



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from MSC Cruises.

### Full credit to MSC

TRAVELLERS can enjoy up to \$1,000 in onboard credit and 25% off fares on a wide range of MSC Cruises' 2025 departures in a new 'Seasational Sale' from the line.

To sweeten the deal further, MSC is slashing up to 40% from its onboard drinks packages, with port charges also thrown in.

Eligible voyages include a seven-night Western Med loop onboard *MSC Seaview* between Apr-Nov 2025 or a nine-night Eastern Med cruise on *MSC Fantasia*.

Northern Europe, Japan and the Caribbean are also options. More details on **page four**.

## New 2025 Uniworld themed cruises

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has announced its new themed cruises for next year, including a women's-only voyage, all-inclusive golf packages, and a music-themed sailing.

The line's first-ever 'Women's Only Cruise' will set sail on 24 Aug on the 'Burgundy and Provence' itinerary, connecting generations of women from across the globe.

Excursions will include truffle hunting, onboard workshops led by local artisans, and a bike ride to the Chartreuse.

Guests can also enjoy lavender weaving, burlesque sessions, and a decadent chocolate and wine pairing experience.

Further details will be revealed soon, including exclusive brand partnerships, festive parties, and special guests.

Uniworld is also introducing an all-inclusive 'Premium Golf Package' as an add-on to its



'Brilliant Bordeaux' itinerary.

Available across six summer sailings, this package includes 18-hole rounds at Cabot Bordeaux and Grand Saint-Emilion Golf Club, with a shared caddy service, gourmet dining, and more.

Uniworld will also offer exclusive 'Music of the Danube' sailings for music lovers, on 03 Aug and 02 Nov, aboard the 'Enchanting Danube' itinerary.

Guests will be treated to an array of musically themed experiences, including a yodeling

workshop, a *The Sound of Music* tour in Salzburg, an organ concert at Stift Durnstein, and an exclusive Mozart- and Strauss-themed concert.

Other returning specialty cruises include 'Jewish Heritage Sailings', a 'Generations Collection' ideal for multi-generational families with children, and 'Out on the Rivers' for the LGBT community.

"Travellers looking for specialised and unique experiences are now offered a new range of themed river cruises for 2025," President & Chief Executive Officer Ellen Bettridge said.

"We are expanding our portfolio to further cater to a range of interests, passions and communities, all while remaining deeply committed to delivering unforgettable experiences that exceed our guests' expectations," she added. MS

## You are invited

TO AN EXCLUSIVE CRUISE EVENT

We invite you and your clients to join us at our exclusive events where we will share all about what Oceania Cruises has to offer. Discover what makes Oceania Cruises so unique, from the diverse destinations we visit to our hallmark small ship luxury and The Finest Cuisine at Sea®.

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## Changes on Sun

**PRINCESS** Cruises will make some changes to restaurant names and locations onboard *Sun Princess* ahead of the ship's debut in the Caribbean.

Alongside the debut of the line's new Sanctuary Collection suites (**CW** 24 Apr), the ship will introduce its new Sanctuary Restaurant for suite guests at Deck 8 aft, featuring a custom chef's menu.

Deck 7 will now feature both *The Catch* by Rudi and *The Butcher's Block* by Dario, both formerly on Deck 9, with a new Americana Diner taking their place at the ship's aft.

Crown Grill will also move to Deck 7, up from Deck 5.

Furthermore, Princess has renamed its main dining venue as Soleil Dining Room on Deck 6, with its Deck 7 counterpart named Eclipse Dining Room.

**MEANWHILE**, Princess has reworked several of its 2026 Mediterranean itineraries on *Sun Princess* to position the ship for the total solar eclipse.

A range of itineraries have now been modified to enable the ship to be positioned off the south coast of Spain on 12 Aug for the two-minute totality.

"*Sun Princess* truly lives up to its name, offering an out-of-this-world experience with a front-row seat for a total eclipse of the sun," said Princess Cruises President, John Padgett.

## RCI's wicket partnership



**ROYAL** Caribbean International and Ponting Wines will operate two exclusive sailings on board *Ovation of the Seas*, celebrating the second year of the exclusive partnership (**CW** 26 Sep) with the cricket player-turned-winemaker.

The two seven-night sailings, departing 21 Nov 2024 and 15 Mar 2025, will boast uniquely crafted itineraries for wine lovers and foodies as it tours ports in Tasmania and Adelaide.

Highlights will include the opportunity to add exclusive wine tastings onto the itinerary and dive into winemaking with Ponting Wines' award-winning winemaker, Ben Riggs.

These tastings, hosted at Vintages Bar onboard the ship, will feature a range of popular Ponting Wines, including the First Session Sauvignon Blanc and The

Pinnacle Shiraz.

Guests can also enjoy a complimentary immersion and Q&A session with Riggs to learn more about winemaking.

"I'm incredibly excited to embark on the second year of our partnership with Royal Caribbean," said former Australian Captain, Ricky Ponting.

"The response to Ponting Wines on board last year was phenomenal, and we're thrilled to take it to the next level with these exclusive sailings.

"Guests will not only enjoy our wines, but also embark on a curated tour of Australia savouring the country's gourmet delights and exploring Adelaide Oval stadium." *MS*

**Pictured** is Royal Caribbean Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith with Ponting.

## Pre-book benefits

**AGENTS** can learn more about the commission benefits available by pre-booking optional extras for clients sailing with Celestyal Cruises via a new downloadable guide.

The line has introduced the handy info pack showing how extra commission can be earned when pre-booking drink packages, shore excursions and cabin upgrades prior to departure.

"We're one of a few cruise lines who offer such rich earning opportunities on pre-departure extras, and we wanted to shout about it," said Celestyal Cruises VP Business Development, UK, Europe & Australia, Janet Parton.

The guide includes a space for agents to add their own call-to-action or business card.

**CLICK HERE** to download.

## Aurora snap happy

**PHOTOGRAPHY** enthusiasts have the chance to learn from world-leading wildlife and landscape snappers via a new themed Antarctica voyage with Aurora Expeditions.

Scheduled for Feb 2026, the 12-day 'Antarctic Explorer: Through the Lens' sailing will feature iconic shutterbugs Nigel Danson, Rachel Bigsby, Scott Portelli, James Popsys and more, all sharing their skills through shore excursions and onboard presentations.



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**THE** expedition cruise sector may be in love with its Zodiacs and submarines, but imagine heading out on an excursion in one of these.

A "UFO jet boat", AKA motorised flying saucer, designed for rivers and lakes, has been hand-built by an



Asian man in his backyard.

The craft is quick - there is no official statistic on just how quick - but cuts through the water at rapid speed ([HERE](#)).



## Windstar expands

**NEW** itineraries exploring Fiji, Tonga and the Cook Islands will be added to Windstar's year-round South Pacific program, the line announced.

Beginning in 2026, the new cruises complement the line's existing voyages in and around Tahiti and French Polynesia.

The 312-pax *Star Breeze* will be joined one year later by the line's traditional masted sailing ship *Wind Star*, which returns to the region in 2027 to meet ongoing strong demand.

## Juneau to ban ships on Sat?



**JUNEAU** locals are set to vote on an initiative dubbed 'Ship-Free Sat', which would ban any cruise vessel with more than 250 passengers from docking in the city on a day which is typically set aside for recreation by locals.

The initiative would also ban ships from docking on Independence Day, as Juneau residents aim to claim back their city, as they feel their cruise season "adversely impacts their health and quality of life".

Residents received mail-in ballots earlier this month, and have until 01 Oct to vote, with a majority required for it to pass.

The proposition suggests residents are displaced from the town and nearby recreation sites by the overtourism brought by the cruise industry, accusing the local government of "not doing enough" to manage the sector.

Juneau residents will cast on whether "city leaders and industry have had decades to act and have failed to balance the economic benefits to some against the economic and other

harms of the many imposed by the cruise tourism industry", as stated by the petition.

The proposition is being countered by more than US\$300,000 of fundraising from the cruise and travel industries, behind the 'Protect Juneau's Future' group.

Contributions of US\$75,000 each have been made by Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, according to the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

The three companies make up a sizeable amount of calls to Juneau (**pictured**) through their cruise brands, such as Royal Caribbean International, Princess Cruises, and Norwegian Cruise Line.

Businesses including the cruise companies have threatened to sue Juneau if the initiative passes, with a number of the berths in the city privately owned.

Juneau, which has a population of 32,000, received a record 1.65 million visitors last year, up from 1.31 million in 2019, according to media reports. *MS*



## Cruise sector's blue carpet

**WITH** the imminent launch of the Cruise Month activity in Oct, we are delighted that the focus this year will be on both the cruise experience as well as the cruise destinations enjoyed by travellers.

The destination experience is understandably a key focus for us as an organisation.

With conference season behind us, which allowed us the opportunity to have high-level discussions about the sector, we are now moving into the operational nuts and bolts.

This includes discussions around how our cities and regional centres will roll out the 'blue carpet' for cruise guests and crew, making them feel welcome and supported while they are onshore.

This definitely "takes a village", from transport operators to guides, volunteers and tour operators and owners all working together for a common cause.

Last week, I attended an industry workshop in Hobart co-ordinated by Destination Southern Tasmania where the Tourism Tasmania, Tasports and Hobart City Council teams came together to discuss the season, which kicks off 28 Oct.

One of the season highlights will be the three partial turnarounds of *Royal Princess*, providing residents the opportunity to cruise from Hobart and visitors the chance to experience pre- or post-cruise, immersive land-based stays.

Hobart is just one example of similar meetings happening around the country, allowing destinations to showcase their hospitality, and encouraging travellers to return for a longer stay and to see more in the future.



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## SAIL WITH MSC IN 2025

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Offer your clients an MSC Cruises adventure with unbeatable perks! They can enjoy up to \$1000 onboard credit\*, savings up to 25%\* on fares, and kids cruise free on select sailings\* - perfect for families! With all port charges and hotel service charges included\*, plus savings of up to 40% on pre-purchased drinks packages\*, your clients can explore top destinations with no hidden costs. From the Mediterranean to Japan, make their 2025 holiday stress-free and full of value.



#### MEDITERRANEAN MSC SEAVIEW

14 May 2025 | 7 Nights

Embarking from Civitavecchia (Rome)

*Departs from April to November 2025*

#### SEASATIONAL SALE

DELUXE INTERIOR	<b>\$1,505</b> p.p.:
DELUXE BALCONY	<b>\$2,105</b> p.p.:
MSC YACHT CLUB DELUXE SUITE	<b>\$5,287</b> p.p.:

#### SEASATIONAL SALE W/ DRINKS

DELUXE INTERIOR	<b>\$1,815</b> p.p.:
DELUXE BALCONY	<b>\$2,415</b> p.p.:
MSC YACHT CLUB DELUXE SUITE	<b>\$5,287</b> p.p.:



#### MEDITERRANEAN MSC FANTASIA

02 October 2025 | 9 Nights

Embarking from Trieste (Venice)

*Departs from May to October 2025*

#### SEASATIONAL SALE

DELUXE INTERIOR	<b>\$2,201</b> p.p.:
PREMIUM BALCONY	<b>\$2,651</b> p.p.:
MSC YACHT CLUB DELUXE SUITE	<b>\$5,599</b> p.p.:

#### SEASATIONAL SALE W/ DRINKS

DELUXE INTERIOR	<b>\$2,521</b> p.p.:
PREMIUM BALCONY	<b>\$2,971</b> p.p.:
MSC YACHT CLUB DELUXE SUITE	<b>\$5,599</b> p.p.:

\*T&Cs apply.