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### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a cover page from **Royal Caribbean International**.

### RCI Quantum offer

**ROYAL Caribbean International** is offering a spate of last chance deals, with a seven-night cruise available from \$699 per person.

The deal is available on select sailings of *Quantum of the Seas* next year.

The ship is one of two Royal Caribbean vessels cruising in Australia, alongside *Ovation of the Seas* (CW 13 Dec).

Royal Caribbean also recently welcomed *Wonder of the Seas* as the newest ship in its fleet (CW 12 Dec).

To learn more about the offer, head to the **cover page**.

## Azamara makes Australian return

**AZAMARA** has marked its long-awaited return to Australia, with *Azamara Quest* sailing into Fremantle today.

The ship's crew and her Captain Johannes Tysse received a warm welcome from Director of Sales Victoria Chigwidden, as well as Azamara's growing Australian shoreside team (pictured).

Chigwidden said Azamara's local cruise season has seen very strong demand, with smaller ships continuing to be a popular choice for discerning cruisers.

"*Quest* will depart Fremantle on 21 Dec, beginning its 14-night country intensive voyage in Sydney, just in time to partake in the Emerald City's renowned New Year's Eve celebrations, and watch the fireworks light up the sky over Sydney Harbour," she said.

It will be the first of three consecutive country intensive



voyages for *Quest*, plying the waters from Melbourne to Sydney, before sailing along the Sapphire Coast to see humpback whales, golden beaches, crystal blue waters, and lush green forests.

*Quest* will then continue on to New Zealand's jaw-dropping Milford Sound to marvel at the panoramic views of towering mountains and

cascading waterfalls, followed by explorations of Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, and Marlborough.

Highlights of the season include encounters with the Tasmanian Devil, and visits to Australia's lavender fields, sheep farms, and a remote island full of pearls.

On 19 Feb, *Quest* will bid farewell to Australia until next season, sailing from Fremantle to Asia and then back to Europe.

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## NCLH to cut shoreside jobs

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) is "restructuring and right-sizing" its shoreside workforce by approximately 9%.

The company confirmed the reorganisation to **Cruise Weekly**, saying the cuts align with its "strategic priorities".

"This action is part of a broader and ongoing effort to improve operating efficiencies, including cost minimisation initiatives, to strengthen the foundation for sustained, profitable growth," NCLH said.

## Princess returns to the heart of Texas

**PRINCESS** Cruises' *Ruby Princess* has departed on her inaugural voyage from Galveston, marking the line's first sailing from Texas in six years.

*Ruby* will offer five- to 16-day cruises during the northern winter/spring 2022-23 season.

The ship's first departure from Texas is an 11-day sailing to Mexico and the Caribbean.

It is the first of 16 cruises from Texas on the schedule.

A highlight of the season are the 16-day ocean-to-ocean Panama Canal transits between Texas and San Francisco.

To mark Princess' return to Galveston, President John Padgett hosted a traditional maritime plaque exchange with Galveston Port Director Rodger Rees prior to *Ruby's* first departure.

A FIVE-DOLLAR purchase has turned into a USD\$95,000 Princess Cruises-branded Porsche Taycan for a lucky American.

A North Carolina woman is the lucky winner of Princess' Porsche giveaway (**CW** 14 Jun), which attracted almost one million entries.

The woman purchased a USD\$5 Princess accessory ahead of an upcoming cruise with the line, which saw her entered into the competition.

The prize-winner, her husband, and their two teenage sons who boarded *Regal Princess* last weekend for a previously booked cruise, were the guests of honour at a dockside reception at Port Everglades prior to embarkation, where President John Padgett presented them with the keys.

"When Princess called me to tell me I had won a \$95,000 custom Princess-inspired Porsche I thought they were joking - I almost hung up on them...to be honest, I'm still in shock," she said.



## P&O spreads Xmas joy



**P&O** Cruises Australia is sharing the Christmas joy with communities in the South Pacific, working with its elves to gift more than 300 presents (pictured).

Children in countries like Vanuatu will be the recipients of P&O Australia's proud pre-pandemic tradition.

The cruise line's crew members will distribute the gifts when its annual Christmas Cruise visits Mystery Island, Porta Vila, and Luganville later this week.

According to Mystery Island Tourism Holdings Chair Barry Nagia, the annual gift-giving is a huge event in the life of the local children.

"I still fondly remember when I was a child and the cruise ship brought presents for all of us children," he said.

"We have put the word out to neighbouring villages of Port Patrick and Umej to bring the young children to the island to meet Santa's helpers."

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