

# Bon Voyage 2023

*Signing off 2023 in style!*

Wed 6 Dec, 2023 ◆ 6pm ◆ Marble Bar, Sydney Hilton

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Thursday 9th Nov 2023

## Join CLIA in 2024

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) memberships for next year are open now, offering exclusive training opportunities and resources to help drive professional development - **p5**.

## Celebrity's grand Ascent

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has taken delivery of the highly anticipated *Celebrity Ascent*, with the cruise line's crew members and Royal Caribbean Group (RCG) executives on hand to celebrate the handover

from shipbuilder Chantiers de l'Atlantique (**pictured** inset).

The fourth ship in the cruise line's Edge series arrives just a day after it revealed the name of its fifth and final vessel in the class, *Celebrity Xcel*, which is set to launch in summer 2025-26 (**CW** 08 Nov).

*Ascent* will make her official debut from Fort Lauderdale on 03 Dec, with a seven-night Eastern Caribbean sailing visiting popular destinations such as St. Maarten, St. Thomas, and the Dominican Republic.

Welcoming the ship to the Celebrity family was President Laura Hodges Bethge, as well as RCG President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty and Chantiers de l'Atlantique General



Manager Laurent Castaing.

Captains Dimitrios Kafetzis and Tasos Kafetzis, the first brothers honoured with taking a new ship from the shipyard as captains (**CW** 30 Jan), were also on-hand for the celebration, along with 1,400 *Ascent* crew members.

Several maritime traditions took place on the day, including the signing ceremony and the changing of flags on board *Ascent*, along with a celebratory toast in the ship's spectacular three-storey Grand Plaza.

"*Ascent* is yet another example of innovation driving our mission to provide the best vacations responsibly," Liberty said.

"The ship continues Celebrity's ambition to redefine premium travel and take it to new heights.

"I want to thank and congratulate the Chantiers de l'Atlantique team, our newbuild and Celebrity Cruises' teams and their partners for the vision, craftsmanship, and passion that went into bringing this spectacular ship to life." *MS*

## Bon Voyage 2023!

**CRUISE Weekly** and its sister publication **Travel Daily** are signing off the year in style at 'Bon Voyage 2023'.

Tickets are on sale now, with the event to take place on 06 Dec in Sydney - **cover page**.

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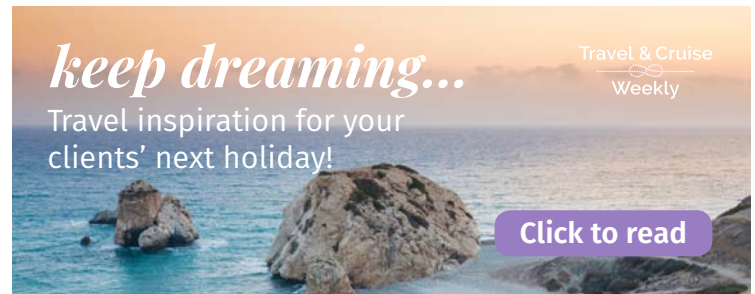
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## A very grim Saga

**ABOUT** 100 passengers aboard Saga Cruises' *Spirit of Discovery* were injured on the weekend after the ship was hit by a storm in the Bay of Biscay.

*Discovery* was forced to veer dramatically during a safety manoeuvre on Sat, in an incident which saw five passengers taken to hospital when the ship eventually docked in Portsmouth.

The vessel departed the United Kingdom for a 14-day cruise to the Canary Islands on 24 Oct, before a decision was made to return early due to worsening weather.

It was during a storm in the Bay when *Discovery's* safety procedures kicked in, causing her to veer and effectively stop, where she waited out the storm for about 15 hours.

Saga told the BBC it has apologised to affected guests.

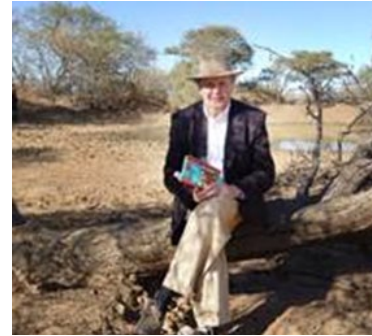
## Cunard pens down first literature guests

**ALEXANDER** McCall Smith and Fiona McIntosh (**pictured**) are the first two authors announced to sail on Cunard Line's Australian Literature Festival at Sea (**CW** 22 Aug), the brand said yesterday.

Zimbabwean author McCall Smith, creator of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, and British writer McIntosh, will share their experiences, insights, and creative processes, offering a glimpse into the fascinating world of literature.

These authors will engage and inspire guests through discussions of their award-winning novels and inspirations, exploring the art of storytelling at intimate workshops, and meeting guests at in-person signings, creating an onboard atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and literary discovery.

"On the great liners of the past, people had time to read



books and talk about them... what a magnificent thing it is that Cunard has decided to recreate this wonderful occasion," McCall Smith said.

"I look forward immensely to meeting Australian literature enthusiasts, talking about books, and watching the magnificent coastline go by."

Award-winning travel journalist Sue Williams will also sail aboard *Queen Elizabeth*, and facilitate workshops on how to write travel

stories and journals.

Another workshop will be led by children's book author and illustrator Elizabeth Stanley, who will teach the art of illustrating stories for children.

More authors and literary experts will be announced in the coming months, Cunard said.

The Australian Literature Festival at Sea is a five-night return sailing from Sydney to Tasmania - **CLICK HERE** for more information. *MS*



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## MSC enriches kid-tainment program

MSC Cruises is enriching its entertainment program for young guests and teenagers.

A new Young & Teens Club will offer extended opening hours and eight hours of daily live entertainment.

The new and expanded fleetwide program will commence next Wed, and is being promoted by a new MSC “teen music video”, ‘Ocean Cay: A cabin 12006 story’, starring youth influencer Merrick Hanna, and dedicated to Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

The video is available on YouTube now, chronicling a cruise holiday to Ocean Cay, featuring a group of young guests divided by their different interests including VR, sports, hip hop dancing, and unrequited love.

The beautiful island of Ocean Cay in the Bahamas will unite the group, reminding them how wonderful life is - especially while



on holiday.

During the day, guests from ages 12-17 will have access to enjoy dedicated facilities packed with the latest consoles, games, and virtual reality tech.

They can also expect an array of organised activities on board including sports, cutting-edge amusement options, an aquapark, as well as a dinner organised exclusively for young

guests and teenagers.

Each evening there will also be a different exclusive prime-time game show for teenagers, followed by a teen disco.

Senior Manager Youth Entertainment Matteo Mancini said MSC listens to its young guests to build their loyalty.

“The ever-increasing number of young guests and teenagers on board our ships naturally lead us to follow the trends they love most,” he said.

“MSC Cruises offers them an unforgettable 360-degree holiday that starts at home with our original entertainment content on the web and social media, continues on board with our activities organised by our Young & Teens Club and carries on after the cruise, thanks to the teens themselves who become our digital creators and ambassadors.” *MS*

## Atlas new hire

**ATLAS** Ocean Voyages has announced the addition of Bernard Carter as a dedicated consultant to its sales team, where he will drive international sales initiatives.

Carter, who has been a fixture in the cruise industry for more than 30 years, will advise the team specifically on the Europe market, leveraging his decades of relationships across the continent.

He has led sales efforts for a number of well-known lines, including Silversea Cruises and The World of ResidenSea.

Carter is known among his peers for a storied tenure at Oceania Cruises, where he established the line as a market leader across Europe.

President & Chief Executive Officer James Rodriguez described Carter as an “asset” to the Atlas sales team.



# Are you Australia's Cruise Consultant of the Year?

## Nominations are now open for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Cruise Industry Awards

### Nominate yourself or a colleague today

For more information on awards criteria and how to nominate visit [www.cruising.org.au](http://www.cruising.org.au)  
Nominations are open until 30 Nov 2023 and are open to all CLIA Travel Agent Members.





**A MAN** has paddled a pumpkin boat more than 60 kilometres to break a ridiculous world record.

The American man took to the Connecticut River in his hollowed-out fruit in an attempt to break a world record for the longest journey by pumpkin boat (paddling).

The Massachusetts man carved his 464-kilogram pumpkin into a makeshift boat and paddled from Deerfield to Holyoke, a distance of more than 60 kilometres, breaking the record set last year.

As ridiculous as the record is, the man did it with pure intentions at heart, he said.

"This is just to raise awareness to the Connecticut River Watershed because there are a lot of us that live in close proximity to it and it's an incredible resource that needs to be protected," he said.

## Destination: Zagara Beauty Spa



### Ship: *Silver Muse*

**ONE** of the indulgences of a cruise holiday can be a visit to the ship's spa.

Zagara Beauty Spa - calling itself a 'sensory heaven' - will not disappoint for those keen to thoroughly pamper themselves on their cruise.

With an array of bespoke treatments to choose from, guests can relax, restore, and revitalise at Zagara.

From facials, cosmetic treatments, massages, to



### Location: Deck 6

salon experiences such as manicures, there is something for everyone, including a range for the gentlemen.

Also available are acupuncture and Chinese medicine consultations.

Zagara fitness centre is also located within the spa.

There is a full array of gym equipment as well as daily classes and seminars, plus wellness trainers to help you on your fitness journey.



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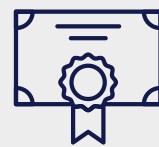
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