



Cruise Weekly today

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

Crystal announces restaurant pact

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced an exclusive collaboration with acclaimed restaurateurs, the Alajmo brothers to open a specialty dining venue on its ships.

Osteria d'Ovidio will feature menu items created by Michelin-starred chef Massimiliano Alajmo, who will offer an Italian-based dining experience, with further details to be announced at a later date.

Alajmo will work directly with Crystal's culinary experts to ensure fresh and local ingredients are sourced for all dishes, including specialty items from Italy.

He will also collaborate with Crystal's sommeliers to launch specialty wine pairings for the Osteria d'Ovidio menus.

"We are incredibly honoured to collaborate with Chef Massimiliano Alajmo and his brother Raffaele," A&K Travel Group Chief Executive Officer Cristina Levis said.

"Their culinary mastery aligns perfectly with our vision of providing unparalleled dining experiences to our guests," she said.

NCL spring/summer 2026



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is offering more options for port-immersive Europe itineraries for its 2026 spring/summer season.

The cruise line is offering guests a wide variety of seven-day Europe voyages with no sea days, along with longer sailings visiting ports nearly every day.

Select seven- to-14-day sailings also offer overnight stays in the Danish capital, as well as Reykjavik, Istanbul, and more, with 22 overnight calls planned for the season.

NCL will also make its debut in Portree, Leirvik, and Palamos, among the more than 200 itineraries, featuring 150 ports of call across eight ships.

Highlights will see *Norwegian Sun* offer a full Baltic season with seven- and nine-day open-jaw sailings from new home port Helsinki, one of 11 embarkation

ports across 10 countries.

Norwegian Sky will also commence her second full Europe season on 19 Apr 2026, with four unique seven-day open-jaw sailings embarking in Le Havre and Copenhagen.

VP & MD Ben Angell said Europe remains a favourite destination for Australian cruisers.

"From undiscovered gems in Lithuania and Norway to Mediterranean hotspots and a full Baltic season including our first departure from Helsinki, guests can design their dream European escape.

"Whether they prefer to create longer voyages with back-to-back sailings or combine a week at sea with a pre- or post-cruise land tour in cities such as Istanbul, Barcelona and Lisbon there's a perfect itinerary to suit," - **CLICK HERE** to book. *MS*

Reef Cat refresh

TANGALOOMA Island Resort in Queensland has invested \$4.5 million in an upgrade of its 300-seat Reef Cat, boosting capacity by around 30%.

The improved connectivity to Brisbane comes ahead of a pre-Olympics tourism boom.

RCI pumps up *Star*

ROYAL Caribbean is preparing for the debut of its second Icon-class ship - *Star of the Seas* - which will sail from Port Canaveral from Aug 2025.

Like her predecessor, *Star* will feature eight separate neighbourhoods, of which five are exclusive.

These include Thrill Island with its six-slide waterpark; the three-deck Chill Island, which will be home to four of the ship's seven pools; and the family-focused Surfside.

The vessel will also feature more than 40 quick-service and sit-down restaurants, bars and lounges.

Star will operate seven-night itineraries to the Caribbean, stopping in ports such as San Juan, Puerto Rico; Cozumel, Mexico; and Basseterre in St Kitts & Nevis; as well as Royal Caribbean's private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay.

The line has also hired 'Sailor', a second 'Chief Dog Officer' for *Star of the Seas* due to the popularity of Rover, who lives on *Icon of the Seas*.


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PORThOLE

AN UNFORTUNATE part of cruising is the ever-present possibility of a passenger falling overboard.

But a new weapon to help the swift recovery of people overboard may soon be at the industry's disposal.

Known as 'The Guardian', a new unmanned, rapid launch rescue craft capable of rescuing up to nine people at a time has been designed by search and rescue firm Zelim.

Using a submergible conveyor system (pictured), the remotely controlled Guardian will be able to scoop up conscious and unconscious casualties from the water.

The process will significantly



improve response time needed by cruise ships to slow, turn and retrace its path in the event of a person overboard.

Guardian also features an AI-based casualty detection system designed to spot and track multiple casualties, and is also capable of operating in swells of up to four metres.

Zelim is now demonstrating the capability of the vessel at various marine events globally.

New Windstar ship revealed

A FIRST look at Windstar Cruises' brand-new *Star Seeker* shows 112 suites, most with a large veranada or infinity windows.

The 224-guest vessel will debut in Jan 2026, boasting five dining options, all of which are included in a Windstar fare.

There is also a full-service spa, a fitness facility, and a fresh take on Windstar's watersports platform, which turns the ocean into an infinity pool by allowing guests to access the sea from the ship.

Star Seeker also features two Horizon Owner's suites, a new category for Windstar, at the aft of the ship on deck 7, which can be combined with adjacent suites for more space and multi-generational families.

Each comes with a wrap-around balcony offering spectacular vistas, perfect for evening cocktails or a private dinner.

Also new for Windstar are 30 infinity suites, which each feature a large floor-to-ceiling window which slides down halfway from the top.

Seeker has 12 different accommodation types to choose from, many with triple occupancy.

"Guests aboard *Seeker* will experience a sense of tranquillity in their suites; they are designed to be an oasis for relaxation," Vice President Hotel Operations Stijn Creupelandt said.

"In the ship's public spaces and restaurants, you'll find more vibrant hues inspired by sunrises



and sunsets, including warm yellows, golds, and oranges, ensuring a harmonious blend of elegance and comfort throughout the ship."

Seeker is under construction in Portugal, with the maiden voyage to be a Transatlantic sailing in early Jan from Malaga to Miami.

The ship will then sail its first voyage in the Caribbean, after her christening in Miami, before heading up the West Coast to Alaska for a full season of summer cruises.

Seeker will then sail to Japan, before heading to Southeast Asia.

Further details will be announced first to Yacht Club members and travel advisors, before being going on sale to the general public. *MS*

Climate protests

ENVIRONMENTAL activists Extinction Rebellion have issued a threat calling for "an immediate end to the cruise industry" as part of protest efforts this week.

Protestors have prevented two ships from Ambassador Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean to move planned calls in Amsterdam to the nearby town of IJmuiden.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	25 Aug
BRISBANE	<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	24 Aug
	<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	27 Aug
PERTH	<i>Silver Cloud</i>	25 Aug
DARWIN	<i>Coral Princess</i>	28 Aug
CAIRNS	<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	29 Aug
BROOME	<i>True North II</i>	23 Aug
	<i>Coral Discoverer</i>	26 Aug
	<i>Scenic Eclipse II</i>	
AIRLIE BEACH	<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	28 Aug
	<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	29 Aug
AUCKLAND	<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	29 Aug

Made in Norway

HURTIGRUTEN has become one of 22 businesses, and the only travel brand, bestowed with a 'Made in Norway' icon as part of a new nationalist project introduced by the Norwegian Government.

The initiative aims to celebrate the best of authentic Norwegian craftsmanship and sustainability on a global scale.

To earn the certification, a company must meet rigorous criteria that focuses on product excellence and a clear commitment to sustainability.