



Cruise Weekly today

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

Even more rewards

SCENIC Group's rewards program is returning soon, Cruise Weekly understands.

Suspended during COVID-19, the now-offline program will be returning in the next few months, with a range of improvements, Cruise Weekly has learned.

Points have been and are still being accumulated during the program's pause.

Continue to read **Cruise Weekly** for further updates on the new program.

Disney debuts new *Wish*



DISNEY Cruise Line (DCL) has unveiled its first new ship in a decade, *Disney Wish* (inset), late last week.

Walt Disney Co Chief Executive Bob Chapek was on hand to introduce *Wish*, Reuters reported - the first project he had championed to the company's board of directors.

It took more than six years to bring *Wish* to the market, Chapek told guests at a christening ceremony, which featured fireworks, and appearances by Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Ant-Man, Chewbacca and other characters from Disney's vast portfolio.

Wish is the fifth vessel in the cruise line's fleet, and kicks off the largest expansion in DCL history, according to Disney Parks, Experiences & Products Chair Josh D'Amaro.

The expansion will see two more ships be delivered by 2025.

Wish touts Disney's "first

attraction at sea", the 'AquaMouse' - a theme park-like ride that incorporates animated short films featuring Mickey and other characters, as guests float through 230 meters of winding tubes suspended above the upper decks.

Guests can also use a DCL application, which turns the user's phone into a virtual "spyglass" for peering at constellations in the night sky, which appear as Disney and Pixar characters.

The interactive game marks a step toward Chapek's goal of establishing a presence in the "metaverse".

Pictured are Disney Destinations Travel Business Development Manager Amy Mortlock, House of Travel General Manager Cruise Jeff Leckey, and Walt Disney Parks & Resorts Director Andrea Robinson.

Get in the Spirit!

CRUISE Spirit membership expressions of interest are now open for travel agencies to register for 22/23.

Now into its second year, the Cruise Spirit membership program brings together a select network of leading cruise travel businesses across Australia encompassing bricks & mortar stores, prominent auto clubs, online brands, and home-based advisors.

"Being part of the Cruise Spirit program delivers a range of unique benefits and enhanced rewards tailored to our members, from exclusive cruise packages with handpicked inclusions to dedicated sales and marketing support and priority communication channels," said General Manager Caroline Hitchen.

"Our members access market-leading cruise technology platforms and receive their own fully maintained and branded cruise-booking website".

New look NCL Australia team

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled its new-look Australian sales team.

The changes were cemented at Norwegian's first face-to-face event in two-and-a-half years, held recently at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in the Gold Coast hinterland.

Led by Director of Sales Damian Borg and Senior Manager Sales Angela Middleton, Norwegian's new Business Development Managers are Craig McLaurin (NT & Queensland), Jacinta Baker (Southern NSW, ACT & WA), Vanessa Green (Northern NSW & SA), and James McCullagh (Victoria & Tasmania).

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Viking 22-24 brox

VIKING has released its 2022-2024 Expeditions Brochure, including South Georgia and two new longitudinal World Cruises.

The brochure features new 2024 departure dates and several new itineraries aboard *Viking Octantis* and *Viking Polaris*, including a 19-day Antarctica & South Georgia Island voyage, five grand journeys exploring the coastlines of the Americas, and more.

Local Managing Director Michelle Black said with the completion of Viking Expeditions' first Antarctic season and the start of the inaugural Great Lakes season, the cruise line is delighted to expand its Antarctic program and introduce a range of new itineraries in the Americas based on customer feedback.

Royal Caribbean lays keel for *Utopia*

NEW Royal Caribbean International ship *Utopia of the Seas* has reached her first major milestone, with a keel-laying ceremony (**pictured**) marking the next step in construction of the first liquefied natural gas-powered Oasis-class vessel.

Taking place at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, the event celebrated the official start of *Utopia's* construction ahead of the ship's introduction in 2024.

At the ceremony, the working teams constructing *Utopia* watched as newly minted coins were placed on the ship's first steel block.

"The keel laying for *Utopia of the Seas* represents the first milestone of an incredible ship and the next step toward a bolder, thrilling future for Royal Caribbean and vacations," said the cruise line's President & Chief



Executive Officer Michael Bayley. "*Utopia's* debut in 2024, on the heels of *Icon of the Seas* setting sail in (the northern) fall 2023, will build on a new, exciting chapter that is set to redefine family vacations and getaways for all ages in ways we'll soon reveal."

Added Chantiers de l'Atlantique General Manager Laurent Castaing: "the construction of *Utopia* is an exciting opportunity for the Chantiers de l'Atlantique teams that are aiming to make this cruise ship one of the most environmentally friendly ships in the world equipped with new

DISCOVER ASIA WITH NCL

To celebrate the launch of our all-new Asia 2023 & 2024 season on board *Norwegian Jewel* we're rewarding Travel Partners with Double Points!

70
POINTS

Earn up to 70 Points for every Asia deposited booking on board *Norwegian Jewel* made between 1 - 31 July 2022*.

35
POINTS

Earn up to 35 Points on all other destinations deposited between 1 - 31 July 2022*.

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Windstar's new office



WINDSTAR Cruises has celebrated its new Miami office with a party late last week.

The grand opening ceremony was followed by an open house, with local businesses, partners, vendors, media, and government officials in attendance.

Guests enjoyed food, drinks, entertainment, and the much-anticipated unveiling of the office mural created by Fountainhead Arts-commissioned artist TYPOE.

Windstar partnered with the Miami-based Fountainhead organisation, which is dedicated to supporting artists, to commission local creator to paint murals on each of the three Star Plus-class yachts, in addition to the office piece.

The cruise line's President Christopher Prelog said a Miami office is beneficial for building industry relationships and attracting new talent.

It also enables operations employees in Miami to be closer to Windstar's ships and crews as they pass through Florida, and shorter flight times to the ships in

Europe and the Caribbean.

"We are all so excited to open our new headquarters of Windstar Cruises here in Miami, the centre of the universe in cruising," he said.

"This new location allows us to collaborate closely with our vendors, partners, travel agents, and fleet."

Located in the suburb of Doral, Windstar moved its office across the country from Seattle, where it had previously been headquartered (**CW** 25 Oct).

New Supercruises advisor appointed

EDIE Rodriguez has joined UK-based cruise OTA supercruises.com as a Special Advisor to its founder and Chief Exec Alex Panagopoulos.

Rodriguez was formerly CEO of Crystal Cruises until 2017, with her career also including senior roles at Ponant, Azamara, Carnival, and more.

Marella Singapore

MARELLA Cruises is establishing a homeport in Singapore for the first time in next year's northern winter.

The cruise line is offering a greater variety of destinations on sailings during next year's northern winter, with its Asia itineraries to include an overnight stay in Singapore.

From Oct 2023, Marella's Americas itineraries will also include a new cruise which explores Boston, Maine, Rhode Island, St. John, Halifax, and Sydney.

Marella has also shared a glimpse of venues onboard new vessel *Marella Voyager*.

Launching in the northern summer 2023, the ship will include new venues such as 'Silver Fork', a British-themed speciality restaurant, 'The Arts House', a bar filled with arts and crafts that hosts musicians and singers at night, and 'The Kitchens', a theatrical food hall with eight eateries rolled into one.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).



AN ANIMAL believed to be a Minke whale has been spotted in France's Seine, according to the ABC.

The 10-metre-long cetacean was spotted close to the English Channel, according to local authorities.

The animal's appearance is "unprecedented", according to Delphine Eloi, the head of the GECC mammal research institute.

Eloi added although rorqual whales were not unusual in the English Channel, it was the first time a mammal of that species had been spotted swimming in the Seine.

Last month, a four-metre killer whale was spotted kilometres upstream in the Seine, another observation which had never been seen before.



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