



Cruise Weekly today

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

Uniworld '24 offer

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has launched a new Choice is Yours offer, giving guests 10% off all 2024 cruises - or a whopping 20% saving if they make full payment within seven days.

The deal is available for new bookings confirmed between 01 Aug and 30 Sep, and is valid on all Uniworld 2024 departures apart from its Rivers of the World odyssey.

Air can also be added, with quotes available from the Uniworld team.

A full toolbox of marketing assets for travel advisors including a ready-made EDM, banner ads, flyers and social media tiles, is available **HERE**.

Crystal to triple its fleet by 2029

CRYSTAL Cruises' newbuild announcement (**CW** breaking news) will see the newly nascent line add four more vessels over the next six years, with Chairman and co-owner Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio and his team currently finalising designs and financing for the massive growth spurt.

Speaking in the Mediterranean aboard the newly refurbished *Crystal Serenity* (pictured) on Sat, Cristina Levis who is CEO of Crystal's parent company A&K Travel Group, confirmed that while no shipbuilding contract had been let at this stage.

"We are working closely with our lenders, with the export credit agencies, with very talented naval architects and with two shipbuilding companies in Europe to build four ships," she said.

Two of the newbuilds will be "classic" vessels in the style of *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal*



Symphony, which were acquired by A&K Travel Group from the receivers of the collapsed Genting Hong Kong about a year ago.

Levis confirmed they would carry about 650 passengers and have similar stateroom sizes, guest-to-staff ratios and dining options to *Serenity* and *Symphony*.

The two planned expedition vessels, with capacity for about 220 pax, would likely be polar class PC6, Levis said, with the

planned Crystal growth trajectory confirming her earlier comments that "only a fool would believe we could survive with Crystal with just two ships" (**CW** 28 Jul).

Marketing for the brand is set to ramp up with the release next month of Crystal's 2025 World Cruise, followed by the Sep launch of the full 2025 program, which will incorporate Abercrombie & Kent land product for pre- and post-touring options.

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Murray savings

COUPLES can save up to \$1,190 on 2024/25 multi-day cruises aboard Murray River Paddlesteamers' *PS Emmylou*. No single supplement is also payable under a special offer valid for bookings confirmed by 31 Aug 2023 on the 16-pax all-ensuite air conditioned and wi-fi-equipped ship.

Deposits have also been halved to \$200 per person - see psemmyloucruises.com.

Carnival 4 women

CARNIVAL Corporation has been named as one of America's top 400 Best Employers for Women in 2023 by financial publisher Forbes.

The results are based on an independent survey of about 60,000 US employees working for firms which employ at least 1,000 people.

Princess boosts inclusions

UPDATES to Princess Cruises' popular Princess Plus and Princess Premier packages will offer guests more inclusive options at no additional cost - including wi-fi packages under Princess' fleetwide Starlink connectivity platform.

The upgrades, available on voyages embarking from 12 Aug, include more Casual Dining including fixed price dining options in eateries like Vines, Salty Dog Pub, O'Malleys, Ocean Terrace, Planks, Steamers, Alfredo's and GiGi's, all of which will offer new three-course prix fixe menus for Plus and Premier Guests.

For those who prefer sailing on Princess Standard packages, the casual prix fixe dining will cost US\$14.99, while individual selections will continue with a la carte pricing.

Also new for Plus and Premier passengers is a waiver of the

US\$14.99 one-time activation fee for the OceanNow on-demand, location-based delivery service which sees items arrive like magic no matter where guests are situated, thanks to Princess' Ocean Medallion technology.

Complimentary room service delivery will also now be provided for Princess Plus and Princess Premier participants, who will also now receive free Ocean Medallion at home delivery.

Princess Plus costs US\$60 per person per day, and also now includes unlimited MedallionNet 2.0 internet access for a single device, while for US\$80 per person per day Princess Premier allows connectivity for up to four devices plus unlimited boutique fitness classes, premium fresh juices, crafted desserts and a digital photo package.

For more information visit onesourcecruises.com.au.



On location in
Marseille, France

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Crystal Cruises, aboard *Crystal Serenity* during her first voyage under new ownership.

ARRIVING in Marseille this morning, we must now bid farewell to *Crystal Serenity* to make way for her first A&K contingent of paying passengers - more than 95% of whom are past Crystal guests eager to experience the ship under her new ownership.

Serenity's first revenue cruise will take her to Lisbon, Portugal and she will shortly be joined in the Mediterranean by sister vessel *Crystal Symphony* on 01 Sep, after she has undergone a similar makeover in Trieste.

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Venue: Howard Smith Wharves
5 Boundary Street, Brisbane
9.30am or 1.30pm

MELBOURNE

Date: Thursday, 24 August
Venue: Hyatt Centric
25 Downie Street, Melbourne
9.30am or 1.30pm

SYDNEY

Date: Tuesday, 29 August
Venue: Ace Hotel
47-53 Wentworth Avenue, Sydney
9.30am or 1.30pm

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“WE DO allow magnets on board, but ummmm, not for this,” was the response of Carnival Cruise Line band ambassador John Heald to an ingenious setup orchestrated by some recent passengers in an interior stateroom.

An image circulating online (pictured) shows how the cruisers set up an impromptu movie theatre, complete with a magnet-mounted projector attached to the ceiling.

Despite the ingenuity, Heald noted that the rear of the projector is right next to a smoke detector, which could cause a somewhat wet outcome if heat from the device triggered the ship’s emergency sprinklers.

The gadgets might also fall on guests or cabin attendants if the magnets loosened in rough conditions, Heald noted.

Although movie projectors are not currently on Carnival’s prohibited items list, they may be set to join other banned items which include boom boxes and large radios as well as satellite disks, routers & other internet-related equipment.



Pandaw dolphins

PANDAW Cruises has some last-minute availability on special departures to the Irrawaddy River, with the line’s low-draft vessels able to sail all the way up to Kratie in Cambodia to witness local dolphins in their natural habitat.

The spectacle is only available during the high water months of Sep and Oct, with Pandaw’s ships the only overnight passenger vessels to sail to the unique location.

For later season departures, a new extension can be added to Pandaw expeditions in the lower Mekong which includes two nights’ accommodation and a full-day trip to the dolphin grounds - more details at pandaw.com.

Havila refinances

NORWEGIAN coastal cruise startup Havila Voyages has successfully refinanced its fleet and formally taken delivery of the *Havila Capella* and *Havila Castor* vessels.

The company had been impacted by sanctions related to the war in Ukraine, with Havila CEO Bent Martini saying the new situation “without any ties to the sanctioned and former lender is a significant day for Havila Voyages”.

The line’s third and fourth ships, *Havila Polaris* and *Havila Pollux*, will be delivered early next week, with the first guests to be welcomed aboard the inaugural voyages out of Bergen in the coming weeks.

Aussies farewell *Serenity*



THE Australasian contingent aboard *Crystal Serenity* in the Mediterranean this week wrapped up their journey with a spectacular meal in the new Osteria d’Ovidio Italian eatery on board - a venue named in honour of Crystal’s new Chairman, Manfredi Lefebvre d’Ovidio.

Most of them also enjoyed a final day shore excursion of truffle hunting and authentic regional cuisine during a Livorno port call.

Pictured in the onboard Avenue Saloon are, from left: David

Brandon, Savenio; Abercrombie & Kent MD Debra Fox; Michelle Mickan, A&K Marketing chief; Tracey Bremner, Clean Cruising; Melinda Gregor, Gregor & Lewis Bespoke Travel; Martine Hero, Clean Cruising; Crystal Head of Sales APAC, Tony Archbold; and Robyn and Murray Sinfield from Home Travel Company.

Also onboard was Cruise Traveller’s Joe O’Sullivan, with the antipodean team today going their separate ways after a week of Crystal indulgence.



CRUISE WEEKLY On Board: *Crystal Serenity*

Palm Court

Appropriately decorated with large palm trees, *Crystal Serenity’s* Palm Court is a large observation lounge at the front of the ship on Deck 12, where many guests congregate each evening for pre-dinner aperitifs. Crystal’s open bar offers a huge variety of premium tipples including Champagne, top-shelf spirits, wines and cocktails - all accompanied by complimentary canapes and snacks.

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