



Queen Anne signed, sealed, delivered

CUNARD Line has formally taken delivery of its newest ship, with *Queen Anne* being officially delivered by Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri late last week.

In a handover ceremony on Fri at the company's Marghara shipyard in Venice, keys to Cunard's fourth Queen were handed over to Cunard President, Katie McAlister and Carnival UK President, Paul Ludlow.

Speaking at the event, McAlister said *Queen Anne's* admission into the Cunard fleet marks the first time since 1999 the British line has comprised four ships.

"We are now fully focused on



readying her to welcome guests for her maiden voyage on 03 May before she embarks on an historic British Isles Festival Voyage, including a momentous Naming Ceremony in Cunard's spiritual

home of Liverpool on 03 Jun."

Queen Anne becomes the 249th ship to sail under the Cunard flag and the third built by Fincantieri.

She will soon journey to her new home in Southampton ahead of her maiden voyage to Lisbon early next month.

Passengers on the 14-deck, 3,000-passenger vessel will enjoy a variety of partnerships Cunard has signed to operate onboard, including Le Gavroche at Sea helmed by Michelin-starred chef, Michel Roux, plus exclusive screenings of classics from the British Film Institute.

"We are very pleased and eager to deliver *Queen Anne* to Cunard, a pioneering figure in luxury sea travel, renowned for setting new standards in oceanic voyages for over 180 years," Fincantieri Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director Pierroberto Folgiero.

Pictured are Fincantieri Shipyard Director Marco Lunardi, McAlister, Ludlow, and Fincantieri Merchant Ships Division General Manager Luigi Matarazzo.

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest industry news plus a full page from **Windstar Cruises**.

Princess postpones

PRINCESS Cruises and Fincantieri have announced the decision to postpone the delivery of *Star Princess*, the next Sphere-class ship.

Both operators comprehensively reviewed the remaining construction milestones, and elected to adjust *Star's* delivery date from 29 Jul 2025 to 26 Sep 2025, which will result in the cancellation of the ship's first nine voyages.

The new inaugural sailing of *Star* will now cruise round trip from Barcelona on an 11-day Mediterranean voyage on 04 Oct 2025.

This cruise and *Sun's* other new sailings will open for sale on 30 Apr.

Guests who are booked on any of the impacted voyages will be able to book any Princess cruise worldwide, or cancel and receive a full refund of the cruise fare.

Windstar difference

WINDSTAR Cruises is inviting passengers to discover its degrees of difference and "sail beyond ordinary" - for more information, head to **page 4**.

Celestyal
14 nights
Desert Days & Double Grand Prix
\$2389
per person/per cruise
Qatar Grand Prix

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT
All-inclusive adventure
UP TO 25% OFF*
No NCFs. Earn in full.

HX HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS
Change the way you see the world.
DISCOVER MORE

*T&Cs apply. Discount applies to HX departures from 01 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. Offer ends 30 June 2024. Visit website for more details.



GAME shows on cruise ships are an endless source for amusement, and the "Majority Rules" session on *Sun Princess* was ripe with hilarity.

The game awarded points to teams who submitted the most popular answers to various open-ended questions.

One such poll was "Other than 'I love you', what is the most common phrase you say to your significant other?"

Once all answers were submitted, the host read out some of the best, which included "you look great today", "have a lovely day" and "I love you too".

The winning line was "what's for dinner honey?"

Eclipse II dream team

MEDIA and VIPs had the privilege of stepping aboard *Scenic Eclipse II* on Sat to find out more details about the vessel that

will be offering Australians new ultra-luxury departures over the next couple of years.

Founder Glen Moroney introduced four of the most important people influencing the guest experience on *Eclipse II*: General Manager of Ocean Operations James Griffiths; culinary extraordinaire and VP Oceans Hotel Operations Tom Goetter; Captain Erwan Le Rouzic; and Director of Discovery Operations Jason Flesher.

Moroney heaped praise on the four men (**pictured**) for the



roles they have each played in perfecting the guest experience for the type of ultra luxury expedition cruising Scenic has been striving for with its Eclipse-class ships in recent years.

"Anybody will tell you that I am extremely focused on ratings and guest enjoyment and I am very fortunate to have a team that is as driven as I am," Moroney said.

"It really is a great industry we are in, what other job could you have where you get to open up these types of amazing experiences for guests". *AB*



Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you from the southern Spanish coast as *Sun Princess* makes its way to Barcelona for a grand naming ceremony.

GIBRALTAR is one of the vastly underrated highlights of southern Europe.

Five countries have battled for 1,300 years to control the Gibraltar Strait and its strategic position between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

But the undeniable highlight of our visit was venturing up 'The Rock' to see the famed Barbary macaque - Europe's only free-roaming monkeys.

The primates roam freely among visitors but will eagerly snatch any trace of food.

TIME OF YOUR LIFE IN ALASKA

WIN

A SPOT ON OUR 11-DAY DENALI + YUKON CRUISE TOUR FAMIL + A \$4,000 MASTERCARD GIFT CARD*

Don't miss out - Competition ends 3 May!

[LEARN MORE](#)



T&Cs apply visit GoHAL for full competition details.



Sun's kitchen a nest for culinary talent

CELEBRATED chef Rudi Sodamin is leading a team of promising chefs aboard the new *Sun Princess*, offering more than 150 bespoke dishes to suit local tastes during the ship's first season in the Mediterranean.

Sodamin has spent decades elevating standards of excellence in dining across numerous Carnival Corp brands over his 50-year career.

Central to this is a culture of respect, celebrating talent and cultivating an environment of constructive criticism to bring out the best in the team.

Sodamin (pictured right) has spent the past two years further elevating an already high dining standard across the Princess fleet after three decades with Holland America Line, Seabourn Cruise Line and Cunard Line before that.

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* onboard *Sun Princess* in Gibraltar this past weekend, Sodamin said with Princess' latest ship being so new, there have been teething problems which they are now managing to overcome.

"These kitchens are designed in a totally different level of



detail and for us, it has been very challenging," Sodamin said.

"There's a lot of passion, thinking and vision behind the menus on *Sun Princess*."

Recognising that every cruise line essentially uses the same ingredients, Sodamin and more than 200 talented chefs can only get better through a culture of feedback from their peers.

Each afternoon before the dinner rush, the entire chef contingent meets to critique each other's work and provide helpful advice

to one another.

"There's no competition among my chefs," Sodamin added.

"A creme brulee is a creme brulee, a roast chicken is a roast chicken, a prime rib is a prime rib, but it's the execution which is the key ingredient - it doesn't matter which cruise line you work for.

"Without quality, we can never succeed," Sodamin added.

"Presentation may be different because every chef has a different idea on creativity, but I've set a standard," he said. *ML*

Carnival new show

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is inviting passengers to tie the knot with its brand new show *Dear Future Husband*.

The cruise line is saying "I do" to the new live show, which will be unveiled on board *Carnival Splendor* on 24 Jun.

The interactive pop musical will be the latest addition to *Splendor's* popular Playlist Productions performances, and will feature a soundtrack of 90s and 00s chart toppers, theatrical choreography, thrills, and romance.

The show follows the journey of a bride and groom on a wedding adventure on board a Carnival cruise ship with their best friends.

The four-act show includes cast performances of pop mega-hits including Bruno Mars' *Marry You*, Maroon 5's *Moves Like Jagger*, and Shania Twain's *Man! I Feel like a Woman!*, among others.

The interactive musical will invite guests to throw down a dance and join in the fun with the cast after the show.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DYNAMIC MENTEES

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning & access to new networks
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture, and processes

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au



cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz

Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman

Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon

Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai

Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper

Publisher - Damian Francis

Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan

Advertising - Sharad Goodfella &

Dante Muranty

advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

HEAD OF OPERATIONS & CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd

Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia

Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220

Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220



WINDSTAR® CRUISES

180° FROM ORDINARY®



SANTORINI, GREECE

MOOREA, FRENCH POLYNESIA



CAPRI, ITALY



SECRET LAGOON, ICELAND

DISCOVER WINDSTAR'S DEGREES OF DIFFERENCE

SAIL *BEYOND* ORDINARY

Book your clients on a voyage with Windstar Cruises this year and let them experience firsthand what makes us the #1 Boutique Cruise Line in the world. They'll step aboard one of our iconic sailing or all-suite yachts and enjoy award-winning service as they visit must-see destinations in the Caribbean, French Polynesia, Latin America, Europe and beyond. Guests who reserve their 2024 cruise by **June 30** will enjoy a **complimentary upgrade to our All-Inclusive Fare**, featuring Wi-Fi, unlimited wine, beer and cocktails, and all gratuities. Applicable on select sailings only.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CONTACT OUR WINDSTAR AUSTRALIA TEAM ON: **1300 749 875** or reservations@windstar.com.au