



CLIA partners with Qatar Tourism

EXCLUSIVE

THE upcoming Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Awards (**CW** 01 Nov) will be sponsored by Qatar Tourism, in a partnership celebrated yesterday in Doha.

The DMO's Global Head of Cruise Craig Upshall and CLIA MD Australasia, Joel Katz (**pictured**) minted the already-announced partnership on the sidelines of the naming ceremony for *MSC World Europa*.

Katz said the cruise sector is delighted to have the support of Qatar Tourism as the gala event's headline sponsor.

The 20th Cruise Industry Awards will be the first time the event has been held since 2020, and will honour the resilience and expertise of the sector.

"This year we'll have plenty to celebrate as our members work to forge cruising's comeback, so



the return of CLIA's awards night will help honour those who have been star performers," he said.

Upshall added Qatar was thrilled to be part of the Australian cruise community's biggest celebration in three years.

"Cruise is a key focus as part of Qatar's tourism development, contributing to the country's 2030 vision to treble visitor numbers," he said.

The 20th Cruise Industry Awards are scheduled for 11 Mar 2023

at Luna Park Sydney, with a total of 18 categories to be judged - of which 11 are open to self- or peer-nomination.

Nominations close on 30 Nov and can be made online now by **CLICKING HERE**.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from **CLIA**.



On location in Doha

Today's issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of **MSC Cruises**, which named its all-new *MSC World Europa* in Qatar this weekend.

CRUISE Weekly will be heading home this evening after a wonderful few days on board the pioneering *MSC World Europa*.

Throughout the week, delegates have been introduced to the trailblazing sustainability initiatives of the world's largest LNG-powered cruise ship, which has the lowest carbon footprint per passenger in the industry.

These achievements were celebrated at the naming ceremony last night.



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Azamara launches 2024-2025

AZAMARA has unveiled its new 2024/25 deployment, with 44 new voyages spanning every corner of the globe.

The program offers 171 late stays and overnights in port, allowing travellers to dive deeper into each destination.

Azamara Pursuit will visit Australia, with voyages offering the chance to experience the country's unique cultures, excellent climates, and more.

Maiden ports in the Pacific include Pago Pago, American Samoa; Apia, Samoa; Tonga; and Lautoka & Suva in Fiji.

Pursuit will also navigate NZ as well as Asia with two of Azamara's popular Japan Country Intensive sailings, giving guests the opportunity to delve deeper into the destination.

Azamara Quest will embark on six back-to-back South Africa Country Intensive voyages,

giving travellers the opportunity to explore the country at their own pace by visiting ports such as Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Mossel Bay & Cape Town plus Maputo, Mozambique.

Azamara Journey will cruise along South America's most picturesque coasts, offering guests experiences in must-see destinations including Buenos Aires, Lima and San Antonio.

Meanwhile, *Azamara Onward* will be sailing the cruise line's 2025 World Voyage, open for booking now (**CW** 03 Nov).

Departing from San Diego and visiting 37 countries, the cruise will conclude in Southampton, and includes 15 overnights and 31 late stays in port.

World cruisers will enjoy 13 complimentary exclusive events and more than US\$25,000 worth of exclusive amenities.

Edge back Down Under

CELEBRITY Cruises has launched its 2024-25 sailing season, with *Celebrity Edge* to return Down Under (**CW** breaking news).

Billed as the cruise line's "most ambitious offering ever", *Celebrity* will sail to more than 300 destinations across all seven continents during the season.

Returning for her second season Down Under, *Edge* will embark on a selection of three- to 14-night itineraries, starting Oct 2024 and running through Apr 2025.

Cruisers will be able to experience new ports in Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga, through voyages departing from Australia as well as NZ.

Edge will also cruise from Seattle to Alaska for the first time, taking guests on seven-night journeys to the Endicott Arm and Dawes Glacier, with stops in Victoria and Ketchikan.

Launching late next year, the cruise line's newest ship *Celebrity Ascent* will set sail during the season, with Barcelona and Rome as its homeport.

Ascent will offer itineraries to Spain, France, Italy, and Greece.

Other highlights include the revolutionised *Celebrity Millennium's* takeover of Asia, with seven new ports ex Tokyo.

She will sail iconic itineraries like the 12-night Best of Japan with stops visiting Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Kobe, and more.

Celebrity Solstice will also operate in Asia, visiting

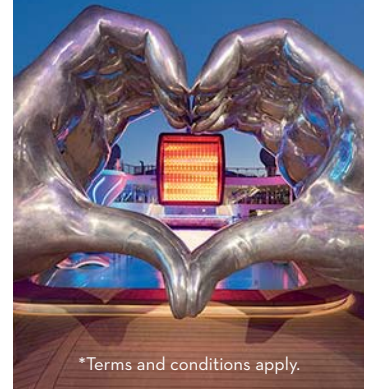
destinations such as Hanoi, Vietnam; Bangkok and Phuket, Thailand, and more.

Meanwhile, the newly launched *Celebrity Apex* will replace *Celebrity Silhouette* on her itineraries to Scandinavia.

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THE world's first open-water whale sanctuary may become a reality in the Norwegian fjords, under a fundraising plan inspired by a beluga whale which some have suggested could be a Russian spy.

The creature, who has been named Hvaldimir, created a media sensation when it was found near the remote fishing village of Inga in Apr 2019 wearing a harness labelled "equipment of St Petersburg".

The equipment, as well as the whale's sociable interactions with humans, hint that he has been trained by people - perhaps for nefarious purposes, some suggest - and he became a pest by hanging around salmon farms and annoying fishermen.

However a British businessman has now become so touched by his story he's trying to create a 200-hectare reserve under a newly created charity called OneWhale, which is funding Hvaldimir's monitoring and protection.

"Everyone has fallen in love with this whale from YouTube viral videos...he has clearly been domesticated and has a wonderful personality," Thorpe said, expressing hopes of creating a netted reserve which would protect him from boats.

"It means that he can fish for himself and live as natural a life as possible" he said.

Aussies aboard *Beyond*



CELEBRITY Cruises last week hosted a number of Asia-Pacific guests at the naming ceremony and inaugural voyage of *Celebrity Beyond* from Miami (CW 08 Nov).

The Australian contingent included Helloworld's Karen Deveson and Flight Centre's Josh

Duncan, and Vicki Fletcher, who was lucky enough to do an F45 session with *Beyond's* Godmother Simone Biles!

Pictured, local Marketing Director Emma Mumford (second from left) hosts Australian dignitaries aboard *Beyond*.

Oceania mixes it up

OCEANIA Cruises has announced the debut of a series of innovative rum and whisky programs across its fleet next year.

The offering will feature The Macallan Diamond Bar Cart, leaning into the popularity of The Macallan's single malt whiskies on board, as well as chocolate pairings, a flight program and more, while Brugal 1888 Doblemente Anejado Rum will be featured in a new Tea at Sea mixology class as well as a selection of ice cream cocktails.

Chief Executive Howard Sherman said the new offering continued Oceania's steadfast focus on delivering guests "the finest cuisine at sea".

Borealis refurb

FRED. Olsen Cruise Lines has completed a multimillion-pound upgrade of *Borealis* at Britain's Cammell Laird shipyard in Liverpool - the first cruise line to have work done at the site in over 25 years.

The 14-day upgrade included steel repairs, an overhaul of the ship's drive train and a new application of underwater paint, supported by 150 workers at the shipyard.

MD Peter Deer said "we've been sailing from Liverpool for almost 20 years, and we're so proud to have this fantastic city as *Borealis's* homeport".

"As a family-run cruise line, we know how important it is to support local communities," he added.

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Leanne Kuntze,
MTA Travel, NSW



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