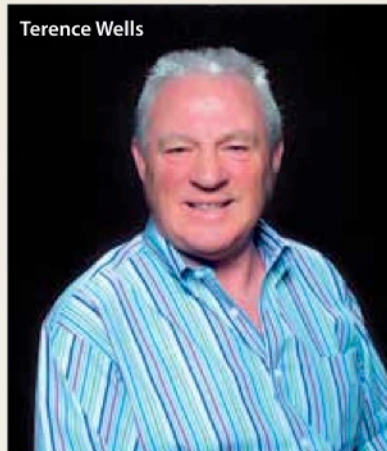


## CRUISE PASSENGER PROFILE



Terence Wells

**NAME:** TERENCE WELLS  
(WHO WE MET IN ISSUE 13 OF 'CRUISE PASSENGER') **AGE:** 68  
**NUMBER OF CRUISES TAKEN:** 36  
**FIRST CRUISE:** IT WAS IN NOVEMBER 1965 ON SHAW SAVILL LINE'S 'NORTHERN STAR', FROM MELBOURNE TO EUROPE VIA THE PANAMA CANAL. TWO YEARS LATER, IN NOVEMBER 1967, I RETURNED ON THE OLD 'ORIANA', SAILING FROM SOUTHAMPTON DOWN THE WEST AFRICA COAST VIA LAS PALMAS TO CAPE TOWN, THEN HOME.  
**FAVOURITE SHIP:** 'SUN PRINCESS'

*What do you like about cruising?*

What I really like is that you just unpack your bags. There are no houses, no cars; the phones stop ringing and people have to talk to each other. You come home at night and your bed is turned down, with a choccy on your pillow. You're being pampered and nobody tells you what to do.

*Which lines have you cruised with and which do you prefer?*

I cruised with Shaw Savill Line and Chandris Line back in the '60s but I've mainly cruised with P&O Cruises and Princess Cruises.

My favourite company would have to be Princess: I like the way they do things, especially their Captain's Circle Club. If you cruise with Princess, after one cruise you get a Gold card; between five and 15, you get a Platinum card; and after 15 cruises or 150 sea days, you get the Elite card.

With my Elite card, I get priority when getting on and off the ship and I'll normally get a complimentary mini-bar full of grog. I also get free laundry and dry-cleaning for the whole cruise, which is the best perk of the trip because I don't have to pack many clothes; I go with clean clothes and come home with clean clothes.

*Have your experience and appreciation of cruising changed over the years?*

Years ago, the ships used to bring migrants and cargo whereas today, they are only about cruising and the ships have everything.

The fact that all entertainment and food is included in the price is great. Granted, with entertainment, people can be pretty critical. And sure, you might get a few things you can be a bit critical of but across the board, it's pretty good, and the live production shows are excellent.

*Have you converted any friends or family members to cruising?*

Oh yeah – I should be working for the cruise lines! I'm always talking up cruises. People saying to me, 'What if I get bored or I want to get off?' But I always reckon you should try things once. And sure, cruising is probably not for everybody, but I don't know of many people who've cruised who don't like it.

*What is your favourite destination?*

Champagne Bay in Vanuatu: it's an isolated bay with a nice big curve of white sand and magnificent aqua-blue waters. The beach, where they serve fresh lobster and coconut crabs, is surrounded by coconut palms. It's untouched and special and I hope it remains that way.

*And your worst cruise experience?*

In 2005, on a 54-day cruise back from England on *Artemis*, we were headed into the Bay of Biscay – which, as you probably know, can get pretty rough. Anyway, the Captain made an announcement: "The next 24 hours are going to get a bit lumpy." That's the word he used: "lumpy"!

What followed was three days of the roughest cruising I've experienced in all my days. The ship got pounded; TVs fell off shelves; things were damaged. But then it stopped and we had perfect weather all the way home. It was lovely, going down to South America, visiting Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, then rounding Cape Horn and going on to Chile, the Easter and Pitcairn Islands, and Tahiti.



Champagne Bay, Vanuatu