



CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Costa Starlink

COSTA Cruises has installed SpaceX's Starlink wifi technology onboard its flagship *Costa Toscana*. The new service is already operating, offering the cruise line's best available wifi.

P&O 90 years from Sydney

P&O Cruises Australia is celebrating 90 years of sailing in spectacular style from Sydney, commemorating nine decades of cruising from one of the best harbours in the world.

To mark the anniversary, Australian singer Ricki-Lee Coulter will be named godmother to *Pacific Adventure* in a special onboard ceremony attended by more than 200 guests.

P&O's talented entertainers will serenade guests, before Ricki-Lee takes the stage to perform Tina Turner's smash hit *The Best*, as a nod to the cruise line's guests, crews, and suppliers.

Ricki-Lee said it is an honour to be named godmother, as P&O commemorates 90 years of cruising.

"As we wish P&O a very happy birthday, my hope is good luck, fun and fortune for all those who love cruising on *Pacific Adventure*," she said.

President Marguerite Fitzgerald said P&O has a strong track record supporting New South Wales, with *Adventure* based in Sydney throughout the year.

"P&O pioneered cruising in Australia, with the first voyage out of Sydney.

"We are so pleased to be here

for you 90 years on - we are yours Sydney," she said.

Across P&O 90th anniversary from Sydney, *Adventure* will set sail on 58 voyages from the New South Wales capital.

By the end of the year, she will have taken nearly 200,000 guests around Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

More than half a million people will sail with P&O Australia this year, the cruise line said.

Joy to the dry dock

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has announced extensive enhancements to *Norwegian Joy*, including a new Thermal Suite, an expanded Vibe Beach Club, new staterooms, and a redesigned The Haven.



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New era launches for Cruise Weekly

TODAY we are thrilled to announce the appointment of Davy Adams as General Manager of *Cruise Weekly's* parent company, the Business Publishing Group.

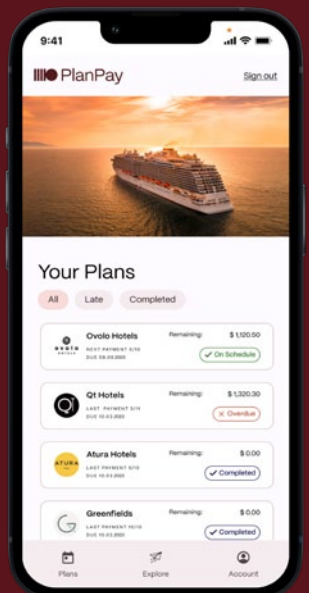
Adams has more than 20 years of media and marketing experience, with the new role part of a restructure due to a major private equity investment which will "take the company into a new era of growth and success", according to **CW** founders Bruce and Jenny Piper, who remain significant stakeholders in the business.

Adams, who starts his new position today, will lead the existing team of expert journalists and industry marketers, and can be contacted via email at davy.adams@cruiseweekly.com.au.

Cruise Weekly today

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

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Amsterdam falsity

PASSENGER Terminal Amsterdam (PTA) has said it will “certainly not” be immediately closing, and will continue its business as usual, in response to erroneous reporting in the mainstream media last week (**CW** 21 Jul). A PTA statement said there is no administrative response or proposal yet on how to address cruise ship opposition. “We have taken note of the council’s call that they do not see any room for sea cruises in the city of the future at the current location,” it said. The PTA has already pledged to undertake investments worth millions of Euros, including shorepower.

Time to lose your Virgin-ity



VIRGIN Voyages is saying “g’day Australia” with a multi-city roadshow ahead of the cruise line’s highly anticipated Dec debut (**CW** 07 Jun).

Having launched its newest ship *Resilient Lady* (pictured) this May, Virgin is taking the excitement to Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne between 24 Jul and 04 Aug.

Brand partners, tourism officials, media, influencers and First Mates (travel advisors) will have the opportunity to meet with Virgin executives and learn about the cruise line’s launch activities starting this Dec.

Through a series of exclusive VIP events and lunches, stakeholders will step into the world of Virgin’s elevated experiences, gaining a deeper understanding of how the new cruise line sets itself apart from the pack, with unique approaches to dining, interior design, on-board amenities, immersive shore excursions and entertainment.

Hosting the roadshow will be Chief Brand Officer and Australian native Nathan Rosenberg, who will be joined by Vice President of International Sales & Marketing Shane Riley, Director of Global Brand & Experience Strategy Billy Bohan Chinique, and Sales Manager Mark Lowman.

Guests attending the roadshows will also be treated to a special Q&A discussion hosted by influencer Teigan Nash, aimed

at providing attendees with insider knowledge of how Virgin is charting a course to change cruising for good.

The events, which will take place at The Boathouse Rose Bay in Sydney, HER in Melbourne, and Mr. Percival’s in Brisbane, will be inspired by the company’s new “Now We’re Voyaging” campaign, which will be broadcast across all Australian consumer channels from late next month.

Guests will be treated to surprise and delight moments synonymous with the Virgin brand and music from DJs Sarah Roberts, Rachel Minx, and Shimmy Disco.

“The Virgin brand really resonates here, and we know how much Aussies love cruising,” Rosenberg said.

“We’ve been talking about Australia since our debut in 2021, so we can’t wait to go Down Under and give travellers an incredible experience that’s unlike anything to hit the shores here ever before.”

Travellers interested in Setting Sail the Virgin Way can take advantage of the Virgin’s limited-time offer, with those who book between 25 Jul and 30 Sep able to snag 30% off all local South Pacific sailings, plus a complimentary \$150 Bar Tab to use for cocktails, specialty coffees or Virgin’s special “Shake for Champagne” feature.




CRUISE WEEKLY
On location in Venice

Today’s issue of *Cruise Weekly* is coming to you courtesy of Crystal Cruises, ahead of the maiden voyage of its fully refurbished *Crystal Serenity*.

ONE of the most highly anticipated launches of the year takes place tomorrow in Italy, with the new Crystal Cruises team taking delivery of *Serenity* in Trieste last Fri.

The ship has undergone a multimillion dollar upgrade under new owners, the A&K Travel Group - see **CW** throughout the week.

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CAPTAINS around the world have been put on notice, after a shocking beach brawl erupted in Italy.

A furious husband dropped-kicked a yacht captain who allegedly pushed his wife, in an explosive row on the sand in Sardinia, according to *The Sun*.

A video shows a high-powered vessel approaching the shoreline at the Spiaggia Cala Lunga, sending beachgoers running.

The ham-fisted landing caused beachgoers to confront the captain, and after he pushed his way through a number of sunbathers, was punched by a man, whose wife was skittled in the incident.

Sip sip hooray for Princess



THE vineyards will meet the ocean aboard Princess Cruises' *Royal Princess* (pictured) later this year thanks to a new partnership between the line and Australian wine company Wine Selectors.

The four-day viticulture-themed "Seacation" will depart Sydney on 15 Nov, making her maiden call into Hobart on 17 Nov, before returning to the New South Wales capital.

Guests on board will enjoy a variety of themed activities hosted by Wine Selectors, such as complimentary tastings of exclusive vinos.

Guests can also enjoy a guided masterclass hosted by international wine show judge and vintner Dave Mavor, matched with gourmet food, for \$30 per person.

Also available will be an intimate, five-course dinner with Tasmanian winemaker Jeremy Dineen at *Royal's* Chef's Table Lumiere.

The menu, which is matched with Tasmanian wine pairings, will be strictly limited to 12 guests at \$140 per person.

Wine Selectors members will receive a 10% discount on the fare price, plus an exclusive bottle on arrival.

Senior Vice President Stuart

Allison said the new partnership further elevates the line's culinary offering.

"Princess Cruises prides itself on offering premium experiences on board, and this partnership with Wine Selectors on this *Royal Princess* voyage will really take it to the next level," he said.

"We're proud of our reputation for having one of the most extensive wine lists in the industry, and are delighted to give our guests access to this exclusive curated collection."

Wine Selectors General Manager Lois Donaldson added the four-day Seacation will be an unmissable experience for all wine lovers.

For more details, visit princess.com, or call 13 24 88.

CCL expanding security tech

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) will expand the use of facial recognition systems at its American home ports, through a partnership with US Customs & Border Protection.

The enhanced process will see guests debarking ships at the end of a closed loop cruise pause at a kiosk with a camera and take a photo.

Within seconds, the image is biometrically compared to their passport or visa photo to verify their identity, with more than 98% accuracy.

In the largest deployment of the technology in the cruise industry, three million CCL guests have already utilised the new technology, to make disembarking from ships faster and easier.

Nine of CCL's 14 American home ports are using this secure, streamlined technology, including Miami, Port Canaveral, Tampa, Jacksonville, New York City, Baltimore, Mobile, Galveston and Long Beach.

Voyager new cruises

NEXT year's expeditions have been announced for Atlas Ocean Voyages' *World Voyager*, with the ship to call the Caribbean for the first time.

New 'Cultural Expeditions by Atlas' experiences have also been announced, among the 26 itineraries aboard *Voyager*.

Departing between Mar 2024 and Oct 2024, these expeditions will offer South America itineraries to Argentina, Brazil, and the Falklands, as well as Northern Europe journeys to Iceland, Ireland, England, and Norway.

The Chat

with Jenny



A Conversation with Kathy Pavlidis

Travel Associates

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