



### Cruise Weekly today

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



On location on board *Norwegian Spirit*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is hosting us on board *Norwegian Spirit* over Easter.

CRUISE Weekly embarks on Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Spirit* today, for an Easter cruise to Fiji.

After arriving in the island country, Norwegian will be joined by its partner Take 3 for the Sea for a beach clean-up in Lautoka, celebrating the initiative's success in 2023-24.

## Coral calls out foreign cruise lines

EXCLUSIVE

CORAL Expeditions is in Canberra this week for conversations with the government about the review and modernisation of the *Coastal Trading Act 2012*.

The delegation will meet with the ministries for Transport, Tourism, and Northern Australia, as well as a number of federal business units.

The meetings will see Coral reinforce its view there needs to be recognition and protection for Australia's local cruise fleet, as there is around the world.

Commercial Director Jeff Gillies told *Cruise Weekly* Coral's key message will be to keep the growth of the local cruise industry within the country, at a time in which Australia is enjoying unprecedented expansion, particularly in the Kimberley.

Gillies likened the current

trading environment - which allows any foreign-based and foreign-flagged line to operate in Australia - to an overseas airline flying a local domestic route.

"We're not anti-competition, but there needs to be a fair playing field," he insisted.

"[Foreign cruise lines] pay around about 50% less than we do in labour; they don't pay any GST or any taxes.

"Because they've got such a low operating base, they can just rip the guts out of the pricing [in the Kimberley]...copy a local operator's itinerary and sell it, and there's no government appetite to stop it."

Coral believes foreign cruise lines should apply for a temporary license to operate if their ship weighs less than 20,000 tonnes, while those exceeding this size would require a large vessel exemption.

They would then have to show that an Australian line cannot carry the passengers, and would also need to agree to a certain level of taxation, and to pay "fair Australian wages".

Gillies said without reform to the *Act*, the local expedition cruise industry - and the country's travel industry as a whole - will continue to lose out.

"It's not just the Australian expedition cruise lines who have a problem, it's small communities, regional centres around Australia," he said.

"When you have the strongest-ever year with cruise lines, with lots of Australians giving up their hard-earned [dollars] to go out on four- and five-night trips, that's them not taking a trip to an Australian regional destination...95% of that money has no economic benefit to Australia whatsoever." *MS*

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## Four Seasons unveils first 10 cruises

**FOUR** Seasons Yachts has unveiled its inaugural itineraries to the Caribbean and Mediterranean, as well as a first look at its 95 suites.

The cruise line's inaugural 10 voyages have been unveiled, with its maiden ship to set sail to the Caribbean from Jan to Mar 2026 on itineraries of seven nights.

Destinations will include St. Barthelemy, Nevis, the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Curacao, and Aruba.

Grand Mediterranean voyages will begin in Mar 2026, and will include sailings through Croatia, Gibraltar, Montenegro, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey.

There will also be a program of Greek Isles voyages, sailing through Athens, Ios, Santorini, Milos, and more.

Four Seasons will explore more than 130 distinct destinations

across over 30 countries in its debut year.

All itineraries are crafted with flexibility in mind, allowing guests to tailor their own adventure, which can be customised with pre- and post- hotel and overland programs at Four Seasons hotels and resorts.

The first of the cruise line's ships is currently under construction in Ancona (**CW** 04 Dec), with all "residential-style" suites to offer floor-to-ceiling windows showcasing sweeping sea views, double vanity bathrooms with spacious showers and closets, and expansive private terraces.

Four Seasons claims the suites will have 50% more living space per guest than anything else available with a competitor.

The ship, which is being built in partnership with Marc-Henry Cruise Holdings, will also feature an extensive network

of adjoining suites connected via modular walls, offering numerous options of vertical and horizontal combinations within the signature suites.

This versatility will unlock more than 100 different connection options and the unique opportunity to reserve the entire side of a deck for those travelling with family or friends.

The premier signature suite accommodations - the Funnel and Loft Suites - both feature three bedrooms, outdoor showers, and splash pools.

Guests can also enjoy 11 dining options, spa and wellness offerings, a state-of-the-art transverse marina, and a stern pool, as well as a unique hydraulic lift design, which will allow the ship's pool deck to level out, creating an expansive outdoor space for weddings, celebrations and other events. *MS*



### CRUISE WEEKLY

On location in Lisbon

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of **Avalon Waterways**, who are hosting us aboard **Avalon Alegria** this week on her inaugural cruise along the Douro.

**GUESTS** are exploring Lisbon for the next few days before heading to Porto to meet *Avalon Alegria* after her christening, which is taking place tonight in Pinhao.

Available for booking now, the new vessel will sail the 'Vida Portugal: Vineyards & Villages along the Douro' itinerary, with the option of adding on three days in Lisbon at the start.

Today we will be immersed in the city with a gastronomic walking tour and Fado dinner.

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## Aman begins construction of first vessel

**AMAN** has commenced the construction of its first Aman at Sea yacht (render **pictured**), a joint venture with Cruise Saudi, which is anticipated to launch in 2027 (**CW** 24 Jan 2023).

The hospitality company is directing the entire development process of the project, with Genoa-based T.Mariotti appointed to deliver the ship.

The vessel's steel-cutting ceremony was recently held at the shipyard, and will be the first dual fuel-powered newbuild when she launches, it is claimed, using diesel oil and methanol.

She will feature 50 suites, each with its own private balcony, and will be home to an array of dining options, including an informal all-day restaurant, international options, a relaxed club and lounge, Aman Spa complete with a Japanese garden, two helipads, and an exclusive Beach Club at



the ship's stern.

The keel-laying is expected to take place in the northern summer, with her name also to be announced in due course.

"The steel-cutting signifies a key milestone in the development of Aman at Sea and my strategic evolution of the brand, as we continue to diversify our geographical portfolio on land and at sea to offer exceptional

travel experiences which deliver Aman's core values of privacy, peace, generosity of space and unparalleled service," Aman Group Chair & Chief Executive Officer Vlad Doronin said.

"We are partnering with T.Mariotti to bring to life our pioneering vision for Aman at Sea, providing a whole new category in on-the-water exploration," he added. *MS*

## RSSC World Cruise

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has revealed its 2027 world cruise, which will be hosted on board *Seven Seas Splendor* for the first time.

The all-inclusive, 140-night cruise, which starts from US\$91,499 per guest, will sail from 11 Jan 2027 from Miami.

The cruise travels to 71 ports of call in Australia, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Guests will travel across three oceans, exploring 40 countries on six continents.

The cruise will include almost 500 shore excursions and 14 overnight stays.

All world cruise guests will begin their adventures with a one-night pre-cruise stay in Miami, while a further three exclusive shoreside events will be hosted in Panama City, Colombo, and Malaga.

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**THERE** have been many examples of cruisers “moving” on board a ship due to it being cheaper than the cost of living on land, so perhaps they can now spend their savings on the Regent Seven Seas Cruises’ (RSSC) 2027 world cruise.

The voyage, which has just been released (see **page 3**), will sail on board *Seven Seas Splendor* for the first time.

Guests will be able to sail a World Cruise in RSSC’s Regent Suite for the first time ever too, which is priced at a whopping US\$1.7 million dollars for two guests for the 140-night cruise.

Feel free to do the math yourself, but **CW** is confident this is for those without “cozzie livs” challenges.



## Carnival reports record Q1

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has reported record first quarter revenues of \$5.4b and all-time record booking levels.

Cash from operations for the quarter was US\$1.8b and operating income was US\$276m, however Carnival still recorded an adjusted net loss of US\$180m - better than Dec’s guidance.

The company improved its Q1 bottom line by nearly US\$500m compared to last year, with booking volumes hitting an all-time high, and prices considerably higher year-on-year.

Total customer deposits reached a first quarter record of US\$7b, surpassing the previous first quarter record by US\$1.3b.

Adjusted EBITDA of US\$871m also exceeded Dec guidance by more than US\$70m.

Carnival experienced a robust wave season with record booking volumes for all future sailings which exceeded expectations.

The company’s booked position for the remainder of the year continues to be the best on record, with both pricing and occupancy considerably higher than last year.

Carnival’s successful wave season saw it raise its full year net yield guidance by over a point to approximately 9.5% compared to 2023, based on continued strength in demand.

The company noted its guidance does not include the current estimated impact of up to US\$10m on both adjusted EBITDA and adjusted net income for 2024 due to Tue’s Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse (**CW** yesterday).

Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein declared Carnival’s start to the year as “fantastic”.

“We delivered another strong quarter that outperformed guidance on every measure, while concluding a monumental wave season that achieved all-time high booking volumes at considerably higher prices,” Weinstein said.

“These results are a continuation of the strong demand we have been generating across our brands...leading to an upward revision of full year expectations...and setting us up nicely to deliver a nearly double-digit improvement in net yields,” he added. *MS*

## More Celebrity Caribbean sailings

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has announced its short escapes to the Caribbean in the 2025-2026 season, offering mid-week and weekend escapes.

Highlights of the 2025-2026 season aboard *Celebrity Reflection* and *Celebrity Summit* include calls to Bimini, Cozumel, Key West, Nassau, and the Perfect Day at CocoCay private island.

*Reflection* will offer guests year-round departures from Port Everglades, offering three- or four-night sailings, while *Summit* will also sail from Port Everglades, offering four- and five-night sailings.

“More than ever before, our guests are seeking opportunities to escape the everyday to bond with friends and family,” President Laura Hodges Bethge said.

“We love that we can offer holiday options designed to provide guests an elevated experience that’s close to home while still exceeding their expectations of what a holiday can be.”



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