# The Mediterranean Sparkling Cocktail

~FROM STAR CLIPPERS' GALLEY~





## Australia won't welcome Foreign tourists until At least 2022

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) -- Foreign tourists won't be welcomed back to Australia until at least next year, the prime minister said Tuesday as he outlined plans for lifting some of the toughest and longest Covid-19 travel restrictions imposed by any democracy.

The country will instead prioritize the return of skilled migrants and students after it hits Prime Minister Scott Morrison's benchmark for reopening its external borders: the full vaccination of 80% of the population aged 16 and older. It is expected to reach that point Tuesday.

The news comes just days after Morrison announced plans to allow vaccinated citizens and permanent residents to fly overseas from November for the first time since March 2020.

The severe travel restrictions, which have trapped most Australians at home and kept most foreigners out, have led to the lowest level of immigration since World War II. Australian universities, which rely heavily on fees paid by international students, have been particularly hard hit, and many fear students will go elsewhere if they are not allowed in soon.

While many countries imposed strict lockdowns that shut down large portions of the economies, Australia's travel restrictions have kept life fairly normal for much of the pandemic -- though it is now experiencing shutdowns in the biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, as well as the capital Canberra.



The rules imposed a high emotional burden in a country where half the population was born overseas or has at least one immigrant parent. Families were separated, and some grandparents have been barred from meeting grandchildren in Australia who are now approaching 2 years old.





#### SPAIN HAS BEEN PLACED IN LEVEL 3 BY U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT LIST OF DESTINATIONS

As of October 13, Spain has been placed under the Level 3 travel warning of the U.S. State Department list of destinations, down from Level 4, thanks to Spain's low number of new Covid-19 infections.

The U.S. State Department has lowered the travel advisory for Spain to Level 3 following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's health notices, in a move that will ease U.S. travel to Spain. The easing of restrictions comes as more Spaniards are getting vaccinated and returning to daily life. The current 14-day notification rate of newly reported infections in Spain 'is now at the lowest levels since the pandemic began, decreasing to less than 50 cases per 100,000 people. Furthermore, Spain's vaccination efforts ramp up to 77.9% of total fully vaccinated population, and 87.8% of fully vaccinated population over 12 years old.

All travelers coming to Spain are required to show proof of being fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to arrival, and complete an online Health Control Form through <u>www.spth.gob.es</u>. Accepted vaccines are those authorized by the European Medicines Agency or the World Health Organization.

## United Plans Largest Trans-Atlantic Expansion in its History in 2022

United unveiled plans for the largest trans-Atlantic route expansion in its history, including 10 new flights and five new destinations—Amman, Jordan; Bergen, Norway; Azores, Portugal; Palma de Mallorca, Spain and Tenerife in the Spanish Canary Islands. All of the new routes—which are set to begin in spring 2022—are not served by any other North American carrier.

Next year United also will add new flights to five other European destinations—Berlin, Dublin, Milan, Munich and Rome. Finally, the airline will launch seven routes that were interrupted due to the pandemic to Bangalore, Frankfurt, Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Nice and Zurich. Flights are subject to government approval.=

"Given our big expectations for a rebound in travel to Europe for summer, this is the right time to leverage our leading global network in new, exciting ways," said Patrick Quayle, senior vice president of international network and alliances at United. "Our expansion offers the widest range of destinations to discover – introducing new, trendy locales that our customers will love, as well as adding more flights to iconic, popular cities."

- 1. New daily flights between Denver and Munich, joining existing service from Denver to Frankfurt and London, which is expected to resume in March. United is the only U.S. airline to offer transatlantic service from Denver.
- New daily flights between Chicago and Milan, joining existing seasonal flights between Chicago and Rome. United will be the only airline to offer a direct flight between Chicago and Milan, adding to its existing service between Newark and Milan.
- 3. New daily capital to capital service between Washington, D.C. and Berlin, joining our other service to Berlin from Newark. United is the only U.S. airline with direct flights to Berlin.
- 4. An additional daily flight from Newark to Dublin and Rome.

#### **Celebrity Summit**

#### May 4-13, 2022

#### **Round trip Cape Liberty**

Come sail away on Celebrity's newly refurbished Summit out of Cape Liberty. This nine night cruise will stop at the ports of: Newport, RI (full day), Charleston, SC (overnight), Kings Wharf, Bermuda (two nights/three days) with three days at sea (one between each destination). The rate per person of \$2022.00 includes balcony accommodations, all meals (except specialty restaurants, which are at a nominal fee), full beverage package, pre-paid gratuities, Wi-Fi and all current port and government taxes. Upgrade to the Aqua Class cabins (balcony) with unlimited complimentary access to the Persian Garden Spa Lounge, exclusive restaurant –Blu, personal spa concierge and upgraded amenities. Please call for more information and rates for the Aqua Class.

#### **Celebrity Summit**

#### August 7-19, 2022

#### Cruise from Cape Liberty to Canada, Greenland and Iceland

The burgeoning capital city of Reykjavik has seen a spike in international tourist attention over the past few years, and you'd be hard-pressed to ignore this effortlessly cool port of call on an Iceland cruise. The city is truly magical in the summertime, when the sun is out for longer than you'd ever imagine, and residents stay out late drinking and enjoying food, picnicking, and spending time in nature. Add to that, Qaqortoq, Greenland. All of those

'Q's' in a relatively undiscovered destination and it has to be on your 'bucket list' as I know Greenland is on mine. I have been to Iceland five times and always in winter so I can't wait to see what summer brings. We will also be adding a three night extension which we will package separately as a quick, summer getaway. We will also visit Halifax, Nova Scotia and St. John's New Brunswick. Rates per person for an inside cabin start at \$1,999., ocean view \$2,499. and balconies \$3,269. These rates do not include airfare or the post cruise Iceland 3-night package. All rates should be finalized by mid October. Call Nancy to find out more information.



#### 11-Night Alaska Wildlife Encounter Cruise tour Celebrity Millennium

#### Anchorage to Vancouver—September 5-16, 2022

#### (Cruise only option available September 9-16, 2002)

Enjoy four captivating destinations over four nights, immersing yourself in the natural beauty and frontier spirit of Alaska's vast interior, followed by a relaxing southbound cruise. On the land portion visit Anchorage, Denali, Talkeetna, and Alyeska (Girdwood). Included is your hotels, some tours, rail and motor coach transfers. Embark on your seven night cruise from Seward visiting ports of call of: Juneau, Skagway, cruising though Hubbard Glacier, Icy Point Strait and Inside passage. Included in your package is accommodations as selected, transportation in Alaska, all current port and government taxes, on board the cruise you will have all meals (specialty restaurants are additional), free Wi-Fi, all non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks, and pre-paid gratuities. Please call for more information and rates.



## Norwegian Cruise Line Prima Transatlantic NYC to Reykjavik May 14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Come experience what this brand new state of the art ship has to offer. On this special itinerary you will sail from New York City with ports of call of: Halifax, a day at sea, Sydney, Nova Scotia, four days at sea, Akureyri, Isafjordur and an overnight in Reykjavik. **The special rate of \$2422.00** includes: a balcony cabin based on double occupancy, all current and government taxes, all meals (including 4 specialty dining restaurants), premium beverage pacakge (alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages), a \$50.00 shore excursion credit per cabin per port, an interent pacakge and on board credit. Not included is one way airfarefrom Reykjavik or optional travel insurance. Please call for more informationto experience Prima and the splendors of Icleand.

**NCL** has changed course and decided to go smaller with their new Prima Class ships. While smaller in size, Prima class ships are all about the wide-open spaces. *Ocean Boulevard*, located on Deck 8, features the *Oceanwalk* glass bridge, swim to the horizon in one of two infinity pools and watch the world go by at *Infinity Beach*, warm up on cool nights with friends around the firepit at the *Indulge Outdoor Lounge*, go all-in on some amazing food options at *Indulge Food Hall* or enjoy dining with a view from one of the Ocean Boulevard seaside restaurants.

## Oahu eases restrictions on gatherings as Covid-19 cases drop



In a joint press conference held Friday, Hawaii Gov. David Ige and Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi announced the easing of some restrictions on activities and gatherings imposed during a surge of Covid-19 cases, but they <u>stopped short</u> of welcoming visitors back to the islands.

In August, as the state reported spiking infection rates and hospital intensive care units reaching capacity, the governor recommended visitors postpone all trips to Hawaii through the end of October.

Starting Oct. 13, outdoor seated venues, such as sports competitions and concerts, are allowed to operate at 50% capacity or a maximum of 1,000 attendees, whichever is fewer. All attendees at the events will be required to show proof of vaccination, physically distance from others not in their group and wear masks. Those working the events must either be vaccinated or get regular Covid-19 tests.

On Oct. 20, indoor seated entertainment venues will be allowed to operate at 50% capacity or a maximum of 500 attendees, whichever is fewer, while all attendees must follow the same rules as those for outdoor events.

Also on Oct, 20, private but managed outdoor events such as weddings and funerals will be allowed with a maximum of 150 people. All attendees must be vaccinated and wear masks, and the organizers must submit a mitigation plan to the county.

On Oahu, bars and restaurants can now serve alcohol until midnight after previously having a cut-off time of 10 p.m.

Social gathering sizes for all other events will remain restricted to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.

"This is not an all-clear signal," Ige said. "The pandemic is far from finished in Hawaii, the nation and around the world."



### Sausage Balls

1 pound ground pork sausage, such as Jimmy Dean, at room

temperature (see Cook's Note)

2 cups biscurt baking mix, such as Bisquick (see Cook's Note)

1/2 cup thinly sliced scallions, optional

One 8-ounce package sharp Cheddar, grated

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment.
- Combine the sausage, baking mix and scallions if using in a large bowl and gently knead with your hands until the baking mix is fully incorporated. Add the Cheddar and continue to mix until the cheese is evenly distributed.
- Using a tablespoon to scoop, divide the mixture into walnut-size pieces and shape into balls with your hands. Arrange on the lined baking sheets about 2 inches apart, about 20 balls per baking sheet.
- Bake until the sausage balls are golden brown and cooked through, about 26 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.