



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features five pages of all the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **Flight Centre**, plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

Join CLIA in 2024

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) memberships for next year are out now.

Join CLIA to become a destination specialist, with access to unique cruise destination training, and resources which will help you drive your professional development, strengthen your cruise selling skills, and earn recognition as a trusted cruise specialist advisor.

Contact the Association for more information, and visit **page 6** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Discovery to make Down Under debut

PRINCESS Cruises has unveiled its 2025/26 Australia program, which features the Down Under debut of its flagship *Discovery Princess* (CW 24 Oct).

The ship (pictured) will be the biggest the line has ever sailed from Australia, joining *Crown Princess* and *Grand Princess*.

Discovery will offer 22 itineraries during her four-month deployment, which will include 11 departures from Sydney.

The program also features the longest-ever world cruise to sail round trip from Australia - a record-breaking 114-night voyage aboard *Crown*, visiting 48 destinations in 31 countries across six continents, and covering 35,000 nautical miles.

Guests on the cruise will be treated to two new world cruise ports - Alexandria, Egypt and Patmos, Greece - as well as overnight visits to New York City,



Lima, and Quebec City, and late-night stays in a range of exotic destinations, including Reykjavik and Papeete.

Grand will be based in Brisbane, and will carry a record number of guests from the city on 14 round trip cruises to destinations including Tasmania, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand.

The trio will offer 75 unique itineraries and 120 departures in

total across the summer season, with cruises ranging from two to 37 days.

Sailings will be available from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Hobart.

SVP Stuart Allison said *Discovery's* Australian debut on 06 Dec will be a day to remember, as it comes almost exactly 50 years after Princess first starting cruising local waters. *MS*

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New Hurtigruten trio

HURTIGRUTEN Coastal Express has relaunched three popular itineraries focusing on the unique lights of the Nordics.

The cruise line has reintroduced two land & sea tours, and one science-based sailing, combining the city lights of the Nordic capitals with those of the aurora borealis and the midnight sun.

The 15-day Follow the Northern Lights: Land and Sea Tour includes an overland trek of Finland north from Helsinki and then a Coastal Express voyage down the Norwegian coastline to Bergen.

Meanwhile, the 15-day Follow the Midnight Sun: Land & Sea Tour begins with a ferry ride from Stockholm to Helsinki, then heads overland to Finland's northern regions before setting sail on the Coastal Express voyage down the Norwegian coast to Bergen.

Lastly, the 12-day Follow the Stars: Astronomy Voyage travels from Bergen and back, lending insights into the Arctic sky.

Reports inaccurate

PRINCESS Cruises has hit back at reports of a "dual outbreak" on board its *Grand Princess*, which has been sailing Southern Australia.

Reports surfaced on Mon of an outbreak of both COVID-19 and gastroenteritis on *Grand*, which Princess said were "inaccurate", stating there were very few cases on board.

"There is no current 'dual outbreak' of illness on the ship, as is being reported," a Princess statement supplied to **Cruise Weekly** said.

"On the previous voyage, a number of people reported to the Medical Centre with symptoms of respiratory illness and acute gastrointestinal illness," Princess said.

"While most guests were unaffected by illness on that voyage, we proactively launched a comprehensive disinfection program."

CCL 25-26 Aussie season



CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) has opened for booking its 2025-2026 Australia voyages from Sydney and Brisbane.

The new cruise options now available for guests include unique sailings to Fiji and New Zealand on *Carnival Splendor* (pictured) as well as sailings to Fiji and Papua New Guinea on *Carnival Luminosa*, along with several Great Barrier Reef cruises on both ships.

Splendor will offer a range of itineraries from Sydney, with cruise options spanning from three to 12 days to much-loved destinations across Australia, including the Great Barrier Reef, Moreton Island, and Tasmania.

Highlights will include a Melbourne Cup cruise, as well as idyllic voyages to destinations such as Fiji and the South Pacific.

The 3,012-guest *Splendor* features many of the venues

Carnival guests know and love, including Guy's Burger Joint, Pizzeria del Capitano, and the Alchemy Bar.

The ship offers something for everyone, from waterslides to the Serenity Adult-Only Retreat.

Luminosa will sail from Brisbane to popular destinations like Airlie Beach and the Barrier Reef, along with tropical Pacific paradises including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu.

Cruise durations available span from three to 11 days.

The 2,260-guest *Luminosa* also features many guest favourite Carnival venues, including Fahrenheit 555 Steakhouse and RedFrog Rum Bar, Piano Bar 88, and The Punchliner Comedy Club.

CLICK HERE to see all sailings currently open for sale on *Splendor*, and **CLICK HERE** to see all sailings currently open for sale on *Luminosa*. *MS*



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Travel Daily

Viking's weekly deals

VIKING cruises' deal of the week is its Portugal's River of Gold cruise from Porto to Lisbon or vice versa.

Travellers can enjoy the Douro's beauty and history with Viking's 10-day cruise, which is on sale now as part of the line's 'The Heart of Exploring' sale.

The cruise is priced from \$6,495 per person with savings up to \$2,000 per couple.

Cruisers can experience the renaissance of Lisbon, newly invigorated with trendy galleries and restaurants, and explore two of Iberia's oldest university towns, Coimbra and Salamanca.

MSC Book webinar

MSC Cruises is next week hosting a webinar on MSC Book, its online platform for travel partners.

The 20-minute webinar will be followed by a five-minute interactive Q&A session, with attendees to be provided with comprehensive insights into MSC Book.

The webinar is scheduled for 22 Nov, with three sessions: one at 8:30am AEST, one at 3:30pm, and one at 5:30pm.

Travel partners are invited to register [HERE](#), after which they will be invited to join.

RSSC's *Grandeur* delivery



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has taken delivery of the highly anticipated *Seven Seas Grandeur*, the line's sixth ship.

The vessel will welcome her first guests on 18 Nov, with RSSC having taken delivery of her from shipbuilder Fincantieri.

Captain Luciano Montesanto and his senior leadership team will command *Grandeur's* maiden voyage from Venice to Barcelona, before she traverses the Atlantic to Miami for an elegant and exclusive gala event on 10 Dec.

It is here *Grandeur's* Godmother Sarah Faberge, founding member of The Faberge Heritage Council and great-granddaughter of Peter Carl Faberge, will perform her christening duties ([CW](#) 18 Jul).

Guests can then enjoy discovering the Caribbean, two transits of the Panama Canal, as well as an itinerary sailing the

East Coast of the United States in an almost sold-out inaugural season, before sailing back across the Atlantic from New York City to Barcelona in Mar, to explore the Mediterranean for summer 2024.

Guests will witness the colours of autumn in Canada & New England in Sep and Oct, before culminating a luxurious year of travel exploring more of the Caribbean to close out 2024.

"We would like to thank Studio DADO and Fincantieri for their outstanding collaboration in realising this incredible new vessel which truly builds on the ground-breaking traditions of Regent's exceptional Explorer-class ships which came before," said Harry Sommer, President and CEO of RSSC's parent company, who is **pictured** right officially receiving *Grandeur* from shipyard Director Gilberto Tobaldi. *MS*

Bon Voyage 2023

Signing off 2023 in style!

Wed 6 Dec ♦ 6pm ♦ Marble Bar, Sydney Hilton

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Wed 15th Nov 2023

THE FCTG Independent Global ICONS 2023 event exceeded expectations, celebrating triumphs aboard Uniworld's S.S. Beatrice from Budapest to Vienna.

This exclusive cruise brought together the global elite, honouring the top 50 agents/agencies, with special recognition for the top 10 from each region.

Against the stunning Danube River backdrop, attendees experienced a seamless blend of luxury and achievement.

Key sponsors, including Uniworld, Adventure World Travel, Lindblad Expeditions, The Travel Corporation, and Cover-More Insurance, played integral roles in curating an unforgettable experience.

This unique event melded professional networking with leisure, fostering valuable connections and shared insights.



AGENTS stopped for a quick snap in Bratislava.

ICONS 2023 on the S.S. Beatrice stands as a testament to success, underlining the strength of the FCTG Independent Global community and the pivotal contributions of its esteemed sponsors.

If you would like to learn more about joining the FCTG Independent network, get in contact today - email ind_enquiries@flightcentre.com.



THE Aussie Icons contingent.



AN EXTREMELY warm welcome to ICONS 2023 from Uniworld CEO, Ellen Bettridge.



TRAVEL advisor by day, DJ by night - Alex Jeong.

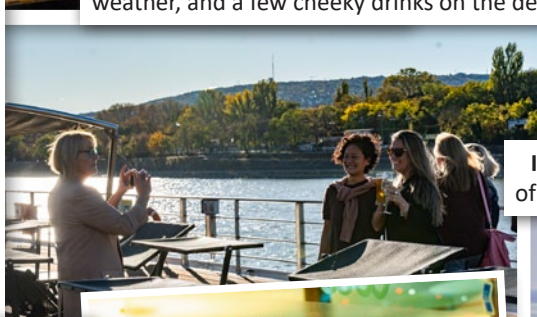


ALL Icons at the Vienna Art History Museum.

KICK-STARTING the trip with gorgeous weather, and a few cheeky drinks on the deck.



RAINY afternoons exploring the cobblestone streets of Bratislava.



IT WASN'T all just wining and dining - plenty of day excursions to fill our culture cups!



WELCOME to ICONS 2023, all aboard Uniworld's S.S. Beatrice.

The Chat with Jenny Travel Daily

Whose favourite snack is boiled eggs?
Catch up on episodes to find out.

[CLICK HERE to listen](#)





Viking doubles Mekong



HURTIGRUTEN is diving back into the icy depths for another vintage of its 'Havets Bobler' sea-aged sparkling wine, and this time, it's going bigger, bolder, and bubblier.

The first vintage of Havets Bobler ("Bubbles of the Sea") was raised earlier this year, from a depth of 34 metres below sea level, in celebration of Hurtigruten's 130th anniversary (**CW** 22 May).

The wine bottles were submerged in the Arctic waters off Norway's coast, nestled beneath the sea, and for this vintage, Hurtigruten is immersing 4,500 bottles, an increase from the 1,700 in the inaugural crate.

The vintage will include 4,200 standard 0.75cl bottles and 300 magnum-sized 1.5cl bottles, all to be gracefully aged on the seabed for a minimum maturation period of six months, "some might even stay longer, for that extra vigour," Front of House & Beverage Director Tani Gurra suggested.

The bottles will be submerged north of the Arctic Circle beneath first the aurora borealis, and then, as seasons turn, beneath the midnight sun, giving them citrus notes and even silkier bubbles.

Havets Bobler truly brings a whole new meaning to the idea of Hurtigruten's 'Norway Coastal Kitchen' concept.

VIKING has announced a new ship for the Mekong (**pictured**), which will debut in 2025.

The new *Viking Tonle* will double the cruise line's capacity in Southeast Asia, with space for 80 guests on board.

Tonle will join sister ship *Viking Saigon* (**CW** 11 Aug 2022), which debuted last year.

She will sail between Kampong Cham and My Tho as part of Viking's 15-day Magnificent Mekong itinerary.

Tonle is under construction and is scheduled to debut in Oct 2025.

Viking has also added sailing dates in 2025, and has opened the entire 2026 season for booking, to meet strong demand for Mekong voyages.

"The rich history and culture of Vietnam and Cambodia have always made the Mekong River a fascinating destination," Chair Torstein Hagen explained.

"With the addition of an identical sister ship in 2025, we look forward to introducing even more curious travellers to the treasures of this fantastic region in the years to come." **MS**



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Nominate now!

TRAVEL advisors have been a huge part of cruising's renewed success in Australia, and CLIA's approaching Cruise Industry Awards are a great way to acknowledge the incredible dedication of our travel agent community.

For each year's winners, the awards bring priceless industry recognition and a boost to their career.

A CLIA award is an enormous endorsement of a travel agent's professionalism, and it helps attract clients.

Every dedicated CLIA member is a potential candidate, and by putting yourself forward you gain a chance to be named among our industry's best – but nominations are only open until 30 Nov, so now is the time to act.

Importantly, the awards honour more than just sales – there are categories for Rising Stars, creative Cruise Promotions, and a Champion of the Cruise Industry.

You can nominate yourself, or nominate a colleague who deserves recognition.

With so many new CLIA members in our community, we want to receive as many nominations as possible.

To find out more, browse the award categories via CLIA's **AWARDS PAGE** and follow the links to lodge your nomination.

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