

A Quantum leap for RCI in Brisbane

ROYAL Caribbean International's (RCI) *Quantum of the Seas* has sailed into Brisbane (pictured), making her debut in the capital of Queensland.

Yesterday morning saw *Quantum* sail through Moreton Bay to her new homeport, the newly developed \$177 million Brisbane International Cruise Terminal, where she was met by RCI local Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith, alongside Port of Brisbane Chief Executive Officer Neil Stephens.

Quantum will offer summer sailings from Brisbane through to Apr, during which she will make 63 ports of call in Cairns, Airlie Beach, and along the south coast of Australia, as well as to destinations in the South Pacific, including Port Vila, and New Caledonia where the ship made her first call on Fri on her way to Queensland (CW 31 Oct).



A plaque and key ceremony was conducted by Smith, Stephens, and *Quantum's* Captain Arild Hanson, a tradition for all ships on their maiden call to a port.

Smith thanked RCI's loyal guests, suppliers, and the wider Australian travel industry, for their "unwavering support" in the lead-up to the ship's arrival in the country.

"Today's arrival of *Quantum of the Seas* into her new homeport

in Brisbane is the beginning of a new benchmark for family holidays from Queensland and throughout Australia," he said.

The season will also see more than \$17.7 million spent on Australian food and beverage supplies such as meat, dairy, fresh fruit, and vegetables.

RCI also recently made her return to Australia for the first time since 2019, with *Ovation of the Seas* arriving in Sydney.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus full pages from:

- Cruise Lines International Association
- Norwegian Cruise Line

Strong and free!

TRUE North Adventure Cruises is returning its first ship to its fleet, expanding to a two-vessel operation for the first time in its history.

The ship is currently available for charters in Indonesian waters, but will be sailed back to Fremantle at the end of the year, where she will undergo a refit ahead of her maiden voyage as *True North II*.

The reequipped ship will have capacity for 22 guests, and will feature adventure boats and a helicopter.

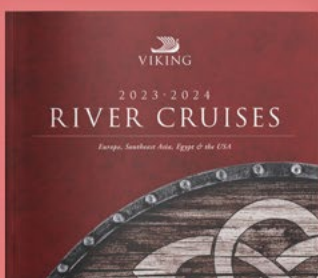


VIKING

NEW RIVER BROCHURE

Our new 2023-2024 River Cruises brochure is now available to order from TIFs. Featuring our full 2024 river cruise season including Europe, Southeast Asia, Egypt & the USA.

VIEW ONLINE





THIS story gives a whole different meaning to 'Oceans Eleven'!

Three thieves have been arrested in Barcelona for attempting to fleece a poker game aboard Royal Caribbean's *Wonder of the Seas*.

Spain's Civil Guard arrested the thieves while *Wonder* was docked in Barcelona, after their trickery was uncovered by the ship's casino management.

It is alleged one of the accused attempted to distract the croupier with questions which prevented the game from following its "normal dynamics".

However the scheme was quickly uncovered, and it was even discovered one of the syndicate had prior charges.

Sun's debut Euro trip

PRINCESS Cruises has announced the spring and summer 2024 European season for its next generation ship *Sun Princess* (**CW** 10 Oct).

When the ship debuts in Feb 2024, guests will set sail on a memorable 10-day Grand Mediterranean inaugural voyage, with departure options from Barcelona, Rome, and Athens.

The full European season aboard *Sun* includes 10-day itineraries visiting popular stops throughout the Mediterranean, and Princess' popular series of seven-day voyages departing from either Barcelona, Rome, or Athens, which can be combined for an ultimate 14-day or 21-day exploration.

Other highlights of the Mar through Sep 2024 inaugural season include seven-day Mediterranean cruises visiting the Greek Isles & Turkey between

Rome and Athens; visiting Greece & Italy between Athens and Barcelona; and visiting France & Italy between Barcelona and Rome, with more than 20 departures.

There will also be European Explorer voyages sailing between the Mediterranean and London, ranging from nine to 23 days; a nine-day Grand Mediterranean voyage sailing round trip from Rome; and 10-day Grand Mediterranean voyages sailing round trip from Rome.

"It's a perfect match having our new *Sun Princess* debut in this scenic region because so much of our design inspiration for this next-generation ship comes directly from these iconic destinations," declared President John Padgett.

"When you dream of the Mediterranean, you immediately think of sunshine".

Join CLIA in 2023

CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) 2023 memberships are open now.

Join CLIA and earn bonus commissions and rewards worth more than \$1,500 in combined indicative value on 2023's cruise bookings.

CLIA members can be rewarded on bookings from a range of member cruise lines. Head to **page 4** for more.

NCL Partners First

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is inviting travel advisors to discover the benefits of its new rewards program, Partners First Rewards.

Members will earn points on every booking made, which can be redeemed for a wide range of gift cards.

There are many reasons to join - for more information, head to **page 5** of **CW**.



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SAIL
+ UP TO 30% OFF 1ST & 2ND GUESTS*



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OAT single supp

GRAND Circle Travel's Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) has added single cabins with no supplement on its small ship cruises next year.

The cabins are available from Jan to Dec 2023, with the waived single supplement translating into a saving of up to USD\$1,695 per person.

Next year, there are more than 30,000 single spaces.

Aurora founder's cruise



AURORA Expeditions founder Greg Mortimer (pictured) will lead the 'Across the Arctic Circle' expedition next year.

The 15-day cruise will travel from Scotland to Norway aboard the mountaineer's namesake ship *Greg Mortimer*.

Departing Aberdeen on 16 May, the special founder's expedition will visit the remote Orkney and Shetland Islands, sail along the Norwegian coast, and explore the frozen wildernesses of Bear Island and Svalbard, before arriving in Longyearbyen on 30 May.

Across the Arctic Circle is priced from \$21,095 per person for an Aurora Stateroom twin share.

Expedition price includes overnight accommodation with en suite and breakfast prior to expeditions; all meals, snacks tea & coffee during voyage; beer, wine & soft drink with dinner; all shore excursions and Zodiac cruises; all lectures; transfers; 3-in-1 waterproof polar

expedition jacket; port charges, fees, gratuities and wi-fi.

Optional activities available for this voyage are sea kayaking and scuba diving.

"I can't wait to bathe in that exquisite Arctic light once again," Mortimer enthused.

"It's been a while...this time it will be even more surreal, being on a ship with my own name on it," he added.

Chief Executive Officer Michael Heath said Aurora is thrilled Mortimer will lead the Arctic journey.

"His exploring and guiding expertise, gleaned over three decades, will be an enlightening experience and highlight many a little-known treasure, inlet, and wildlife experience for his fellow expeditioners," he said.

"He is an inspiration to all who travel with him."

For more information on the Across the Arctic Circle, **CLICK HERE**.

CLIA UPDATE



with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Your time to shine

THE cruise industry's biggest night of the year will make a spectacular return in Mar, as CLIA hosts our first Cruise Industry Awards since 2020.

This time we'll have plenty to celebrate as we highlight the incredible determination shown by our travel advisor community and the remarkable resilience of our friends and colleagues.

Nominations are now open and we're encouraging all CLIA members to get involved.

This is your opportunity to put yourself forward as one of the stars of the Australian and New Zealand cruise community, or to highlight a colleague you want to see recognised for their talent and dedication.

The awards will be announced on Sat 11 Mar at a gala dinner at Sydney's Luna Park Big Top, with entertainer Tim Campbell returning as our host for what promises to be a big night.

Eighteen awards will be presented, including 11 that are now open to self-nomination or peer-nomination.

You'll find more information on the CLIA website, including details of each award category, nominations, and tickets.

There's never been a more important time to celebrate.

We hope you can be a part of the show.

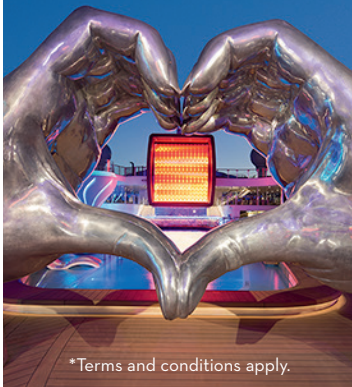
Nominate now **HERE**.



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Robyn and Murray Sinfield,
Home Travel Company, TAS



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*\$1500 is calculated based on the combined minimum indicative value of all CLIA Cruise Line rewards available on eligible new cruise bookings made in 2023. One offer per cruise line. Please refer to the CLIA Australasia 2023 Travel Agent Rewards Program Terms and Conditions at www.cruising.org.au

Contact us for more information on CLIA Membership and Benefits

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