



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### A Royal offer

**ROYAL** Caribbean International is currently offering a 30% discount and \$250 summer kicker. This limited-time deal applies to select seven-night sailings to the South Pacific and Tasmania on board *Quantum of the Seas*, *Ovation of the Seas* and *Brilliance of the Seas*. The offer is available now until 11:59pm AEST on 30 Aug. There's also a flash sale offering up to \$600 off per cabin, available until 11:59pm on 08 Aug.

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## Ascending to Celebrity status



**CAPTAIN** Sandy Yawn, from reality television franchise *Below Deck* has been unveiled as a co-Godmother of *Celebrity Cruises'* new ship *Celebrity Ascent*, alongside her sister Michelle Dunham (pictured).

During *Ascent's* official naming ceremony on 01 Dec, both sisters will bless and christen the ship, bringing good luck and protection to the crew members and passengers on board.

Yawn is a renowned captain in the yacht industry, and is currently the skipper on the *Below Deck Mediterranean* series.

Dunham, who is Yawn's sister, is the co-founder of the Jacksonville School for Autism, a not-for-profit private school for individuals who have an autism spectrum disorder.

President Laura Hodges Bethge said *Celebrity* is honoured to have the two women join their legacy of *Celebrity's* Godmothers.

"Captain Sandy's life story is one of resilience, leadership and strength, as a pioneer in the maritime industry and as an inspirational role model for young women," she said.

"Her sister Michelle is a tireless advocate for children with autism and shows us what is possible when you follow your vision for a better world.

"Both women live by *Celebrity's* values, and we have no doubt they are the perfect choices for *Ascent*."

Sandy and Michelle will also join the cruise industry's first brother Captains, Dimitrios and Tasos Kafetzis, who were announced earlier this year (**CW** 30 Jan).

"As I embark on this remarkable journey as a co-Godmother of *Celebrity Ascent*, I am deeply honoured to represent not only the spirit of leadership but also the strength of women empowerment," Yawn said.

"This role serves as a reminder that women can steer their destinies with grace and determination, commanding the seas of possibility and inspiring others to follow their own paths with courage and conviction.

"I am so honoured that my sister and I can share this distinction...she has always been my biggest inspiration in her selfless pursuit to help my nephew and other families impacted by autism."

## Wu to woo cruisers

**WENDY** Wu Tours is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a VIP version of its 'Classic Mekong' tour, which will be accompanied by the company's namesake Wendy Wu.

Cruising in Oct, the company's founder will join travellers for the three-night Mekong cruise portion of the 18-day itinerary, providing guests a special one-on-one experience as she shares personal recollections about her favourite South East Asia travel experiences.

Exclusive additional VIP features travellers can expect to enjoy on this departure include a special 'Farmer & Fisherman' experience in Cam Thanh, a 20-minute seaplane flight over Ha Long Bay, a complimentary cocktail at Bitexco Financial Tower's 49th-storey bar, a dinner experience with a local Vietnamese family in Saigon, and a "Mekong mindfulness" session on board the cruise to soak up the surroundings of the river.

This VIP tour departure starts with a visit to Angkor Wat in Cambodia and includes a sunset 'boat' ride along Angkor's moat.

It concludes with two nights in Hanoi and one in Ha Long Bay - for full details, **CLICK HERE**.

**The Chat** with Jenny

A Conversation with **Jodie Hart**

of Oceania Cruises & Regent Seven Seas Cruises

**CLICK HERE to listen**



### Choc full of fun!

**COSTA** Cruises will host five of the world's best master pastry chefs from Italy, Spain, France, Switzerland, and Belgium for its 'ChocoCruise - Explore the World of Chocolate' itinerary.

In partnership with Belgian chocolate brand Barry Callebaut, the cruise line's *Costa Toscana* will host an extraordinary Mediterranean sailing dedicated to chocolate in all its forms.

From 17 to 24 Nov, the ChocoCruise will take guests on a gastronomical itinerary through the landscapes of the Mediterranean, with calls in Genoa, Marseille, Barcelona, Cagliari, Naples, and Civitavecchia.

Guests will be able to experience chocolate dishes from breakfast through to dinner.

## Viking Vor invades Perth



**VIKING** recently held its first Viking Vor event in Perth since 2019 - the sixth city the cruise line has invaded on its roadshow.

The night was a record attendance for a Viking event in Perth, with almost 200 travel advisors dressed to the nines and joining in the fun.

Guests enjoyed a three-course dinner, free-flowing wine, and a

presentation from Viking, which included lots of prizes.

Perth was the second-last city on Viking's Australian tour, and was one of the most in-demand nights of the year.

The event sold out months beforehand, with Viking working with Crown Towers Perth to increase capacity - which the cruise line then sold out again.

### APT breathes fire

**APT** Travel Group and Intrepid Travel are pleased to be joining forces to support communities in Vietnam.

The two companies are raising much-needed funds and awareness for the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, with a webinar to take place on 09 Aug, shining a light on the exceptional work carried out by the non-governmental organisation.

The webinar will be hosted by Blue Dragon founder Michael Brosowski, and will feature Intrepid Chair and co-founder Darrell Wade, and APT Group director and co-owner Rob McGeary.

The three leaders will discuss the foundation's vital work and share an opportunity for people to learn more about Blue Dragon and its purpose to help children - [CLICK HERE](#).



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## PORThOLE

**AIDA** Cruises is cooperating with young Hamburg-based start-up Coffeecycle, which will see coffee grounds from the line's ships, normally considered organic waste, efficiently recycled and processed into high-quality vegan natural cosmetics.

The cooperation between AIDA and Coffeecycle aims to reduce food waste on board the cruise line's ships and support a circular economy.

Coffeecycle founders Liam Metzen and Leonardt Mucke recently used the coffee grounds from *AIDAprima* to create a unique soap which is not only sustainable, but also skin-friendly and nourishing.

The coffee soap is available in three different scents: the classic 'AIDA Sea Scent', 'Peach' and 'Orange'.

They are available now on AIDA ships, except *AIDAaura*, at a retail price of €9.90.

## Clean Cruising cooks up



**CLEAN** Cruising held a Mexican-themed end of fiscal year lunch last Fri.

Part of its semi-regular industry cook up events, Clean Cruising's team members cooked for its South East Queensland trade partners (**pictured and inset**),

with chilli con carne, pulled pork, smoked chicken, and margaritas all on the menu, by popular demand.

Clean Cruising took the opportunity to thank its industry colleagues and swap ideas ahead of the upcoming summer season, which promises to be one of the biggest yet.

Unverified claims were made that no smoke alarms were alerted during the course of the event.

## CLIA Euro Summit

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) has announced its European Summit will be hosted in Genoa next year from 11-14 Mar.

CLIA has announced the city will also host the new CLIA Innovation Expo, alongside the European Summit.

Top cruise line executives, innovators, and political leaders will gather to showcase the industry's leading role in providing environmental and tourism management solutions.

Meanwhile, the CLIA Innovation Expo is a new forum for companies currently supplying, or interested in supplying, the cruise industry, with a focus on maritime technology, and hospitality.

It will showcase solutions and products from across Europe, and in particular, the Liguria region of north-western Italy, of which Genoa is the capital.

The Expo will also include an innovation hub where tech developers and suppliers will introduce new products.



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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

### EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper  
Associate Publisher – Anna Piper  
Contributors – Myles Stedman, Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai

[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[info@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan & Nicki Harford  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.co.nz)

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper  
[accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:accounts@cruiseweekly.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220  
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

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