



## Cruise Weekly today

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

## Viking '24 release

VIKING has announced the release of new 2024 ocean voyages, with new destinations, new itineraries, and additional departures on popular voyages.

The new 36-day Grand Fjords & Iconic Viking Shores is a highlight, taking in the beauty of Iceland, Greenland, and the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

There are also two new itineraries combining the West Indies with the Mediterranean and the Iberian Peninsula.

Viking is also reopening two Hawaiian voyages exploring Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and more.

# A-ROSA SENA departs on inaugural

A-ROSA Cruises' A-ROSA SENA has departed on her maiden voyage, with the cruise line claiming a "completely new travel experience" due to hybrid propulsion and exhaust gas filtering.

The so-called 'E-Motion' ship departed Cologne on Sat, with Captain Ultich Schwalbe saying "you don't notice any emissions on board and can just enjoy the pure cruising experience".

Prior to her departure, SENA was blessed in Dusseldorf by a local deacon, and was christened by Clara Eichler, daughter of A-ROSA Chief Executive Officer Jorg Eichler, in the presence of the management, the crew, and more.

Due to supply challenges, the ceremony took place on a smaller scale, and the first cruise started slightly later than initially planned.



Thanks to the hybrid propulsion system, the first departure was accomplished with the help of electrical energy from the onboard battery storage system.

Throughout her inaugural northern summer, SENA will offer seven-night voyages from Cologne via Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dordrecht and more.

SENA features a large SPA-ROSA with a sauna, a whirlpool, & a

massage room; a fitness area; two pools on the sun deck; a Kids Club; and various restaurants & bars.

"SENA's design is truly unique on the river," commented Hotel Manager Dennis Brenner, with a spacious interior layout complementing her sustainable design.

**Pictured:** SENA departs Dusseldorf.

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## Back in the NY Groove



**THE** fun is back in New York City, with Carnival Cruise Line returning to the United States' most populous destination.

*Carnival Magic's* arrival on Fri marked the cruise line's restart in all 14 of its American homeports, when she reached the Manhattan Cruise Terminal (**pictured**).

The arrival marked the return to guest operations from New York for the first time in more than two years, and to commemorate the special day, *Magic* team members welcomed guests on board with a "Back to Fun" event, including a ceremonial ribbon-cutting (**inset**) and lots of fanfare.

Following her initial four-day Bermuda cruise, *Magic* will depart from New York on 15 sailings with various itineraries this season.

"With our return to New York today, we now have restarted

guest operations in all of 14 of our U.S. homeports," said President Christine Duffy.

"New York has been a wonderful partner for more than two decades, and we are delighted to provide versatile vacation options from this popular market again."

Carnival became the first major cruise line to return its full 23-ship fleet to guest operations on 02 May with *Carnival Splendor's* sailing from Seattle, and upon her repositioning to Sydney in Oct, the cruise line will restart its operations in Australia.

Following *Splendor*, the new *Carnival Luminosa* will begin service from Brisbane in Nov (**CW** 15 Jun).

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## Costa Toscana christened



**THE** christening ceremony of Costa Cruises' new LNG-powered flagship *Costa Toscana* has been held in Barcelona.

The christening event was led by *Toscana's* godmother, Spanish singer Chanel, who represented the country at this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

Chanel joined *Toscana's* captain Pietro Sinisi for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which saw a bottle shattered on the ship's bow.

"It is a great thrill to celebrate the christening of our *Costa Toscana* in Barcelona, a city to which we are particularly attached and where we have been at home since the beginning of our history," said President Mario Zanetti.

"For this occasion, we have organized an event to celebrate the start of a summer that marks the serene resumption of

travel and vacations.

"The event also features the excellence of Costa's offerings in all aspects, from high gastronomy to high quality entertainment, to unique experiences ashore."

Attendees also enjoyed a gala dinner menu that was conceived by Spanish chef Angel Leon, with whom Costa is strengthening its collaboration by supporting an innovative sea food project in the Bay of Cadiz.

The partnership will support the development of the Zostera marina marine grain, a plant which helps generate greater marine biodiversity.

Zostera marina is able to produce a "superfood" from its seeds with great nutritional properties; it also contributes to mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon.

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**HONG** Kong has bid farewell to Jumbo Kingdom, the world's largest floating restaurant.

Tugboats arrived last week to tow away the seafood eatery, a Hong Kong fixture for almost half a century.

Jumbo Kingdom has become less popular among locals and tourists in the past decade, and as with so many other businesses trading water, the COVID-19 pandemic dealt it the final blow.

In Mar 2020, the restaurant's owners said that they had accumulated a loss of over HKD\$100 million (AUD\$18 million) and announced that the restaurant would be closed until further notice.

Several proposals had been put forward to save it, but its high maintenance cost deterred potential investors.

Without a rescuer, the owners decided to move the restaurant to an undisclosed shipyard away from Hong Kong before its operating license expires this month.

Nothing has been confirmed about the future of the boat, and it looks like dining at Jumbo is now permanently off the menu.

## Azamara White Night



**AZAMARA** last week held a White Night Party in Brisbane, akin to those hosted aboard the cruise line's ships.

The stunning event at The Lushh in Woolloongabba saw almost 80 travel advisors and trade partners in attendance, where they heard from the Azamara team about the cruise line's return to Australian waters in Dec.

A number of lucky agents including Arrivia's Greg Thorn, Clean Cruising's Casey Russell, Just Cruises' Paul Graham, and Travel Partners' Sarah Webster, all won a cruise on the first *Azamara Quest* sailing to Australia, from Singapore to Perth.

The cruise line's entire fleet of four recently fully returned to service, with *Azamara Journey*



returning to sailing late last month (*CW* 02 Jun).

**Pictured:** Thorn with Business Development Manager Victoria/SA/Tasmania Jessica Papalia, Director of Sales Australia & NZ Belle Osmic, Arrivia's Noriye Oto, and Guest & Trade Support Manager Australia & NZ Darragh Robbins.

**Inset:** Business Development Manager NSW/ACT, Queensland & WA Kristina Sambaher and MTA's Mark & Gayle Fogerty.

## Carnival Corp + BetMGM pact

**CARNIVAL** Corporation and sports betting platform BetMGM have partnered to offer gambling aboard the cruise company's ships.

Through the partnership, gambling will be available while in international waters on more than 50 vessels ported in the United States, spanning Carnival Cruise Line, Holland America Line, and Princess Cruises.

Under the agreement, Carnival Corp will offer BetMGM-branded digital and cash-based sports betting, as well as digital real-money gambling products.

BetMGM's platform will roll out in phases aboard the fleets of these cruise lines over the coming months.

Carnival Corp and BetMGM will also collaborate on co-marketing and promotional activations.

"We're very proud to be able to deliver the excitement and engagement of sports betting and iGaming to our guests through our partnership with BetMGM," said Carnival Corp Senior Vice President Global Casino Operations Marty Goldman.



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