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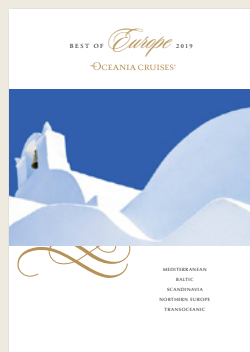


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Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a front cover wrap from **Oceania Cruises**.

Viking Explorer

VIKING Cruises has released a series of new offers as part of its Explorer Sale.

Deals include free or discounted flights, bonus stateroom upgrades and complimentary city extensions - for more info call 138 747.

Europe toolkit

OCEANIA Cruises is today promoting its 2019 Europe toolkit, which includes a customisable flyer, brochure, poster and social media tiles.

For information on how to access, see the **cover page**.

Oceania confirms next gen ships

OCEANIA Cruises has today confirmed an order for two new ships, to be delivered in 2022 and 2025 (**CW** breaking news).

The new "Allura-Class" mid-size vessels will each accommodate 1,200 guests, with the company stating they will retain "all the warmth, popular design elements and signature amenities" of the line's *Marina* and *Riviera* ships, with the additional level of comfort, convenience and a host of new luxury amenities.

"We are excited to expand the Oceania Cruises fleet with our new Allura-Class ships to meet the strong demand for upscale culinary- and destination-focused cruise vacations around the globe," said Frank Del Rio, President and CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd.

"This new class of ships will further elevate the already best-in-class guest experience at



Oceania Cruises and meaningfully strengthen demand from both new and loyal returning guests, which will ultimately drive further returns for shareholders."

The new ships represent an evolution of the Oceania Cruises experience, and will be built at the Fincantieri shipyard.

Giesepe Bono, CEO of Fincantieri, said the Oceania order showcased the breadth of the shipbuilder's portfolio.

"This new successful project for Oceania Cruises is yet another demonstration of our ability to capitalise on product innovation and diversification to meet the needs of every type of customer, a capability that distinguishes us in the world," Bono said.

"The order we are announcing today...further strengthens an unprecedented leadership in the cruise sector," he added.

Pictured: Oceania Sirena.

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Wednesday 9th January 2019

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Cunard ups Alaska

DUE to popular demand, Cunard has announced it has more than doubled its Alaska program for 2020, offering more cruises and itineraries to the destination on board its luxury liner, *Queen Elizabeth*.

The expanded program will offer nine roundtrip sailings departing Vancouver ranging from nine to 12 nights, as well as a special cruise to San Francisco including an overnight stay on 04 Jul.

For info, call 132 494.

Tennis pros ace *Spirit*



SOME of the world's most celebrated tennis players gathered on board *Carnival Spirit* earlier this week in Sydney, holding court with the ship's Captain Adriano Binacchi and enjoying the views of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House.

The stellar line up, which included Bruno Soares, Jamie Murray, Milos Raonic, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Lucas Pouille, Diego Schwartzman and Nick Kyrgios (pictured with Captain Binacchi) followed the announcement of

the ATP Cup, which is set to debut in Australia in Jan 2020.

The group joined NSW Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Adam Marshall as well as NSW Minister for Sport, Stuart Ayres on board where they enjoyed photo opportunities against the city's backdrop.

More than 150,000 passengers are expected to sail out of Sydney Harbour on Carnival ships throughout 2019, making it the cruise line's biggest year to date sailing from the Harbour city.

St Maarten recovery

POPULAR Caribbean cruise destination St Maarten is anticipating a surge in cruise passengers in 2019, with six ships arriving at the island on 02 Jan alone.

"The New Year will continue to see high cruise ship numbers as the destination continues to recover and grow the cruise tourism product in 2019," Port St Maarten management said in a statement.

St Maarten was left devastated in 2017 when it was struck by Hurricane Irma.



CAPTAIN'S Log, Stardate 2020.3, we've just heard that Royal Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas* will be hosting Star Trek: The Cruise IV - we're obviously very, very excited.

That's right, Star Trek acting royalty will be entertaining a ship full of "Trekkies" in 2020, with the likes of Robert Picardo, Robert Duncan McNeill, Garrett Wang, and the original Captain James Tiberius Kirk himself, William Shatner on board.

The cruise departs Miami in Mar 2020 and will hit warp speed around the Caribbean for over a week of nerdy hijinks.



Cruise trends for 2019 revealed in report

TRAVEL comparison site InsureMyTrip and cruise community Cruise Critic have joined forces to release a new data-driven report that reveals a range of cruise trends for 2019.

According to the report, cruise passengers can expect improved internet capabilities and technologies being rolled out across some of the major cruise brands, as well as additional time being offered in port, with many cruise lines planning port upgrades.

Cruise passengers can also expect to a more personalised experience when travelling, such as increased opportunities for cabin upgrades, plus perks for suite accommodation including personal concierges and private dining.

A rise in cruise-specific travel insurance is also tipped for 2019.

Grandiosa floats

MSC Cruises has celebrated the float out of its *MSC Grandiosa* at the shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, where the vessel is currently being built.

She has moved to a new wet dock area, where work will continue until her scheduled delivery on 31 Oct 2019.

One of three of the brand's Meriviglia class ships, *Grandiosa* will also become the first of three new Meriviglia-Plus ships set to join MSC's fleet, offering larger tonnage and guest capacity than its sister ships *MSC Meraviglia* and *MSC Bellissima*.

Highlights include a large Mediterranean-style promenade, new bar and lounge L'Atelier Bistrot, plus two brand new Cirque du Soleil at Sea shows.

Grandiosa is scheduled to set sail on 16 Nov from Italy.

CRUISE
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