



Cruise Weekly today

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



On location aboard
Silver Muse

Today's issue of **CW** is coming to you courtesy of Silversea Cruises, who are this week hosting us aboard **Silver Muse**.

AS THEY say, all good things must come to an end, and after a week living in luxury aboard **Silver Muse**, we will today disembark in Melbourne.

Having experienced incredible cuisine, personalised service, and uncompromising comfort, **Cruise Weekly** can confirm the adjustment back to everyday life could be tough.

Oceania passengers “moving on up”

EXCLUSIVE

OCEANIA Cruises Senior Vice President Global Sales Nikki Upshaw has told **Cruise Weekly** the line's passengers are continuing the trend of booking higher stateroom categories and sailing for longer.

Upshaw, who is in Australia this week from head office in Miami, said Oceania is performing “extremely well” globally, as trends which became apparent at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to prevail.

“Our concierge level, verandah categories and up, are really where we see the demand come in, as opposed to the lower categories on our ships, so that’s a sustained trend globally,” Upshaw said.

“The other phenomenon, especially as you see here in Australia, is sailing for a bit longer. “Back-to-back [sailings] and our



Grand Voyages are continuing to be something which really resonates,” she added.

Upshaw said this latter trend has developed in part due to how Oceania designs its itineraries.

“We try very hard not to ever repeat ports, so it’s quite easy to keep meandering through the world on Oceania by adding another voyage.”

Vice President International Sales Jason Worth explained in addition to longer sailings,

Australian guests are also seeking more exotic cruises.

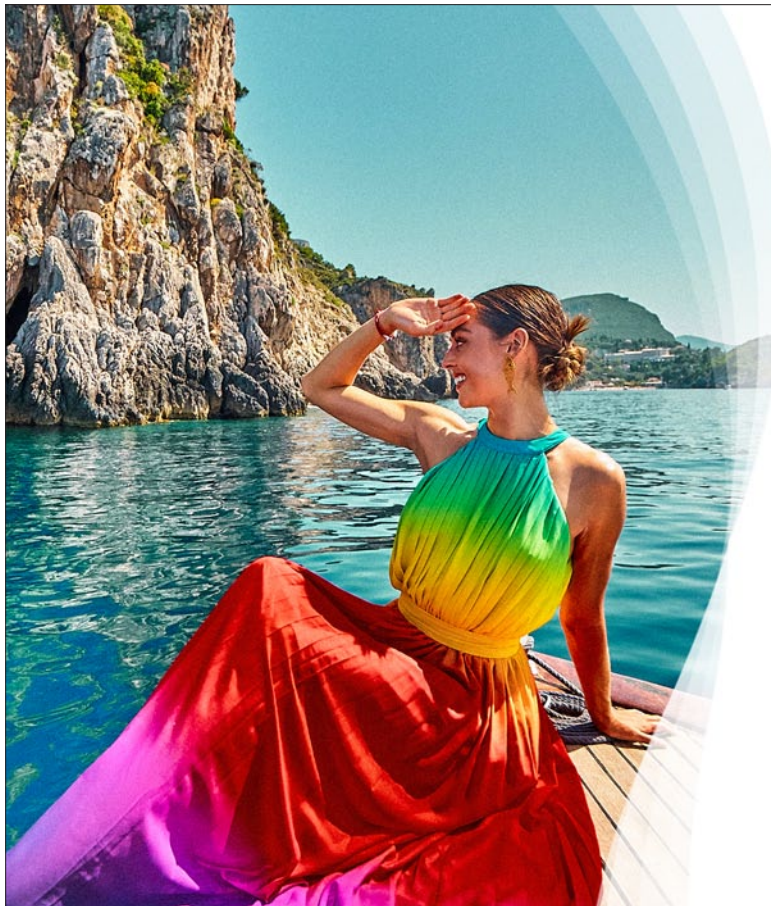
“We’re seeing a lot of interest in Asia,” he explained, adding, “we have *Riviera* based in Asia this year and next year, so there’s some circumnavigations of Japan, and those are very popular”.

Worth said Oceania is also seeing a large amount of interest in Africa - a destination sister brand Norwegian Cruise Line just announced a second season for (**CW** 24 Jan).

“We’ve also seen big interest in West Africa when ships are repositioning into Europe, so there are some Cape Town round trips,” he added.

“It’s a great way to see the developing world...and we also have our ship *Marina* in South America, which is a great way to see a lot of South America and even sneak in Antarctica.” **MS**

Pictured: Upshaw and Worth.



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Princess takes delivery of new Sun

PRINCESS Cruises has taken delivery of its new *Sun Princess* (pictured) from Fincantieri, the line's new 4,300-guest ship.

Sun is based on an entirely new ship platform designed exclusively for Princess by Fincantieri, which features more balconies than any of her fleetmates.

The new ship will also feature The Dome, a transformational entertainment venue inspired by the terraces of Santorini.

Sun also features the Arena, an evolution of and the most technologically advanced Princess Theater design.

However, additional work will need to be completed on *Sun* in her shipyard, which will see her maiden voyage pushed back once again to 28 Feb.

This will see Princess cancel the ship's 18 Feb voyage, with guests booked on this cruise to receive a full refund of their fare and any additional onboard purchases



made, as well as a 50% future cruise credit, which can be used on another voyage.

Princess is also offering financial reimbursement for select travel costs for guests who have already arrived ahead of their sailing, or for those who need to amend travel plans.

The cruise line is also protecting agent commissions, it added.

It is the second delay to the delivery of *Sun*, which late last month was bumped back by Fincantieri (CW 29 Jan).

Sun is the largest vessel ever constructed in Italy, and was originally set to depart from Barcelona on 08 Feb. MS

True North refit

TRUE North's two ships, *True North* and *True North II*, have both undergone a major makeover, which has seen new Ocean Premium class added to the cruise line's flagship.

The new staterooms offer a more flexible and adaptable room setting, in response to guest requests.

Passengers aboard *True North* will now be able to choose between a twin share or double bed layout when booking Ocean Premium.

Meanwhile *True North II's* refit has focused on "restoring the boat to showroom condition", according to the cruise line.

Managing Director Chad Avenell said the team has worked to ensure both vessels are of the highest standard.

A&K solo savings

SOLOS can save big on Abercrombie & Kent's (A&K) luxury expedition cruises, with 75% off the single supplement available for a short time.

This can see passengers save a whopping \$90,378 on a range of solo cruises.

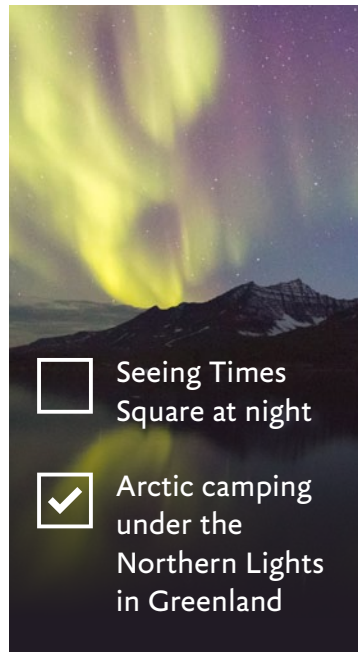


CRUISE WEEKLY

On Board: Silver Muse

Kaiseki

One of *Silver Muse's* specialty restaurants, Kaiseki reflects Japanese culture in the meticulous preparation and beautiful presentation of its dishes. The daytime menu features a varied and balanced menu of sushi, sashimi, and other raw Asian-inspired dishes, while evening diners can enjoy an exciting teppanyaki experience.



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CRUISE WEEKLY

On location on board
Resilient Lady

Today's issue of CW is coming to you from on board Virgin Voyages as we put the line to the test on a four-night return adventure to Tasmania.

A LITTLE over two months has passed since Virgin Voyages arrived in Sydney with great fanfare, with Richard Branson personally escorting the ship through the heads.

Now as *Resilient Lady* has had some time to get to know its Australian 'Over 18' cruiser, CW is taking the chance to join a regular voyage on a short four-night round-trip to Burnie in Northern Tasmania.

We will have ample opportunity to enjoy exciting shows and all the included food.

Royal Caribbean announces 2025-26

ROYAL Caribbean International has opened its line-up of 2025-26 Northeastern US and Caribbean adventures, which will see New York welcome back *Odyssey of the Seas* (pictured) and *Brilliance of the Seas* return to Boston.

New island-hopping holidays will feature across the summer and winter seasons, with seven Royal Caribbean ships to cruise from seven American cities.

Five- to 12-night vacations will sail from Florida, the Northeast, Puerto Rico, and Texas, with Crown & Anchor Society loyalty members able to book now, ahead of the season's official opening tomorrow.

Highlights in store include *Odyssey's* second consecutive winter season in New York City, and trips to the eastern and western Caribbean with *Allure of the Seas* from Fort Lauderdale, and Texas and *Symphony of the*



Seas from New Jersey and Miami.

Vacationers can island hop to spots like St. Kitts & Nevis, Cozumel, St. Lucia, Antigua, the US Virgin Islands, and Royal Caribbean's private destinations, Perfect Day at CocoCay in The Bahamas and Labadee, Haiti.

Cruisers looking for more time

in the east coast can have their pick from *Brilliance*, as well as *Jewel of the Seas*, *Liberty of the Seas*, and *Vision of the Seas*, which will sail from Boston, San Juan, New Jersey, and Baltimore.

Destinations to explore in New England and Canada will include Maine, Halifax, and more. MS

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PORTHOLE

A ROLEX found by a surfer at the bottom of the ocean (**CW** 15 Jun 2023) has been fully restored and returned to its rightful owner.

The Rolex Submariner, which retails for between \$10,000 and \$20,000, was found in waters off the coast of Noosa.

The watch was showing severe wear and tear from being underwater for so long, however it was still ticking, leading the surfer to valiantly begin searching for its owner.

The surfer, whose quest went viral in *LADbible*, found the owner of the watch, and even caught the attention of Rolex, who decided they wanted to step in and help.

The watch was restored, and the owner admits he and the surfer are now "friends for life" after finding his beloved Rolex, which he revealed he had worn for nearly 50 years prior to losing it.

Riviera to add two new river ships

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises will introduce a new generation of ships in Mar and Apr 2025, with two newly constructed vessels set to join the fleet.

The new additions will be known as *Riviera Radiance* and *Riviera Rose*, which in itself signals a departure from the line's tradition of naming its ships after legendary British authors, which was noted by Executive Vice President of Sales North America Marilyn Conroy.

"We're moving away from using the names of famous British authors and proudly putting our own out there on the bow," Conroy said.

Riviera Radiance will cater to 178 travellers across 89 cabins each with convertible bedding and a bathroom with rain shower.

Accommodations will also see Riviera introduce its largest Grand Suites at nearly 32m².

Each Grand Suite will feature a balcony with sliding doors and outdoor furniture including a sofa, lounge chair and small table.

Superior Suites will be available on the upper and middle decks, each offering a French balcony



with a small seating area, while lower-deck double cabins will have a small fixed window.

Food and beverage options will include a main restaurant, open-air 'Riverview Kitchen', a split-level bar and a third eatery known as 'Mosaic', serving 'tasting courses' inspired by Europe's rivers.

The second new addition, *Riviera Rose*, will be similar in her layout, albeit smaller with a capacity of 114 guests across 57 suites and cabins.

Rose will offer one main eatery along with a sky lounge, bar and



rooftop swimming pool.

"The introduction of these beautiful ships marks a key chapter in the Riviera story, as we proudly showcase our name on the bow of the vessels and accelerate our growth plans," explained Chief Executive Officer Phil Hullah. *ML*



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