



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise news including a photo page from **MSC Cruises**.

Sip back and relax!

PRINCESS Cruises has announced a new Winemaker Dinner with Caymus Vineyards.

The new experience pairs world-famous wines with gourmet fare, and will be offered fleetwide by late May.

Available in the popular Crown Grill specialty restaurant for USD\$140 per person, the new Winemaker Dinner leverages the expertise of Chuck Wagner, owner and winemaker of the renowned Caymus Vineyards.

Available for 12 guests per seating, diners will be delivered a five-course menu crafted to complement the tasting notes of his wines.

Diana delivered to Swan Hellenic

HELSINKI Shipyard and Swan Hellenic have announced the delivery of *Diana* (pictured), the cruise line's third expedition ship.

The ice-class vessel is now on her way to the Mediterranean, where her cultural expedition cruising program will begin.

Diana's inaugural sailing will depart from Palermo on a 10-night 'Mysteries of Carthage & the Moors' cruise, which will take guests to explore some of the most fascinating locations in North Africa, before crossing the Pillars of Hercules to Lisbon.

Following this, *Diana* will depart the Portuguese capital on 25 Apr on the nine-night 'Historic Ports of the Western Seaboard' which will see her cruise the coasts of Spain, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands to reach Amsterdam.

It is here *Diana's* christening ceremony will take place (**CW 24 Feb**), with American luxury travel



industry icon Valerie Wilson as godmother, before she cruises for the Scandinavian fjords and a full Arctic season.

"We're delighted to have taken delivery of this exceptionally beautiful and versatile new 5-star vessel," said Chief Executive Officer Andrea Zito.

"As the largest ship in our fleet, she is the first to be outfitted

with large tender boats as well as expedition Zodiacs, offering guests a wide variety of extraordinary in-depth experiences."

Swan Hellenic's *Vega* also recently completed her first Antarctic season, and is now embarking on a series of cultural expedition cruises in South Africa (**CW 28 Mar**).

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Coral Expeditions' spicy new trip

CORAL Expeditions has expanded its 2025 season in the Maluku Islands, with four new extended voyages.

The new 18-night cruises to Raja Ampat Islands and the Spice Islands are scheduled for the peak summer season from Jan to Mar 2025, and will be hosted on board *Coral Geographer*.

Each trip will have fewer than 120 guests and will be accompanied by expert guides.

Coral will charter a jet for guest transfers from Darwin to Sorong and return - the two cities the cruise travels between.

Key highlights include three days in the Raja Ampat, swimming with the gentle whale sharks at Cenderawasih Bay, enjoying a welcome to Banda Neira by the traditional kora kora, and learning the customs and cultures of West Papua and Indonesia, & experiencing local culture, such



as traditional dance, handicrafts, and local cuisine.

The release coincides with the current expeditions in Mar and Apr on board *Coral Adventurer*, which are both sold out due to popular demand.

These voyages are the first back to the area since 2020.

"We have seen extraordinary demand for this region due to its rich mix of marine life,

spectacular coastal landscape and living cultural traditions," Commercial Director Jeff Gillies said.

"The chance to swim with the majestic whale sharks is the major attraction, however many guests fall in love with the people of Papua and their traditions."

Prices start from \$17,590 per person - [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Hop on board CCL

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) is inviting cruisers to celebrate Easter at sea, with the brand offering a "basketful" of "egg-citing" activities on Sun.

Passengers of all ages can follow their map and hop along the bunny trail to fill their Easter bag on the Family Easter Hop N' Stop Hunt.

Cruisers will collect a stamp at each stop while making their way to a final mystery location, where children will receive a special CCL Easter Egg Hunt Certificate.

There will also be an Easter egg hunt with a Carnival twist.

The CCL Easter bunny will hide 12 images of golden eggs around the ship, with a prize offered to those who spot them all.

CCL will also offer a non-denominational Easter service, with music and prayers.

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Princess Europe 2024



ADVENTURES in Europe abound next year, with Princess Cruises' 2024 cruises and cruisetours on sale.

Princess will offer five MedallionClass ships cruising to locales such as Rome, Barcelona, and Athens, including *Sun Princess*, the line's newest, largest, and most innovative vessel, which will take guests throughout the Mediterranean through Sep 2024.

Meanwhile, *Island Princess*, *Regal Princess*, *Sky Princess*, and *Caribbean Princess* will cruise to the Med, as well as Iceland, the British Isles, and Scandinavia from Feb through Dec 2024.

The season will feature 162 departures on 85 unique

itineraries with more than 130 destinations in 34 countries.

Guest wishing to expand their time in Europe can also choose from four cruisetours, offering more time on land visiting top sites with expert guides, hotel stays, and local cuisine.

See the cosmopolitan city of Madrid on the Highlights of Spain cruisetour; discover the birthplace of the Renaissance on the Classic Italy cruisetour; marvel at the sweeping landscapes of the Ring of Kerry cruisetour; or delve into Ancient Corinth and the Acropolis of Athens on the Best of Greece cruisetour.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

HAL heads south

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is set to explore South America, Antarctica, and the Amazon River in 2024-2025, with *Oosterdam* and *Zaandam* offering cruises ranging from 14 to 27 days.

From Nov 2024 through Mar 2025, *Oosterdam* offers cruises that visit exotic ports and offer once-in-a-lifetime experiences like visiting the Inca ruins of Macchu Pichu, rounding Cape Horn, and sailing south to the world's most remote continent.

In Feb 2025, *Zaandam* sails the ultimate Amazon adventure with a 27-day itinerary roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale, which navigates the longest river in the world.

Zaandam will traverse the two-toned meeting of the waters and journey along the Amazon.

"Holland America Line's South America cruises continue to attract travellers looking for those memorable experiences like the Amazon, Macchu Pichu and Antarctica, and South America delivers not only cultural immersion but also some of the most spectacular scenery in the world," Chief Commercial Officer Beth Bodensteiner said.

Cruise Calendar



Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	05 Apr
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	06 Apr
MELBOURNE	
<i>Noordam</i>	06 Apr
BURNIE	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	05 Apr
NAPIER	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	06 Apr
WELLINGTON	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	05 Apr

Tweet about this!

TWEET World Travel has launched a new partnership with Aqua Expeditions.

Now on sale for booking, one of Tweet World's most unique features is its chauffeur service, available to all travellers booking from Australia.

This service ensures a seamless and stress-free journey to the airport, allowing the traveller to relax and enjoy the beginning and end of the trip.

Tweet World founder & Chief Executive Officer Thuy Carroll expressed her enthusiasm for Aqua's product.



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Green flag for MSC travel partners

Wed 05th Apr 2023

LUCKY Travel Partners were hosted, as part of MSC Cruises Global Partnership with Formula 1, in Melbourne over the weekend.

The weekend was fast-paced, exciting and full of fabulous exclusive experiences for valued trade partners, including the Paddock Club, Grid Walk and the incredible Grid Wall experience.

Guests can book an unrivalled race weekend experience at this year's FORMULA 1® ETIHAD AIRWAYS ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX™ on 24-26 Nov **HERE**.

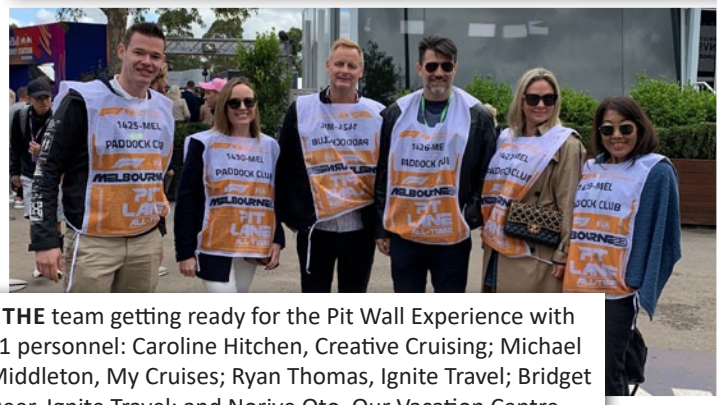


NORIYE Oto, Our Vacation Centre and Dan Russell, Clean Cruising chat with the Formula 1 legend, Jackie Stewart.

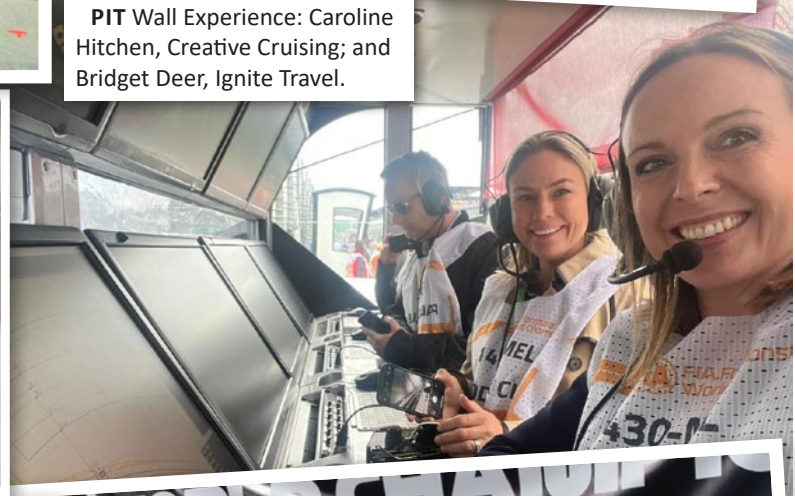
BRIDGET Deer, Ignite Travel; Lisa Teiotu, MSC Cruises Commercial Director; Randall Deer, Ignite Travel; Josh Duncan, Flight Centre; and Caroline Hitchen, Creative Cruising.



PIT Wall Experience: Caroline Hitchen, Creative Cruising; and Bridget Deer, Ignite Travel.



THE team getting ready for the Pit Wall Experience with F1 personnel: Caroline Hitchen, Creative Cruising; Michael Middleton, My Cruises; Ryan Thomas, Ignite Travel; Bridget Deer, Ignite Travel; and Noriye Oto, Our Vacation Centre.



MICHELLE Warren, Lisa Teiotu and Noriye Oto at the Alfa Romeo garage.



GARETH Evison, Imagine Holidays; Alex Sirman, Imagine Holidays; Adam Bennett, Trip A Deal; and Michelle Warren, at the Pit Lane Walk.



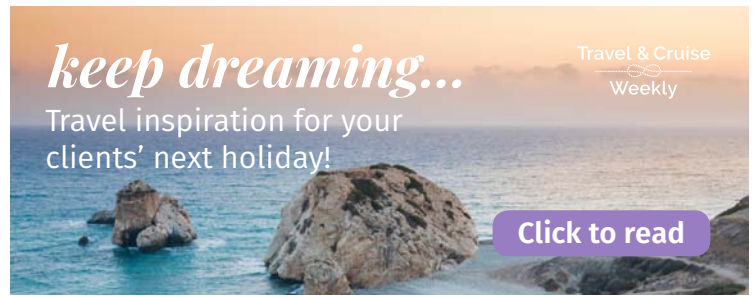
ADAM Bennett, TripADeal with Lisa Teiotu, MSC Cruises Commercial Director.



GARETH Evison, Josh Duncan, Alex Sirman, Bronwyn Knight of MSC Cruises, Adam Bennett; Brad Hargreaves of MSC Cargo, Brad Coster of MSC Cargo; and Luis Segovia of MSC Cruises.



PADDOCK Walk with the group!



AN AUSTRALIAN cruise passenger was forced to wear the same clothes for 11 days on their cruise, after the line lost their luggage.

The woman was at one point even forced to wear her husband's underwear during the cruise from Australia to New Zealand.

She told *A Current Affair* the ship's guests services offered to wash her clothes when the bag didn't show up on the second day, but this meant she was stuck in her room for three hours.

When they arrived at Christchurch after six days, she spent her time trying to find clothes to wear, but said there "wasn't many options", coming up with merely a pair of jeans she did not like.

It wasn't until a day after they arrived back in Sydney the bag was found - and it was on the ship the entire time!

A new Treasure

THE keel has been laid for Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Treasure* at Meyer Werft's shipyard.

Like her sister ship *Disney Wish*, *Treasure* will be equipped with low-emission LNG propulsion.

Treasure will have 1,240 staterooms, with completion scheduled for next year.

A new African Queen



THE Zambezi Queen Collection's *Zambezi Queen* (pictured above) has unveiled a brand-new look, treated to an all-deck, all-suite makeover.

The refurbishment, which took six weeks to complete, focused on the interior and exterior, with paintwork, carpeting, furnishings, finishes, and fabrics all updated.

Zambezi Queen features a newly revamped library section where guests can relax with a book, or use one of the onboard binoculars to spot game.

The furniture on the outdoor decks has all been updated with L-shaped couches and poolside loungers at the bow of the boat, while a new cocktail lounge area (pictured below) at the stern promises snacks, sundowners,



and cocktails.

The 14 accommodations have been updated with new carpets, wardrobes, headboards, bedside tables, and sconces, and are decorated with new throws, pillows, and linen.

The upper deck, including the bar, lounge and dining area, has also been decorated in a natural, earthy palette.

"The new-look *Zambezi Queen* feels at once comfortable, welcoming and luxurious," General Manager Sales & Marketing Kate Powell said.

"We wanted to achieve something in keeping with the Chobe's extraordinary surroundings and our guests' expectations.

"We worked closely with Mi Designs and are extremely proud of the final result".



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

A new era for cruise

AS THE world cruise industry gathered at Seatrade Cruise Global in Florida last week, the topics of conversation could not be more positive – spectacular new ships, new technological innovations, and new passenger records on the very near horizon.

Industry leaders from around the world shared their optimism and vision for a prosperous and sustainable cruise sector, signalling that there is plenty of opportunity in cruising over coming years.

I was among the Australian delegation and met with cruise lines, ports, destinations, and stakeholders.

What became clear is that Australia will play a big part in the future of cruising, and interest in our region is stronger than ever.

With global cruise passenger volumes set to return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year, I'm confident we'll see even more ships making Australia home in coming seasons.

As CLIA's Global President & Chief Executive Officer Kelly Craighead said: "our industry has evolved enormously already and shown leadership and agility on so many fronts, and we are now at a point where our efforts are being realised in tangible ways".

We are indeed entering a new era for cruising, with even greater opportunities for travel advisors.

