



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Celestyal Cruises**.

### Celestyal deposits

**CELESTYAL Cruises** is offering reduced deposits from as low as \$225 when booking today.

The cruise line's seven-night 'Heavenly Adriatic' itinerary, departing round-trip from Athens, leaves three times next year in Jul and Aug from \$1,289, while the 'Idyllic Aegean', also cruising round trip from Athens, sails more than 10 times from Jul to Oct in 2025 from \$1,489.

The two cruises can also be combined in a round trip from Athens, which departs twice in Aug from \$2,129.

Head to **page 5** of today's **Cruise Weekly** for more.

## Aqua's new culinary experiences

**NORWEGIAN Cruise Line** (NCL) has unveiled all-new culinary experiences, to debut aboard *Norwegian Aqua*.

NCL is set to open its first upscale Thai restaurant Sukhothai, as well as a dedicated plant-based venue Planterie, and the new Swirl Wine Bar.

The new experiences will debut aboard *Aqua*, when the first vessel in NCL's Prima Plus-class sets sail in Apr 2025.

Sukhothai will feature an eclectic menu with authentic, traditional offerings featuring creative flavours.

Guests can look forward to a new spin on classic dishes, such as Thai cashew chicken; salt & pepper prawns; Thai grilled steak salad; as well as variety of curries and more.

Planterie, which will be based at the Indulge Food Hall on deck 8,



will offer plant-based bowls and other healthy options.

The menu will include dishes such as the Southwest bowl with smoked tempeh; and the Mediterranean goddess bowl, filled with vegetables, tabbouleh, and honey-roasted carrots.

Also premiering aboard *Aqua* is Swirl Wine Bar, a contemporary wine lounge which aims to strike

the perfect balance between exclusivity and approachability.

Meanwhile, Swirl is tucked away on deck 6 between the popular Whiskey Bar and Hasuki, the hibachi-style restaurant, and will feature a comprehensive wine-by-the-glass menu, from an extensive list of rare vintages.

"Discovering new flavours and dining experiences is such a memorable part of any vacation, especially when you share it with those who matter most to you," President David Herrera said.

"Expanding on our award-winning food and beverage program, we're looking forward to bringing new concepts to life aboard *Norwegian Aqua*, while continuing to deliver on the variety of available offerings and value that NCL delivers." **MS**

**Pictured:** Thai cashew chicken.

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## Plastic fantastic on Sun

**PRINCESS** Cruises is converting 95% of its onboard paper and plastic waste on *Sun Princess* to energy going back to powering the ship via a variety of innovative resource recovery systems.

The initiative is part of Princess' commitment to ocean conservation and the wider Carnival Corporation 2030 goal to reduce scope 3 emissions from food and waste management.

Senior Vice President Communications Vicki Johnson said the ultra-recycler is helping *Sun* reach new lows in terms of carbon emissions.

The process works by crew members physically sorting leftover food and packaging into dedicated bins.

Items are then shredded and incinerated via a process known as micro-auto gasification, reducing it to 5% of its former volume, which is then safely



offloaded in port.

"The commitment is not only to sustain the oceans that we sail along, but it's also to improve the communities we visit," Johnson told *Cruise Weekly*.

After the gasification, the item remains in the form of a "briquette" (pictured) which is then cooked and returned to the fuel lines as syngas, which contains hydrogen.

Johnson said the line's focus on sustainability has been boosted after "millions" were spent on identifying environmentally sensitive areas where offloading is prohibited. *ML*

### Mumford's move

#### CELEBRITY Cruises'

Emma Mumford has been promoted to Senior Director Global Public Relations & Communications, which will see her relocate to Miami to work from the head office.

Mumford was formerly the cruise line's Marketing Director, and thanked her colleagues, the media, and travel partners for their support, in a LinkedIn post.

"Working on a brand that continually challenges notions of what a cruise vacation can deliver, supported by passionate colleagues driven to succeed, is my happy place," she said.

"I am thrilled to take this next step."

Mumford worked for Cruiseco prior to joining Celebrity, where she was Marketing & Comms Manager.



### On location onboard *Sun Princess*

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Princess Cruises, where we have set sail from Rome on board the exciting new *Sun Princess*.

**BRINGING** the outdoors inside is a key element of the design of *Sun Princess*, according to the line's Communications Senior VP Vicki Johnson.

Exploring the ship today both independently and guided, *CW* can see what she's talking about - there are oversized windows everywhere.

Whether you're at sea or in port, there's not a bad view anywhere on board.

*Sun* is now heading west across the Mediterranean, giving us time to soak them up.

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## HAL \$1 deposits

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) is celebrating its 151st anniversary by offering Australian guests a chance to secure a booking with a A\$1 deposit today.

The one-day-only offer is in conjunction with HAL's 'Anniversary Sale', and is available for cruises and cruisetours running from May 2024-Apr 2025, excluding Grand Voyages and sailings of five or less days.

The Anniversary Sale offers up to 30% off cruise-only launch fares and up to US\$300 credit per stateroom.

Featured fares are per person based on double occupancy, and available for the first and second guest only.

Advertised fares are available until allocation is exhausted and may fluctuate - for more info, call 1300 987 322.

## Aus the fourth-largest cruise market

**AUSTRALIA** was the world's fourth-largest cruise market last year, with 1.25 million passengers embarking in 2023.

The Land Down Under finished behind the United States (16.9 million), Germany (2.5 million), and the United Kingdom (2.2 million) in terms of total pax, according to data released by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) (*CW* 16 Apr).

The rise in short-break cruises being offered by lines is reflected in CLIA's data, with the average duration of an ocean voyage taken by Australians last year being 8.1 days, down from 9 days pre-pandemic.

The most popular region for Aussies to sail in, outside of Australia and the South Pacific, is still the Mediterranean, with 5.3% of passengers embarking on a cruise there last year, followed by Asia (2.5%), Alaska (1.9%),



Northern Europe (1%), and the Caribbean (1%).

Growing segments of the Australian cruise industry include trans-Atlantic and world cruises; Hawaii & the West Coast of the US; and expedition cruises, which captured 0.8%, 0.7%, and 0.7% of the market respectively.

"Australians have not just returned to cruising, they've come back with enormous enthusiasm and at a faster pace than in other markets

worldwide," said Managing Director Joel Katz (**pictured**).

"Australia has long been one of the world's most passionate cruise source markets, and these figures confirm an enduring love for cruising among Australian travellers," he said.

Katz said although demand for cruising is strong, close collaboration from Australian governments and ports is needed to support the sustainability of cruise tourism in the future.

"To maintain our position as a leading destination and meet demand, it's crucial that regulatory frameworks and port charges remain internationally competitive," he said.

"Balanced regulation and reasonable costs are fundamental to fostering a thriving cruise sector capable of contributing significantly to the Australian economy," Katz added. *MS*

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### HX PASSENGERS

encountered almost 300 whales over the course of the cruise line's recently wrapped up Antarctica season.

The company sailed two fully hybrid ships to the White Continent this season, reducing emissions by around 20%.

*Road Amundsen*, one of HX's ships, reached her southernmost point for the season at S°69 13'3" and W °069 40'2", near Alexander Island on the Peninsula.

The season saw HX cruise on more than 33 Antarctic voyages between Oct 2023 and Mar 2024, with guests giving their onboard experience an average 9.3 rating - impressive!

S 69°13'3" W 069°40'2"

The southernmost point reached by MS *Road Amundsen*



## Iceland cruise restriction



**THE** town of Isafjordur (pictured) in northwest Iceland is planning a new cruise visitor limit, restricting the maximum number of guests who can arrive by ship each day.

The new limit will see 5,000 visitors able to call on Iceland's third-largest cruise port per day - a maximum which can be increased after two years.

Captains will also be prohibited from blowing their ship's horn unless absolutely necessary, with the new policy arriving in time for dawn of the town's cruise season.

Iceland's national public service broadcaster *RUV* reports the chair of Isafjordur's council, Gylfi Olafsson, believes the policy will ensure the ongoing reception of vessels in the long term.

Olafsson said the whole town benefits from the arrival of cruise ships, which will number about

200 this year.

"The biggest innovation in this policy [though] is that we set a numerical limit on the number of visitors we can receive each day.

"If the tourism industry continues to improve its infrastructure and its service, and as the municipality does better with people, making sure that there are toilets and that facilities are open, the more visitors we can receive in return."

Olafsson said in the future Isafjordur would also like to adjust its port fees according to the environmental impact of each cruise ship calling. *MS*

## Cruise back in Japan

**CRUISE** ships are returning to Japan's ports, albeit with fewer passengers.

The number of calls to Japan more than doubled last year according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, & Tourism, as reported on *Nippon.com*.

This was 63% of the peak 2,930 calls in 2018, *Nippon.com* reports, however, the number of passengers visiting Japan by cruise ship remained at 356,000, or only 14% compared to the number in 2017, when they reached a high of 2.5 million.



On Board: *Sun Princess*

### Horizons Dining Room

There are very few places in Horizons Dining Room that give the impression you're sitting in *Sun Princess'* major three-deck main eatery. The space has been so meticulously designed with a delightful modern decor that even as a mass-service venue, there's a degree of intimacy. If you're lucky, tables right by a huge aft window afford mesmerising views over the ship's wake.



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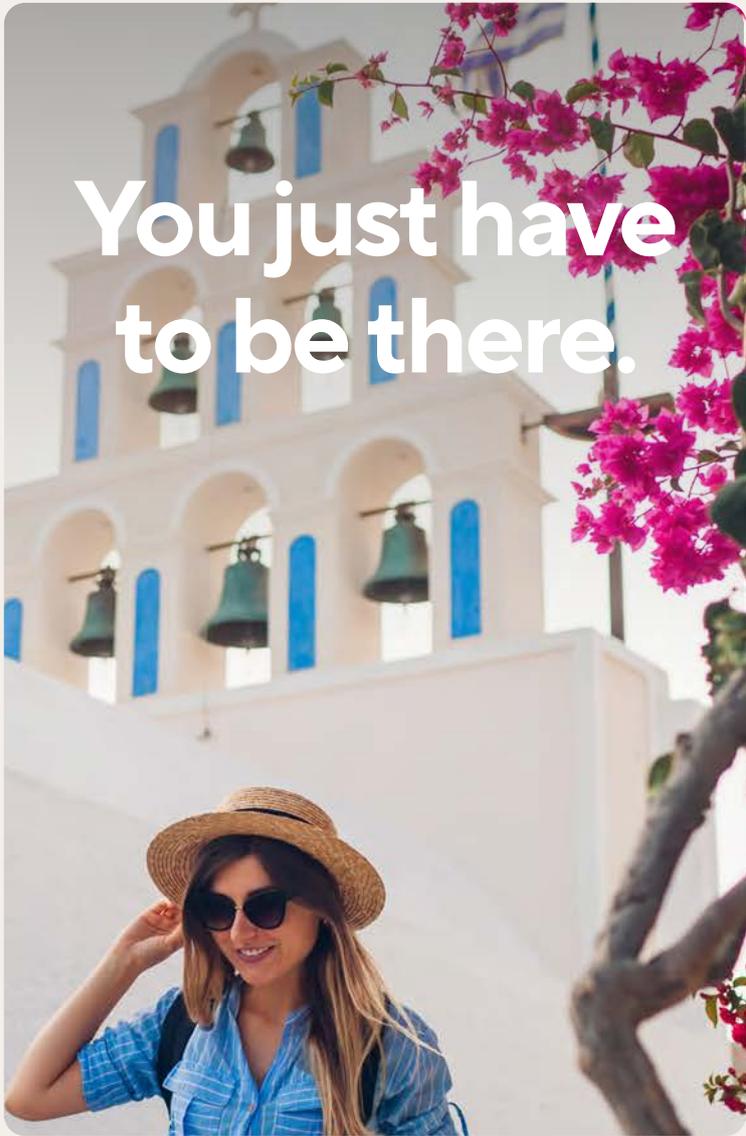
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\*All prices are per-person, based on a double occupancy of the stateroom and are quoted in Australian Dollars (AU\$-AUD). Celestyal Experience Fares are based on the published Full Brochure Fares and the discount is already reflected. Celestyal Experience fares include accommodation on board in the booked category, on-board dining and complimentary select drinks and beverages during food service hours, all port and service charges and entertainment program on board. Moreover a AU\$120 discount for pre-booked shore excursions is included. Booking window is March 1st, 2024 to May 31st, 2024 for the selected cruises. Offer is valid for new, individual bookings. It is not valid for groups and cannot be held as group block. Reduced rates space is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time with, or without notice. Celestyal Cruises reserves the right to add, change or modify reduced rate conditions at any time, without notification. Port and service charges and any other surcharges are not commissionable even if indicated as included in the cruise rate. Celestyal's Deposit and Cancellation standard policies apply based on the booking/sailing date. Celestyal reserves the right to correct any incorrect information due to a human error, typographical error, or technical error. In the event of any discrepancies between the rates stated herein and the rates displayed in the Reservation System, the rates provided by the Reservation System shall prevail and be deemed as the correct and binding rates for all purpose. Other restrictions may apply. The general terms and conditions of Celestyal apply.