



Cruise Weekly today

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

Wonder arrives

DISNEY Cruise Line's *Disney Wonder* has arrived in Australia, cruising into Sydney Harbour this morning ahead of a major celebration on board. The launch of the inaugural Down Under Disney season will showcase the ship to trade partners as it relocates from Sydney's White Bay Cruise Terminal to the Overseas Passenger Terminal, with a number of senior Disney executives on board. More details in Mon's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Hurti's Green Fri

HURTIGRUTEN Group has teamed up with Australia's first online sustainability-focused shopping event, Green Friday. The eco-friendly alternative to Black Fri encourages Aussies to move away from impulsive shopping behaviours and embrace a more mindful approach to "buy better". From today until 03 Nov, the cruise company is offering an exclusive \$500 onboard credit per cabin through Green Friday's platform **HERE**. Agents can also take advantage of the offer by quoting 'GREENFRIDAYHX' when booking with Hurtigruten Expeditions, or 'GREENFRIDAYHRN' when booking with Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Express.

Royal Caribbean upgrades forecasts

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) says demand for cruise holidays into 2024 has "continued to accelerate, with bookings significantly and consistently outpacing 2019 levels".

The company overnight released its results for the three months to 30 Sep, with close-in demand for 2023 sailings also exceeding expectations and contributing to higher load factors at higher prices for the quarter.

Profit was about US\$1 billion for the period, with the company noting that "Consumer spending onboard, as well as pre-cruise purchases, continue to significantly exceed 2019 levels driven by greater participation at higher prices".

CEO Jason Liberty said "the strength of our brands and the acceleration of consumer spending on experiences have propelled us towards another outstanding quarter and a robust 2023...looking ahead we see accelerating demand as we build the business for 2024".



Liberty said booked load factors were higher than all prior years and at higher prices.

"The combination of our leading brands, the best people, and the most innovative fleet and destinations, positions us exceptionally well to deliver on a lifetime of vacation experiences while creating long-term shareholder value."

Unrest in the Middle East is not having an impact on bookings at the moment, Liberty said, with the quick adjustment of *Rhapsody of the Sea's* Haifa deployment meaning the conflict is "pretty immaterial" to the overall RCG business, Liberty suggested.

It's too early at this stage to know whether the Israel situation will impact on European travel demand, he added.

New-to-cruise and new-to-brand customers comprised about 65% of Royal's bookings in the last quarter, he added, with new customers typically booking shorter cruisers but also with a strong return rate.

The RCG chief said that 1% shift from land to cruise holidays would allow the company to fill as many as 11 of Royal's huge Oasis-class vessels (**pictured**), adding that "the younger generations are looking to us like going to Orlando or Vegas or skiing". *BP*

AmaWaterways appoints new MD

SILVERSEA Cruises Director of Sales, Australia and New Zealand, Steve Richards, has been named as the new Managing Director of AmaWaterways Australia and New Zealand (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

Richards, who is based in Sydney, will assume the newly created position at the end of Nov, which will see him tasked with launching AmaWaterways' sales and marketing activities.

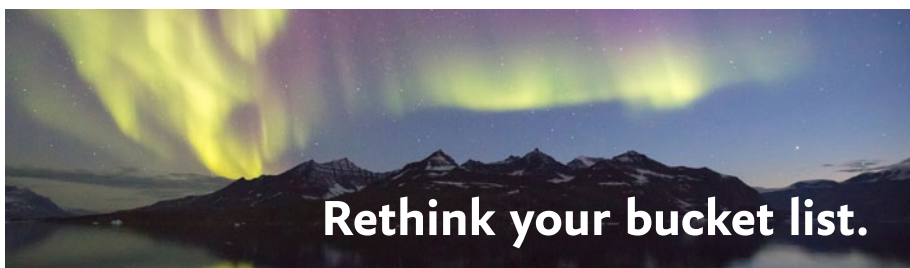
The seasoned cruise executive brings more than two decades of commercial experience in the tourism industry both here and abroad, including roles at The Travel Corporation, Best Western and Wendy Wu Tours.

"We are extremely happy and proud to have Steve join the AmaWaterways team as we launch our business entry into the important Australia and NZ marketplaces," AmaWaterways co-owner Gary Murphy said.

London package

CRUISE Traveller has launched a new fly, cruise and stay package featuring a half-world voyage with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

The 'Union Jack to Aussie Tracks' package includes a flight from Australia to London, a free two-night hotel stay in London, and a 51-night half-world cruise from Southampton to Sydney - book by 30 Nov **HERE** to enjoy savings of \$575 per person.



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PORThOLE

SEAFOOD is a popular culinary option on board, but it's mostly of the fancy fishy type, rather than plant-based.

However that may be all about to change if archaeologists have their way.

A new study published in the *Nature Communications* scientific journal has found seaweed was an important part of the European diet until the late Middle Ages, with the researchers calling for the "eco-friendly aquatic plant to be put back on the menu".

The group of UK scientists analysed dental plaque extracted from the teeth of 74 people, whose remains date back thousands of years were unearthed at 28 sites from Spain to Scotland.

They found seaweed was a popular, protein-rich option which eventually lost favour as organised agriculture became entrenched across the continent, and they added that seaweed "has the potential to be a locally sourced, low-emission option that does not require mass farming".

"It's very healthy, it's nutritious, it's available, it's renewable," said Karen Hardy from the University of Glasgow.

CW suggests that perhaps cruise ships could simply harvest the aquatic plants as they pass by seaweed beds and serve to guests super fresh.

Disney unveils new haunt



WITH Halloween creeping around the corner, Disney Cruise Line has chosen the perfect time to draw the curtains back on an all-new spooky venue aboard *Disney Treasure*, which is set to debut in Dec 2024.

The Haunted Mansion Parlor, inspired by the iconic Disney Parks attraction, will offer a ghoulish hang-out spot that promises to "immerse guests into the mysterious lore of the Haunted Mansion".

The bar will serve chilling cocktail creations like Sympathetic Libations, which tastes of blood orange and sour cherry, and an eerie take on a classic margarita, complete with a swirl of smoke and a secret message.



Decked out in the nostalgic art style of the original 1969 Disney Parks classic, the venue will feature purple wallpaper framed by wooden finishes, a fireplace topped with a mantel clock, and a ghostly portrait gallery.



Those who dare to dine at the frightfully fun bar can expect appearances by legendary characters harking from Haunted Mansion attractions at Disney Parks around the world, as well as Disney's distinct brand of spooky storytelling and a custom musical arrangement inspired by the attraction's original score.

Guests will also be able to get their hands on an exclusive collection of haunted homewares and spooky souvenirs, including a mysterious music box and an enchanted mirror. *JM*

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Disney Wonder (WB)</i>	27 Oct
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	27 Oct
<i>Disney Wonder (OPT)</i>	27 Oct
<i>Brilliance of the Seas</i>	29 Oct
<i>Grand Princess</i>	30 Oct
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	31 Oct
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	01 Nov
<i>Royal Princess</i>	02 Nov
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	03 Nov

MELBOURNE	
<i>Grand Princess</i>	28 Oct
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	03 Nov

PORT ADELAIDE	
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	03 Nov

BRISBANE	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	27 Oct
<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	28 Oct
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	29 Oct
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	30 Oct
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	02 Nov
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	03 Nov

CAIRNS	
<i>Coral Princess</i>	30 Oct
<i>Le Soleal</i>	02 Nov

AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Royal Princess</i>	27 Oct
<i>Carnival Luminosa</i>	31 Oct
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	01 Nov
<i>Grand Princess</i>	03 Nov

HOBART	
<i>Disney Wonder</i>	30 Oct
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	03 Nov

DARWIN	
<i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	27 Oct
<i>Coral Princess</i>	03 Nov

AUCKLAND	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	30 Oct
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	30 Oct
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	03 Nov

BAY OF ISLANDS	
<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	31 Oct
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	01 Nov