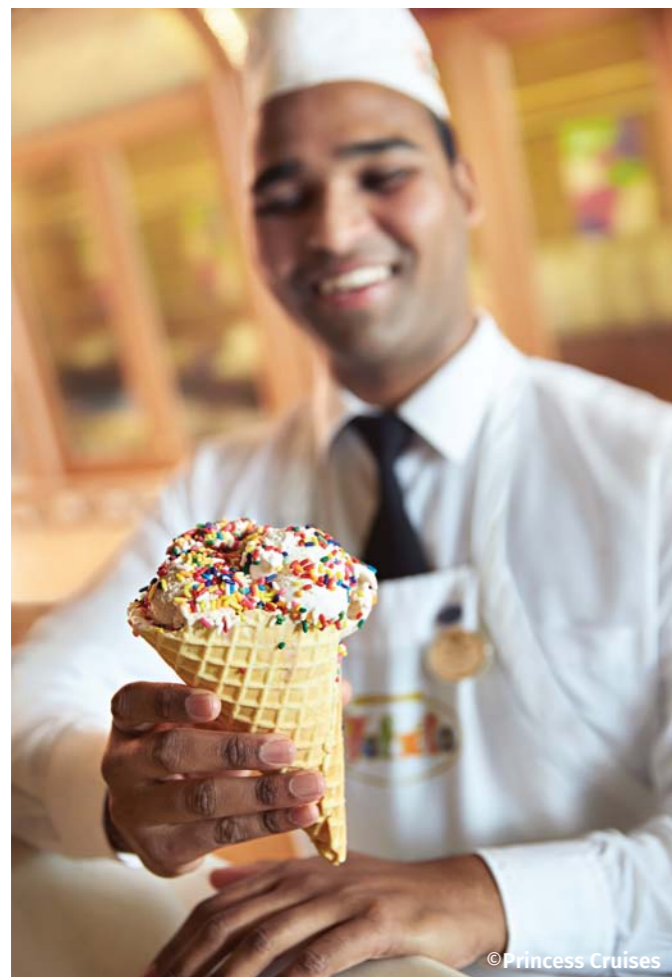
Let's face it, the yummy food on offer is half the fun of a cruise for many of us. Sure, there is plenty to eat at the ship's main buffets, but what about those times you want to nosh on some delicious food in between your swim in the pool and evening theatre show?

On board Princess Cruises the choice is scrumptiously wide, from its Gelato bar and many cafes, to gourmet small-bite snacks from places like Alfredo's Pizzeria, which serves up a range of traditional woodfired pizzas. For something a little sweeter, stop by The Bakery to sample some mouth-watering fresh cakes and pies.

Royal Caribbean International also boasts

an array of places to stop and snack, such as the golden fried goodness on offer at Fish & Chips, located only a short walk from the pool deck. The speciality on the menu here is the battered cod fried to perfection with a side of mushy peas. Yum!

If you're not completely stuffed yet, head for some dessert at Sugar Beach, it's stocked full of more lollies than Willy Wonka's factory and has a long list of chocolate delights on its menu as well. Our pick is the Chocolate Blackout, made from quadruple Chocolate ice cream as its base and topped with brownies, chocolate drops, chocolate pearls, whipped cream and a thick drizzle of Nutella. Nurse, the defibrillator please!



In the News

Cruising soon?

Moves look to be afoot across the globe to establish safe protocols for a return to cruising, with US Vice President Mike Pence reportedly stepping in to push the Centers for Disease Control for a resumption.

Some officials apparently wanted to extend the current No Sail order until Feb, but Pence overruled the measure which now sees ships in US waters banned from operating until the end of this month.

It remains to be seen whether cruising will resume before Christmas, but Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) said it was confident in the industry's

ability to resume operations in a "responsible, phased-in manner".

"Our actions will build off the continued success the cruise industry has experienced with recent sailings in Europe and other parts of the world, as well as the guidance we've received from some of the world's leading experts in medicines and science," CLIA said.

Maldives move

Can you imagine visiting an idyllic holiday destination so often that you can collect loyalty points for each trip? That's the vision of the Maldives Tourism Ministry, which has announced a world first rewards scheme for

holidaymakers.

The so-called Maldives Border Miles scheme allows travellers to register and earn points based on the number of trips and the duration of each stay, and just like airline incentive programs offers a range of tiers from bronze through to gold.

Each level will correspond to an as-yet-unrevealed set of benefits such as bonus services and other rewards.

Although Aussies are currently prohibited from travelling overseas, once the borders open the Maldives is welcoming visitors who must have a valid accommodation booking, present a negative COVID-19 test result not more than 72 hours old and comply with distancing measures.



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A safe future for cruising

Cruise lines have worked tirelessly to implement new plans and protocols to ensure that guests will be safe on their next at-sea getaway.



Left: Social distancing in action on one of Hurtigruten's cruises which resumed briefly in June this year ©Hurtigruten/ Andrea Klaussner

Right: COVID-19 testing forms a key pillar in the safe resumption of cruising across the world.



The early days of the coronavirus pandemic were marked with stories of outbreaks on cruise ships, which led to a great deal of negative publicity about cruising and its hygiene and safety.

The cruise industry has listened to governments' and travellers' concerns and has been working tirelessly to find a way to safely cruise again. In fact, cruises have successfully restarted in a few places in Europe, both on rivers and oceans.

In the US, Cruise Line International Association, the organisation that represents the cruise industry, has just last month laid out the first steps of a road map towards a resumption of cruising, with a key set of "mandatory elements" that members, including Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean International, Norwegian Cruise Line and MSC Cruises, among many others, will implement.

Here's a look at how you can be sure you'll be safe on your next cruise.

Testing & screening

Testing for COVID-19 is one of the key elements in the resumption of cruising in Europe, and will be implemented when cruising in the US (and likely globally) starts again.

Some cruise lines may require passengers to show proof of a negative COVID test no older than 72 hours, while others are planning to test every cruiser before they hop on board, with a test that gives rapid results. You'll also have to complete a health questionnaire and have your temperature checked.

Not only will travellers on cruise ships have to undergo testing before they embark on their cruise, but crew members will be tested as well. Cruise ships are often staffed by crew from across the world so in addition to testing them, most cruise lines are

also ensuring that their workforce is free from COVID-19 by requiring them to undergo a 14-day quarantine before they start work onboard.

Social distancing

Social distancing has become a very common term used during this pandemic, and just like it has been an effective tool in fighting the virus on land, the same thing will apply at sea.

On most ships there will be reduced capacity in public spaces and sometimes that will mean booking timeslots for things like using swimming pools or the gym. Most restaurants also have limits on the number of passengers and crew in the space so you'll have to choose a dining time slot.

You'll also spot floor markings reminding passengers and crew to social distance and you might end up navigating around the ship a bit differently, with some areas becoming one way only to help keep everyone safe.

And as is the case whenever you go somewhere where social distancing can't be done properly on land, when cruising you'll need to wear a mask if you can't maintain a safe distance from others, like in theatres or hallways.

In addition, to keep passengers safe crew will usually wear masks or face shields in public areas, food handling areas and during housekeeping and maintenance in passenger cabins.

Sanitation

Anyone who has cruised in the past will remember the hand sanitizers that sit at the entrance to many of the restaurants on board ships, but get ready for a whole new level of cleanliness.

Cruise ships have massively upped their hygiene practices with frequent

sanitising of public spaces and high touch surfaces. Companies are also taking advantage of new technologies available, using things like electrostatic cleaning and UV light, along with hospital-grade disinfectants. All cabins are also thoroughly cleaned between guests so you don't have to worry about who was staying in your stateroom before you.

What if...

Cruise ships are now well-prepared for the possibility of an outbreak of coronavirus, with certain cabins ready to be used for isolation if needed. Cruise lines now have better equipped medical centres to treat COVID-19

and other illnesses. Plus every ship will have a risk-based medical response plan tailored for it, including advance agreements with private providers for shoreside quarantine and transportation.

Peace of mind

These are just some of the key ways that cruise lines are working to keep guests safe - the CLIA protocols developed and presented to the Centers for Disease Control in the US actually list over 70 different elements to ensure safe cruising.

Some industry proponents have also suggested a cruise could be the safest kind of holiday, post-pandemic.

Bruce Nierenberg the founder of small ship cruise

line Victory Cruise Line, and also a former Costa Cruises Chief Executive Officer & Norwegian Cruise Line Executive Vice President, believes cruise lines are uniquely positioned to re-enter the market at a safer position than any other tourism sector.

Cruise ships have very controlled entry and exit points, and the service personnel aboard the vessels do not go home at night, whereas at a land-based hotel, these controls are not in place.

With all the work that the cruise industry has put into developing and implementing safety and hygiene protocols, you can book your next cruise knowing you'll have a safe and healthy holiday.



Onboard AmaWaterways river cruise ships in Europe, staff wear masks and there is social distancing all across public spaces onboard the ship. AmaWaterways resumed cruising in July.

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Four things

All the sea's a stage. Don't miss this entertainment on your next cruise!



Lectures

Cruises are not just about the dancing and the buffets, with edification top of mind for many expedition brands as well. Coral Expeditions is one of those lines that reserve its stage floor for a host of experts to regale guests about the surrounding natural environment, from zoologist Ian Morris, marine biologist Mike Sugden, to archaeologist Michael Hermes. The company often chooses to run lectures that illuminate the unique destinations visited on each individual itinerary.

Comedy

Comedy on board cruise ships these days is a very serious business. Many now have resident comedians on board, with some even branching into laugh festivals to keep their passengers in stitches for the entire journey. For example, Carnival Cruise Line recently teamed up with a bunch of local Aussie talent to host The Punchliner Comedy Club, and described the line as bringing “physical tom-foolery, through sharp one-liners to blood-vessel-busting bardiness” to its passengers.



Concerts

Musicians putting on concerts on the high seas is not exactly new in the cruise world, but it is definitely becoming an increasingly popular feature of cruise ships' entertainment packages. So much so that quite a few brands have launched music themed cruises to keep guests rocking around the clock the entire voyage. A fun example of this includes a recently unveiled music-themed American Steamboat Company cruise departing in August 2021. The joyful journey leaves from Louisville bound for the musical mecca of Memphis, playing smooth Kentucky bluegrass all the way down the Mississippi River. Yeeha!

Musicals

You don't need to be on dry land to enjoy some of the world's great musicals, with many of the big cruise lines boasting an array of colourful, melodious extravaganzas for passengers to enjoy. Royal Caribbean International ships have recently offered classic smash hits to wow its guests, such as the ABBA-lovers delight *Mamma Mia!*, the Queen homage *We Will Rock You* and the Andrew Lloyd Webber staple *Cats*. Meanwhile, Norwegian Cruise Line ships have a loaded schedule as well, not least of all has been the Tony Award-winning *Kinky Boots* and *After Midnight*.



Keep your cruising dream alive

Coffee at sea

For many Australians, a morning coffee is a vital part of their routine and they would never contemplate dropping the habit while on holidays. Here's a rundown of some of the options at sea to give you your caffeine buzz.



Oceania Cruises

On board Oceania Cruises travellers will find Illy coffee, the Italian coffee maker which sources its beans from select farms across four continents. Oceania Cruises, Nautica General Manager Giuseppe Bagnato says more passengers are now ordering lattes and cold coffee.

“Coffee has become an all-day refreshment versus just a morning or after meal drink,” he said. “Guests are becoming more coffee connoisseurs and choosier these days – which makes us happy because Italians are famous for great coffee.”

Viking Cruises

Viking Cruises offers speciality teas and coffees to all guests on board for no additional cost, and with no drinks package required. Guests can enjoy all types of coffee-based drinks from espresso to café au lait, prepared by Viking staff. Plus, for those wanting to do it themselves, there are self-serve coffee stations located throughout the ships and available 24 hours a day. Certain stateroom categories also include a Nespresso or Paulig coffee machine.



P&O Cruises

P&O Cruises offers its guests Nestle's premium Buondi coffee beans, a blend of Arabica and Robusta varieties sourced from various quality crops around the world. The cruise line's passengers typically gravitate towards the traditional favourites such as cappuccinos, flat whites and lattes. P&O takes its cup of joe pretty seriously, recently boosting on board access so that now 60% of its bars and lounges offer espresso, as well as implementing a rigorous training program for its baristas.



Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Located on Deck 5, on board Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Coffee Connection offers travellers an informal destination to relax and meet. Coffee Connection uses Illy coffee for espresso, cappuccino, café latte and macchiato yet for French Press coffee the cruise line uses La Rica, a boutique coffee roaster from Miami.

Princess Cruises

Princess Cruises offers guests a New Grounds Coffee menu, prepared by a trained barista. Guests can enjoy the New Grounds Crafted Coffee menu featuring a variety of specialty espresso-based drinks made from a custom blend of coffee beans, as well as iced tea fusions. The menu varies slightly from ship to ship but contains a selection of Princess special reserve espresso and barista coffee fusions.



Norwegian Cruise Line

A Starbucks can be found on board a number of Norwegian ships, offering passengers a chance to warm up with a caramel macchiato or a chai latte and a scone. Guests can start their day with Starbucks coffees, teas and bites available à la carte. Additionally, Coco's is another destination for coffee with a side of savoury chocolate pralines, crepes, and other types of treats.



Seabourn

Seabourn offers passengers freshly roasted coffee aboard its ships at Seabourn Square. The line orders raw coffee beans from single origins such as Columbia, Guatemala and Peru, along with Indonesia and Vietnam to provide guests with “a local and authentic experience”. The introduction of the roastery on *Seabourn Encore* “has been a huge hit”, the cruise line said. Passengers can also choose between the daily selection of its home roast versus Segafredo, with “90% choosing the home roast”.

Where in the world?



This street is often pictured from the opposite end, looking towards where this photo was taken. It is 1.9km long and runs between two major landmarks in the city where it is located. It is famed for its theatres, cafes, luxury shops and as the finish of a famous cycling race and is regarded as one of the most recognisable streets in the world. What street is this and where in the world is it located?

Sudoku

EASY

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, column and box.

	4		8	9	7		6	5
		5			1			
		1		5	4			
6							3	
5				1				4
	8							9
			6	8		5		
			4			3		
4	3		1	7	5		9	

www.sudokuoftheday.com – visit them and get a new Sudoku every day!

Pub quiz

1. A failed Canadian bid for the 1968 Winter Olympics resulted in the creation of which popular ski resort?
2. In which city was Martin Luther King Jr assassinated in 1968?
3. Which five carriers founded the Oneworld airline alliance?
4. Crown Resorts founder James Packer is the part-owner of which NRL team?
5. New Virgin Australia owner Bain Capital is also the majority owner of which cruise line?
6. In which decade did Vanuatu achieve independence?
 - a) 1960s
 - b) 1970s
 - c) 1980s
7. The Giant Swing is a religious structure in which city?
8. The Asian fishing village of Edo grew into which modern-day city?
9. What heritage-listed site is found at the end of Boundary Street, Brisbane?
10. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is located in which country?

Know your brands

Logos are the main way that companies distinguish themselves, and some logos are so famous that you don't even need to see the company's name to know who it is. See if you can identify these four logos.

1



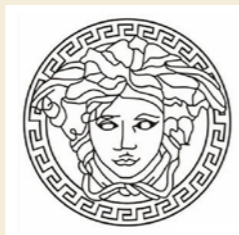
2



3



4



Whose flag is this?



The flag of this country originally looked a bit different, with a red horizontal stripe in the centre of each blue stripe. It was then later changed to equal horizontal stripes of blue, white and red. The country was recognised as independent in 1828 and the flag chosen at that point combined a symbol of Argentina with the US flag's blue stripes. Do you know whose flag this is?

Unscramble

How many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

L	T	P
L	A	G
I	H	M

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Good – 15 words

Very good – 22 words

Excellent – 30 words

Whose flag is this?



This flag is one of only two in the world which features a map of the country on it. The design was chosen in a competition to create a new flag for the country. Many of the other entries drew heavily from the flag of the majority ethnic group in the nation, but the final design reflects the fact that the country is made up of six predominant ethnic groups (symbolised by the white stars). Do you know whose flag it is?

Sudoku

MEDIUM

The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

			1	2		4		
					5			
	9				3	6		1
	7	1			8		6	2
	2			6			3	
6	3		2			5	7	
3		6	9					2
			8					
		8		1	2			

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Austria word search

B	I	H	C	U	X	Q	B	C	Q	U	W	X	G	C
A	O	G	D	Q	G	S	J	P	Q	C	I	W	L	I
P	S	A	L	Z	B	E	R	G	M	Q	E	J	W	S
F	E	B	U	N	A	D	O	O	K	N	N	V	M	U
E	W	A	C	H	A	U	V	A	L	L	E	Y	M	M
L	R	B	U	Z	P	N	E	T	O	Y	R	Y	I	F
S	S	C	H	O	N	B	R	U	N	N	S	L	N	O
T	G	R	U	B	S	B	A	H	S	Z	C	S	N	D
R	E	G	G	E	N	E	Z	R	A	W	H	C	S	N
U	W	Y	V	I	E	N	N	A	T	Q	N	H	B	U
D	S	K	I	I	N	G	L	Y	R	T	I	U	R	O
E	T	R	O	T	R	E	H	C	A	S	T	B	U	S
L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	Q	Z	I	Z	E	C	T
D	A	R	T	H	M	W	H	K	O	H	E	R	K	G
B	Q	B	S	W	Y	E	U	Q	M	Z	L	T	K	Z

See if you can find these words. They are hidden horizontally, vertically and diagonally, forwards and backwards.

APFELSTRUDEL
DANUBE
FOOTBALL
HABSBURG

INNSBRUCK
MOZART
SACHERTORTE
SALZBERG

SCHONBRUNN
SCHUBERT
SCHWARZENEGGER
SKIING

SOUNDOFMUSIC
VIENNA
WACHAUVALLEY
WIENERSCHNITZEL

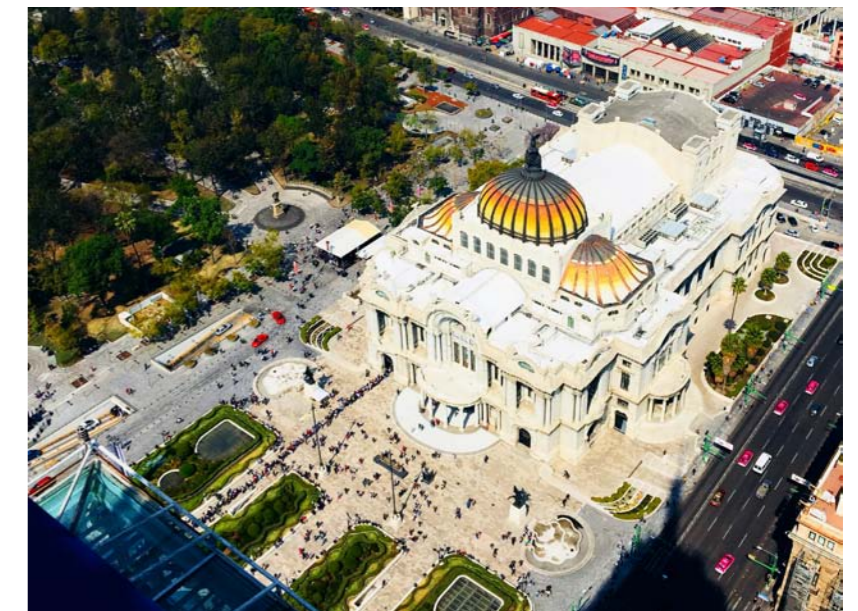
Pub quiz

1. The Lorraine Motel was the site of what incident, which resulted in its eventual conversion into a museum?
2. The 2002 FIFA World Cup was hosted by which two countries?
3. Hastings Street is the main stretch of which Queensland region?
4. Which American city was founded by 50 German families in 1857?
5. Travel agency STA Travel was an acronym for which two phrases over the course of the company's life?
6. The tourist town of Niseko is set around which mountain?
7. 'The Land of the Red Man' refers to which American state?
8. Which four cities comprise the Texas Triangle?
9. Canberra was formally named in which year?
 - a) 1903
 - b) 1913
 - c) 1923
10. Morpheus Hotel in Macao is famous for being the world's first what?

Where in the world?

This impressive building has hosted notable events in music, dance, theatre, opera and literature, as well as important exhibitions of painting, sculpture and photography. The outside is in a Art Nouveau and Neoclassical style and inside is Art Deco and also has a number of murals by famous painters.

Where in the world is this located?



Whose flag is this?



The people of this country were ruled by four different other separate nations over its history and as a result, the nation didn't really develop any particular symbols itself until the 20th century when it first became independent. The country's flag was then white with a red stripe in the middle, until it came under the rule of a different ideology whose government introduced a variation of this flag, except with a few additional symbol.

After the fall of that government the red and white flag was bought back until 1995 when the current flag was introduced.

Do you know whose flag this is?

Unscramble

How many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

V	L	R
Y	T	O
A	N	U

Good – 19 words

Very good – 28 words

Excellent – 37 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Pub quiz

1. What is the former name of Melbourne's Southern Cross railway station, which is still often used by locals?
2. Which Australian state has the nickname "The Festival State"?
3. Macao was ruled by Portugal until what year?
4. Air India merged with what other airline in 2011?
5. The Peak 2 Peak Gondola carries skiers between which two mountains?
6. What is the capital of Poland?
7. Waikiki is found on which Hawaiian Island?
8. Russia spans how many time zones?
 - a) 9 timezones
 - b) 11 timezones
 - c) 13 timezones
9. International Drive is which city's main tourist strip?
10. The Group of Seven (G7) includes which prominent nations?

All answers are on page 26

Make it at home

These days, going out for a cocktail looks very different, so why not make one of our unique cocktail recipes at home!



Berry Prosecco Punch

With berries in season in Australia at the moment, as well as it being the start of spring, now is the perfect time to enjoy this refreshing punch.

Ingredients

¼ cup apple blackcurrant juice
1 oz vanilla vodka
Handful of fresh raspberries, blueberries and strawberries
Sparkling water
Prosecco
Mint leaves
Ice cubes

Method

Combine apple blackcurrant juice, ice, vodka and berries in a glass. Top with prosecco and sparkling water. Garnish with a sprig of mint and a strawberry.

Puzzle answers

Page 20

Where in the world: Champs-Elysees, Paris, France

Know your brands: 1 Football Federation Australia, 2 Australia Post, 3 World Wildlife Fund, 4 Versace

Sudoku:

3	4	2	8	9	7	1	6	5
9	7	5	3	6	1	4	2	8
8	6	1	2	5	4	9	7	3
6	9	7	5	4	8	2	3	1
5	2	3	9	1	6	7	8	4
1	8	4	7	3	2	6	5	9
2	1	9	6	8	3	5	4	7
7	5	8	4	2	9	3	1	6
4	3	6	1	7	5	8	9	2

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Pub quiz: 1 Whistler Blackcomb ski resort, 2 Memphis, 3 American Airlines, British Airways, Canadian Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Qantas, 4 South Sydney Rabbitohs, 5 Virgin Voyages, 6 c) 1980s, 7 Bangkok, 8 Tokyo, 9 Howard Smith Wharves, 10 Tanzania

Unscramble: alight, alit, gait, gall, gamp, ghat, gila, glam, hail, hall, halt, lamp, LAMPLIGHT, lamplit lath, lathi, lima, mail, mall, malt, pail, pall, palm, path, phual, plait, plat, tail, tall, tamp

Whose flag is this: Uruguay

Page 22

Pub quiz: 1 The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr, 2 Japan and South Korea, 3 Sunshine Coast, 4 Anaheim, 5 "Student Travel Australia" and "start the adventure", 6 Mount Yotei, 7 Oklahoma, 8 Houston, Dallas (or Dallas-Fort Worth), San Antonio and Austin, 9 b) 1913, 10 Exoskeleton-bound skyscraper

Whose flag is this: Kosovo

Sudoku:

7	6	5	1	2	9	4	8	3
1	8	3	6	4	5	2	9	7
4	9	2	7	8	3	6	5	1
5	7	1	4	3	8	9	6	2
8	2	9	5	6	7	1	3	4
6	3	4	2	9	1	5	7	8
3	1	6	9	7	4	8	2	5
2	4	7	8	5	6	3	1	9
9	5	8	3	1	2	7	4	6

Page 23

Where in the world: Palacio de Bellas Artes, Ciudad de México, Mexico

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Unscramble: alto, arty, atony, aunt, aunty, auto, layout, lout, notary, outlay, outran, rant, rota, rout, runt, talon, tarn, taro, tolu, tonal, torn, tour, tray, troy, truly, tuna, turn, tyro, ultra, unto, vault, vaunt, volant, volt, VOLUNTARY, votary, yurt

Pub quiz: 1 Spencer Street Station, 2 South Australia, 3 1999, 4 Indian Airlines, 5 Blackcomb and Whistler, 6 Warsaw, 7 O'ahu, 8 b) 11 timezones, 9 Orlando, 10 Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, 11 Banda Aceh – (band + ah + arch + A [note])

Whose flag is this: Belarus

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