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cruiseweekly.com.au cruiseweekly.co.nz Tuesday 6th Feb 2024

### Cruise Weekly today

*CRUISE Weekly* today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Regent Seven Seas Cruises.** 

#### Big RSSC sale

**UPGRADE** your horizons with Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC), which is offering a free two-category suite upgrade, plus a reduced 7.5% deposit across every ship and every destination.

Guests can also score up to 50% off select sailings until the end of the month.

Travel advisors are able to download Regent Seven Seas Cruises' marketing toolkit, which includes customisable flyers, banners, and social media assets to support communications with travellers - see **cover page**.

# RCI announces Eurovision sailings

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) is set to host Eurovision Song Contest-themed holidays this summer, as part of the new partnership between the two. *Anthem of the Seas, Explorer of the Seas, Oasis of the Seas*, and *Odyssey of the Seas* will transform into the ultimate Eurovision celebration venues, with highlights of the themed holidays to include curated menus and drinks inspired by the contest, and one-of-a-kind surprises for fans.

RCI's entertainment venues will also be transformed into the perfect spots to watch the competition's Grand Final.

Eurovision-themed holidays will cruise on board *Oasis* and *Odyssey* on 05 May, with the former ship sailing from Barcelona exploring the western Mediterranean for seven nights, and the latter from Civitavecchia



on a 12-night adventure across Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Turkey.

Anthem will then cruise on 10 May from Southampton, offering a two-night weekend getaway to Le Havre, before *Explorer* embarks on 11 May, the final day of Eurovision, on a seven-night journey from Ravenna to Italy, Greece, and Croatia.

"Millions of fans across the world watch the Eurovision Song Contest from home every year, and now these sailings give fans the chance to unite and celebrate the world's largest live music event in a way they never have before while adventuring around Europe," Vice President of Europe Middle East and Africa Ben Bouldin said.

"Paired with Royal Caribbean's own world-class entertainment, holidaymakers can lay all their love on the world of Eurovision as they visit a line-up of landmark destinations across the continent, making for a truly memorable holiday," he added.

The Eurovision-themed cruises are available for booking now on RCI's website.

The cruise line announced last month it would be taking the stage together with Eurovision, partnering with the contest for the next two years (*CW* 08 Jan).

This year's Eurovision will be held in Malmo in May, coinciding with the start of the cruise line's European season. *MS* 

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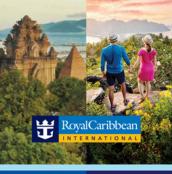
#### Hurti savings

**ENJOY** savings of up to \$2,000 for a limited time with Hurtigruten on selected North Cape Express voyages.

The savings are applicable to 2024/2025 cruises booked before the end of next month.







## You've gotta love Princess



JILL Whelan, one of the original stars of The Love Boat, has spread the love on board Princess Cruises' Royal Princess, as more Australian couples choose to spend their dream day at sea.

Whelan played Vicki Stubing on The Love Boat, and joined guests on board *Royal* for a special event spreading the love with 'Princess Perfect Weddings'.

The cruise line has seen a 127% increase in wedding bookings and an 83% increase in the number of ceremonies performed from 2022 to 2023, prompting its 'Celebrations Ambassador' to head Down Under for the first time in more than 40 years.

"I was lucky enough to star on The Love Boat on board Pacific Princess from the age of 12, and grew up seeing some of the most amazing love stories play out on the show," Whelan said.

"As the Celebrations Ambassador of Princess Cruises, I am excited to see so many Aussies continuing to experience romance and share the love on board our cruise ships, just as I did all those years ago."

Senior Vice President Asia Pacific & Europe Stuart Allison said that in this current high cost-of-living climate, weddings at sea are giving Aussies a more cost-effective way to celebrate their special day.

"Our Princess Perfect Wedding packages are less than half the price of an Australian wedding, ranging from \$4,468 to \$9,689, and include everything you need to make the day remarkable," Allison added. MS

He is **pictured** alongside Whelan, Director Public Relations Megan Koffel, and Royal Captain Steve Holland.

#### Viking weekly deal

VIKING'S deal of the week is its Portugal's River of Gold Lisbon to Porto river cruise. The voyage is priced from \$6,795 per person, including economy flights, if booked before 28 Mar.



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**Cruise Weekly** 







THERE really is no one more perfect than Jill Whelan, star of The Love Boat, to serve as Princess Cruises' 'Celebrations Ambassador' - after all, the American actress was married aboard one of the cruise line's ships in 2017.

Whelan is this week in Sydney with Princess, where she oversaw the vow renewal of two couples aboard Royal Princess - Angela and Anthony, as well as their daughter Lolita, and her husband Jeff.

The elder couple is celebrating 59 years of matrimony, while the younger pair were married 16 years ago - on a Princess ship, of course.

The vow renewals were also overseen by Royal's Captain Steve Holland, who - you guessed it - also met his wife on board a cruise ship, 20 years ago - I guess it's easy to see why Princess leans into its "The Love Boat" theme.

## Swan partners with SETI

Tuesday 6th Feb 2024



SWAN Hellenic has released full details of its SETI Explore Space at Sea cruises, which will see nine distinguished space scientists bring an extra-terrestrial dimension on board.

The Explore Space at Sea Series will see nine contrasting cruises from South and Central America to the Mediterranean, Africa, and Northern Europe through until Nov, in partnership with the nonprofit SETI Institute. Highlights include a 21-night

semi-circumnavigation of the globe from Argentina to South Africa, a 16-night exploration of the Northwest Passage, and a 15-night-voyage from Greenland to Nova Scotia.

Each of the nine voyages will be joined by a SETI expert, who will deliver thought-provoking lectures and socialise with guests. A brochure with full details

of each of the cruises can be downloaded HERE. MS Pictured: Minerva.

#### Seattle to Sydney

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has opened for sale a 22-day voyage from Seattle to Sydney next year.

The 'Carnival Journeys' cruise on board Carnival Luminosa will visit Hawaii and the South Pacific islands, as the ship repositions to Australia following her Alaska season.

The new sailing's itinerary departs Seattle on 18 Sep 2025, with Luminosa arriving in Sydney on 11 Oct.

Other destinations on the cruise include Honolulu, Papeete, Moorea, and more. It is the latest addition

to the expanding Carnival Journeys program, which are special sailings which feature unique travel experiences and destinations, scheduled around ship repositionings and dry dock schedules.

There are currently five Carnival Journeys cruises on offers, with four set to sail this year and another in 2025.

There are also nine transatlantic Carnival Journeys cruises are open for sale, including with three this year.

# **#TRAVELINSPO**

Check out which destinations are trending HERE

EDITORIAL

**Travel & Cruise** Weekly





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page 3