



Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in Melbourne

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Cunard, aboard Queen Elizabeth.

OVER the weekend we sailed from Melbourne to Sydney on the Queen Elizabeth as part of her record Australian season.

It's given us a great chance to get a taste for this classic vessel and its traditional British inclusions such as champagne high tea and a glitzy Gala Dinner.

Cruise recognises its top achievers

THE Australia and New Zealand cruise industry temporarily set aside recent challenges to honour its best and brightest over the weekend at the 19th Annual Cruise Industry Awards in Sydney (CW breaking news).

Hosted by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia at The Star, the gala dinner and presentation saw 19 awards bestowed during the night, including Julie Avery from Brighton Travelworld, who was named Australia's Cruise Consultant of the Year.

Lorraine Van Veen from House of Travel Botany Junction walked away with the New Zealand Cruise Consultant of the Year award, while Jeff Leckey from House of Travel took out the Cruise Champion Australasia category, and Bicton Travel scored the coveted Large Cruise Agency of the Year Australia accolade.



CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said this year's awards had a record number of entries, with 560 submissions received across Australia and New Zealand.

"This year's winners reflect an increasing level of dedication among travel agents when it comes to engaging with their clients and developing their cruise business," he said.

"Their passion for cruising is stronger than ever and a sign of the growing levels of expertise

among cruise specialists right across the Australasian travel trade," Katz added.

The evening's biggest highlight arguably belonged to former Carnival Australia CEO Ann Sherry, who was inducted into the prestigious CLIA Hall of Fame, more details on [page three](#).

Pictured are many of the cruise industry's winners during the big occasion - to view all of the fun and excitement from the cruise industry's night of nights, visit our Facebook page [HERE](#).



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Guest tests positive

A **PASSENGER** who recently disembarked from Holland America Line's (HAL) troubled *Westerdam* vessel has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Although initial testing carried out on board the ship showed a negative result, the pax later exhibited symptoms while travelling home from Cambodia and is now in a stable condition at a hospital in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"HAL is working closely with government and health officials in Malaysia...no other guests or crew, either on board or on their way home, have reported any symptoms of the illness," the cruise line said.

Royal Beach Club

ROYAL Caribbean International has forged a new agreement with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to build its first Royal Beach Club.

The deal marks the start of the planning and development stage for the line's new attraction, with construction set to start later this year.

The club will be exclusive for the line's guests and include private cabanas, a swimming pool with swim-up bar, island-style BBQs & live music.

Activities available will be jet skiing, paddle boarding, snorkelling, and a splash pad.

Spectrum's charitable move



ROYAL Caribbean Cruises (RCL) has announced *Spectrum of the Seas* will be redeployed from China to Australia in the "coming weeks" to offer communities who battled the recent bushfire crisis free sailings aboard the vessel (**CW** breaking news).

The ship was formerly scheduled to undertake voyages in China that have since been cancelled due to the ongoing threat of the coronavirus.

"It is our privilege to offer two complimentary sailings on board our newest super liner *Spectrum of the Seas* from Sydney...as a way of thanking the incredible first responder community who worked tirelessly over the bush fire season," said Royal Caribbean International CEO Michael Bayley.

"We are in a fortunate position to offer such brave members of our community and their families the chance to join us for a few days to relax and unwind".

RCL will also be redeploying *Celebrity Millennium* to the west coast of the United States earlier than scheduled to offer a series of "Cruising for Heroes" sailings.

The cruises will be offered to California firefighters who battled blazes in the state throughout Mar and Apr last year.

"The women and men of *Celebrity* were keen to have this opportunity to give back, even though this repositioning presented a challenging timeline," said Royal Caribbean Cruises Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Richard Fain.

"We know the hard work and sacrifice of those who have been keeping Californians safe, and it feels good to be able to say 'thank you.'"

The cruise line said it would reveal further details this week following consultation with the relevant authorities to plan cruise schedules & the booking process.

MSC Abu Dhabi deal

MSC Cruises has signed a long-term agreement with Abu Dhabi Ports that will see the cruise line receive priority berthing rights at the city's main cruise passenger gateway, Zayed Port and Sir Bani Yas Island, located 170km off the UAE coast.

The deal is expected to "further consolidate" its position as the largest passenger cruise operator in the Gulf region, according to MSC CEO Gianni Onorato.

MSC Seaview is scheduled to make her maiden call to Abu Dhabi on 06 Dec, where she will operate 14 cruises until Mar 2021, with *MSC Lirica* joining her in Abu Dhabi and the Gulf for winter 2020/21.

Dreaming of Melb

DREAM Cruises' *Explorer Dream* last week made her inaugural arrival in Melbourne as part a seven-night itinerary that left Sydney on 09 Feb.

"Our maiden call to Melbourne introduces a perfect playground for our local and int'l guests to explore all that this wonderful city has to offer," said Genting Cruise Lines VP of Sales & Marketing Australia Brigita Devries.

Explorer Dream will also return in Q4 this year, making maiden calls to Broome, Exmouth & Fremantle in WA.



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Cruise Calendar

The next few port calls of cruise ships at various destinations around Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	17 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	17 Feb
<i>Silver Muse</i>	18 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	18 Feb
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	19 Feb
<i>Arcardia</i>	19 Feb
<i>Pacific Princess</i>	19 Feb
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Dawn</i>	18 Feb
<i>The World</i>	18 Feb
<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	19 Feb
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	20 Feb
MELBOURNE	
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	17 Feb
<i>Norwegian Jewel</i>	18 Feb
<i>Viking Orion</i>	18 Feb
<i>Albatros</i>	20 Feb
HOBART	
<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	17 Feb
<i>Maasdam</i>	18 Feb
<i>Explorer Dream</i>	19 Feb
<i>Azamara Journey</i>	20 Feb
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	20 Feb
ADELAIDE	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	18 Feb
<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	19 Feb
<i>Pacific Aria</i>	19 Feb
<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	20 Feb
DARWIN	
<i>Radiance of the Seas</i>	17 Feb
EDEN	
<i>Voyager of the Seas</i>	18 Feb
AUCKLAND	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	17 Feb
<i>Regatta</i>	17 Feb
<i>Crystal Serenity</i>	18 Feb
<i>Columbus</i>	19 Feb
<i>Ruby Princess</i>	20 Feb

Ann Sherry inducted



FORMER Carnival chief Ann Sherry has been inducted into the cruise sector's Hall of Fame, in recognition for the pivotal role she has played in the industry's success for more than a decade.

Announced at the prestigious Cruise Industry Awards held in Sydney over the weekend, CLIA Australasia MD Joel Katz presented Sherry with the esteemed honour in front of 500 guests, one that made her only the 16th person to be added to the exclusive list.

"[Sherry] successfully placed the cruise industry and its most critical issues, front-and-centre," Katz said.

"She also used her personal reputation as one of Australia's most prominent business people to grow the reputation of cruising among business, government and media, working to ensure that others in the tourism industry, and policymakers, understand the

economic value of cruising."

Upon accepting the award, Sherry praised the cruise sector's unique ability to exceed travellers' expectations.

"This is an industry that really makes people's dreams come true...on board every ship, everywhere in the world, we do amazing things for people and we have an extraordinary group of people who make that happen," Sherry enthused.

Pictured: Sherry accepting her honour from CLIA's Joel Katz.

Sell Three, Sail Free

SILVERSEA Cruises has launched its Sell Three, Sail Free promotion, which will see any agent who makes three new bookings on select Silversea voyages between 01 Apr and 31 Dec 2021 score a free expedition voyage.

For more details, **CLICK HERE.**

Jewel's false alarm

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has pushed back against mainstream media reports last Fri that claimed *Norwegian Jewel* was in "lockdown" for a possible coronavirus case.

The line told **CW** there was no truth in the "false and inflammatory media reports", stating it had simply followed its stringent health protocols after a few guests reported feeling ill, with the vessel always remaining operational.



GUESTS confined to their rooms aboard the Princess Cruises' *Diamond Princess* have made the best out of an unfortunate situation, forming life-long friendships with fellow passengers during the ship's 14-day quarantine.

Guests have reportedly created private groups on Whatsapp and Facebook, where they "check in on each other" and share videos of shipboard activities and photos of their meals.

"The WhatsApp group of friends that we have made on the ship are now life-long friends and definitely plan on keeping in touch [with them]," passenger Kent Frasure from Oregon told the media via text message.

The ship also created the #HangInThereDiamondPrincess hashtag, encouraging guests to use it when sharing their experiences on social media.