



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from **Disney Cruise Line**.

Cruise with Disney

TRAVEL advisors can embark on Magic Ahoy!, a virtual voyage with Disney Cruise Line to learn all about the brand's offerings, as well as go in the running to win prizes.

Participants will learn all about Disney Cruise Line's rotational dining, onboard entertainment, and more.

There are three levels to complete, after which advisors will go in the draw to win a stateroom for them and a guest on a Disney voyage, which will sail from Sydney.

The competition ends on 18 Nov - see **page four** of **CW** today for all the details.

Scarlet Lady set for "epic glow-up"

VIRGIN Voyages' *Scarlet Lady* will undergo an "epic glow-up" this spring, heading into dry dock for new suites, elevated dining concepts, and revamped bar and lounge spaces.

The cruise line's inaugural vessel is reimagining a number of her eateries, with Razzle Dazzle, *Scarlet's* veggie-friendly brunch option, to introduce a new evening concept.

Lucky Lotus by Razzle Dazzle will present a Chinese-inspired menu with craft cocktails, fresh on the heels of the successful Asian Night Market.

Paired with a distinctively stylish design that swaps communal tables for intimate, loungey booths, the amplified space will come alive at night.

Ground Club Too (render **pictured**), the coffee bar located in The Galley, will transform by night into a full-service bar with



intimate lounge space, colourful cocktails, countertop seating, emerald benches, rust-coloured couches, and more.

Several of *Scarlet's* Sea Terrace staterooms on deck 11 will be converted to create 24 Seriously Suite RockStar Quarters.

The most popular among the suite categories, Virgin's Seriously Suites measure 33m², with a European king bed, peek-a-boo shower, in-room record and vinyls, a stocked bar, and the cruise line's customary hammock.

Meanwhile on deck, VIP cabanas flanked by white curtains and luxe daybeds will overlook

the Aquatic Club.

The six bookable cabanas can be reserved individually or connected for larger groups.

Finally, *Scarlet's* Redemption Spa will see the creation of a couples treatment room where duos can recharge.

Scarlet will also debut a new mermaid on her bow, one of Virgin's trademarks.

The newly renovated ship will then make the 16-night trans-Atlantic journey from Rome to Miami before embarking on longer Caribbean voyages.

The six-night Western Caribbean Charm and eight-night Eastern Caribbean Antilles will venture into the tropical Caribbean waters of destinations like St. Croix, Costa Maya, Roatan, San Juan, Puerto Plata and Bimini.

Every voyage aboard the refreshed *Scarlet* includes a stop at Virgin's Beach Club. *MS*

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New MSC sale

MSC Cruises' new Seasational Sale is now available on selected sailings next year, offering up to 25% off fares, up to \$1,000 in onboard credit, up to 40% savings when pre-purchasing drinks packages, and more.

Cruisers can choose from itineraries across the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, the Caribbean, and the Far East, on select sailings from Apr to Nov 2025.

There are also 150 sailings where kids cruise free.

The Seasational Sale commenced yesterday, and will run until 16 Jan 2025 - call 1300 028 502.

Atlas fine dining

YACHT expedition brand Atlas Ocean Voyages has unveiled a highly exclusive fine dining opportunity, which will be available once per voyage across the line's three yachts.

The Explorer's Table is an Omakase dining experience which will feature in The Dome Observation Lounge on sailings in Antarctica and the Arctic.

Available for only 10 guests per voyage, the multi-course menu features dishes from Spain, Korea, France, Argentina, and North America.

Reservations will open 60 days before embarkation, with seats priced at US\$179 per.

Shorex Accessible launch

CRUISE-FOCUSED inbound tour operator Shorex Australia has launched Shorex Accessible, providing cruise guests who have personal lifestyle challenges the opportunity to experience the country with confidence.

Shorex Accessible has partnered with local caregivers in Cairns, its inaugural port, to provide destination experiences for cruise passengers who struggle with limited movement, mental illness, dementia, and a range of other personal situations.

Guests will have pre-gamed itineraries to choose from, with forward planning allowing them to customise their time ashore.

Shorex Accessible's "built" tour experience in Cairns, will take guests to Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, and up to Kuranda, which the tour operator has ensured is fully accessible.

This can be customised to a guests' requirements with notice at the point of booking.

The tour operator's goal is to remove the challenges presented by a larger coach or tour group, which make it tougher for guests with special needs to enjoy their time ashore.

Guests will be able to book the program through their cruise line, once it becomes available on ships.



"We appreciate that accessibility is more than wheelchair access and we are very excited to be able to provide this option to the cruise industry visiting Cairns," Shorex founder James Coughlan said.

"The day will be at the right pace and under the guidance of a trained and passionate local carer," he added.

"This partnership we believe is an industry first in Australia and we look forward in working with our local partners and the cruise lines to deliver exceptional experiences to those guests that need it most, while at the same time allow our cruise line partners to provide truly local accessible shore excursion options in Cairns."

Shorex aims to extend the offering around Australia in the future as its partnerships grow, targeting other Queensland destinations first, such as the Whitsunday Islands, Brisbane, and Townsville. MS

Pictured is General Manager Karin Ohman with Coughlan.

Home Ex launches

A NEW, on-demand virtual conference and expo for home-based travel advisors, Home Ex, has been launched by CW's sister title **Travel Daily**, with free registration open for the entire industry.

Home Ex (Home Agent Virtual Experience) will go live on 10 Mar, and will provide a virtual platform for home-based travel advisors to connect with suppliers and each other in a new and exciting way that means no matter where they are in Australia, they will be able to access key information.

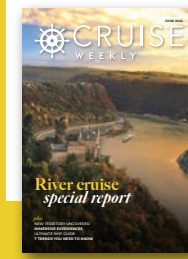
The virtual experience will be part-expo area, part-video learning sessions which will give home-based advisors (or even their bricks-and-mortar counterparts) knowledge aiding in their growth.

A group of well-known executives have already been confirmed to provide video sessions on the Home Ex platform, including Wendy Wu Tours founder Wendy Wu, GetAboutAble Managing Director Gemma Axford, and Main Beach Travel duo Mike and Mandy Dwyer, with more to be announced shortly - register for free **HERE**.

Opportunities are available now for a range of partnerships including virtual stands at the expo component of the experience.

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LOVE can be found in some strange places, but a cruise ship literally going nowhere may be among the strangest.

Cruise Weekly has written previously about *Villa Vie Odyssey* and its three-year voyage that was due to depart from Belfast back in May, only for engine problems to create a four-month delay.

Who knew that while repairs were slowly taking place, two guests were sparking a connection of a different kind?

While stuck at the dock, Angie and Gian enjoyed a whirlwind romance, and are now planning a wedding onboard the ship that brought them together.

The couple even got matching tattoos during their extended stay docked in the capital of Northern Ireland.

Let's hope the wedding planner onboard moves faster than the departure did.

Ponant hits no man's land



SEAFARING history was made by Ponant as the *Le Commandant Charcot* icebreaker (pictured) reached the North Pole of Inaccessibility on 12 Sep.

With 20 international scientists on board collecting critical data, *Le Commandant Charcot* ventured from Nome to Longyearbyen, during which she crossed the Magnetic North Pole on 13 Sep and the Geographic North Pole on 15 Sep.

The North Pole of Inaccessibility is categorised as the farthest point from land in the Arctic Ocean - around 1,465km from Utqiasuk, 1,390km from Franz Josef Land, and 1,070km from Ellesmere

Island in Canada.

The guests and scientists on *Le Commandant Charcot* then became the first people ever to step foot on land in such a remote environment.

"Reaching the North Pole of Inaccessibility is a moment of rare intensity," said *Le Commandant Charcot* Captain, Etienne Garcia.

"Above all, it is a collective adventure, made possible thanks to Ponant's passion and expertise," he added.

Le Commandant Charcot is designed for extreme conditions, with a hybrid electric engine to lower the ship's environmental impact. *ML*

Unforgettable news

SMALL-SHIP cruise operator Unforgettable Croatia has launched its 2025 program, scheduling 130 guaranteed departures from May to Oct.

The line operates six ships, most sailing between Split and Dubrovnik and taking travellers along the Dalmatian Coast, visiting major ports such as Trogir and Hvar, lesser-known enclaves Korcula and Vis, and national parks in Mljet & Krka.

Highlights of the 2025 season include a new seven-night voyage from Split to Opatija on board the 36-passenger *My Wish*, with two departures set for 21 Jun and 20 Sep.

The ship features 18 en suite staterooms, a sun deck with hot tub, a swimming platform, and menus focusing on locally sourced produce.

Unforgettable Croatia will also operate its 'Signature Croatia Hidden Gems' cruise, which visits Sibenik, Zadar, and the islands of Losinj, Krk, and Rab, along with the Plitvice Lakes National Park, which features 16 lakes connected by picturesque waterfalls.



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MAGIC AHoy!

What can you do on a *Disney Cruise Line* virtual voyage?

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