



Cruise Weekly today

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

MSC longer in port

MSC Cruises is serving up longer port stays for next summer in the Mediterranean. Longer times in destination and more overnight stays will be highlights of MSC's program next summer.

Travellers can explore the eastern and western Mediterranean from May to Oct 2025, with overnights and longer stays in destinations such as Mykonos, Rome, Naples, Alicante, Palma, Lisbon, Cadiz, and Provence.

Early booking offers are now available for a limited time only aboard MSC's seven Mediterranean ships, including the new *MSC World Europa*.

Managed cruise growth for NZ

EXCLUSIVE

NEW Zealand Cruise Association Chief Executive Officer Jacqui Lloyd believes "managed growth" is the key to filling out the country's cruise industry, as it faces a myriad of headwinds, such as port costs, destination regulations, and fuel.

The country will be looking to reverse the trend over the next few years of falling cruise ship visit numbers (**CW 16 Aug**), but will aim to do so in a way which best benefits the entire nation, Lloyd told **Cruise Weekly**.

"Our strategy is around ensuring we are working with the right ports and regions, because some say 'we might have reached our peak for our communities, and we don't have the product available to deliver for more visitors - we need some time,'" Lloyd explained.

"Some of them were getting a

little bit close to peak cruise, and now we've got that opportunity to work with the lines and say, actually, here are the ports that are really need more business, and are really keen to be on itineraries and build more product with you; and here's ones that might just need some breathing space for a moment until they're in a better position."

A key way for the industry to grow sustainably will also be to channel some of New Zealand's almost 200,000 Australian cruise passengers per year into return visitors, Lloyd added.

"Fifty percent of our cruise arrivals are Australians, and when you talk to many of them, it is their first time in New Zealand.

"There's an opportunity for us to work with partners, to re-target them as repeat visitors.

"That really fits nicely in the NZ tourism picture." *MS*

Uniworld's sequel

UNIWORLD is going back to the movies, announcing the dates for the 2024 edition of its 'Aperitivo at the Pictures' agent and consumer events.

Eight events have been scheduled, beginning in Fremantle on 09 Oct before moving to Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Melbourne, and Sydney.

Highlights of Uniworld's 2026 itineraries will be showcased at each event alongside a new documentary, which was filmed along the Danube.

Tickets are priced at \$15pp plus booking fee, with the pass including a glass of sparkling wine on arrival plus a small popcorn and ice-cream.

Agents are invited to attend for free alongside their paying clients by using booking code 'UWAGENT' for their ticket.

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THERE'S more than a few benefits to being owned by a container shipping company, with a novel development helping to keep food aboard MSC Cruises and Explora Journeys ships even fresher.

The two lines are engaging a helping hand from their sister brand, Mediterranean Shipping Company, to use "smart containers" to ensure food stays fresh, with each container fitted with internet-connected devices to collect data.

Information such as position, temperature, and humidity, are remotely monitored around the clock at a Customer Service Centre, and any problems during delivery then trigger an alert to the supplier, so it can be resolved en route.

This ensuring foods that depend on exact environmental conditions for freshness can be delivered as crisply as possible.

A new Antarctic Venture



SEABOURN Cruise Line has announced an additional Antarctica sailing for 2026, an 11-day expedition aboard *Seabourn Venture* (pictured).

The additional voyage comes in response to high demand, and is available for booking now.

"Exploring Antarctica in Mar offers a unique opportunity to witness the stunning landscapes as they transition into winter," Vice President & General Manager of Expeditions Robin West said.

"This period is ideal for observing peak whale activity, with potential sightings of humpback whales and orcas, along with gentoo penguins and Antarctic fur seals.

"Our Antarctica expedition voyages are incredibly popular, and we encourage guests to seize this chance to experience this remarkable continent and learn about the historic voyages of renowned explorers James Weddell, Otto Nordenskjold, and Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen," he said.

Venture and *Seabourn Pursuit* will offer a range of 11- to 21-day voyages to Antarctica from Nov 2025 to Mar 2026, including Zodiac outings, and kayaking & submarine excursions.

Guests will also enjoy the new Image Masters photography program, with in-the-field instruction led by an onboard wildlife photographer. MS

Gregor a Virtuoso

VIRTUOSO has named Gregor & Lewis Bespoke Travel's Melinda Gregor as its first-ever Cruise Ambassador, recognising the agent network's advisor whose commitment "stands out for their support, amplification and engagement".

Cruise Ambassador was one of two new awards given out during a special by-invitation-only 'Cruise Night Out' gala at Virtuoso Travel Week, which brought together more than 4,700 top luxury travel professionals, advisors, and partners in Las Vegas.

The other new award, Best Small Ship Cruise Line, recognised Aqua Expeditions for its leadership in brands carrying 350 pax or less.

Winners in the company's more traditional categories included Best Ocean Cruise Line (Silversea), Best River Cruise Line (AmaWaterways) and Best Expedition Cruise Line (Quark Expeditions).

Virtuoso said all winners are committed to supporting the travel advisor community.

En gladlaks.

'A happy salmon.'

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