

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Silversea**.

AIDA adds a pair

CARNIVAL Corporation has finalised an agreement with Fincantieri for two next-generation ships for AIDA Cruises, set for delivery in 2030 and 2032.

The mid-sized vessels will feature approximately 2,100 staterooms each, slotting them in between AIDA's 1,600 stateroom ships and its 2,600 stateroom ships.

They will feature multi-fuel-capable engines which will provide them with the flexibility to operate using a range of fuel types, including low- and no-carbon bio and synthetic fuels.

"The introduction of these next-generation ships, when combined with the AIDA Evolution program modernising much of the existing fleet's decor, features and technologies, will drive even more demand for our AIDA brand, which is synonymous with cruising in Germany," Carnival Corp Chief Executive Josh Weinstein said.

The agreement brings Carnival Corporation's pipeline to eight new ships, which will enter service between 2025 and 2033.

Emerald makes a splash

EMERALD Cruises has announced a major multi-ship expansion beginning in 2026 which will see the line unveil two new superyachts and its first-ever ship on the Seine (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

As first revealed last night by **CW**, the two new ocean-going vessels, *Emerald Raiya* and *Emerald Xara*, will follow on from the debut of *Emerald Kaia* next year (**CW** 17 Jan).

Raiya will debut in the Seychelles at the end of 2026, then sail the Mediterranean for the 2027 European summer, and at the end of the year, will return to the Seychelles.

Xara will launch in the Mediterranean in 2027, then head to the Caribbean at the end of the year.

The two vessels will accommodate 128 guests and offer all-suite accommodations.

They will reflect the same sleek design and elevated guest experience as their sister ships, offering spacious all-suite accommodations, an expansive Sky Deck with private cabanas and panoramic views, and a swim-up marina platform designed to access the sea.

Other signature touches include an open-air fitness area, the Elements Spa, multiple dining venues serving regionally inspired cuisine, and water toys such as paddleboards and SeaBobs.

The cruise line will also

introduce a new purpose-built river ship on the Seine in 2027 with *Emerald Lumi*.

The new vessel will cruise between Paris and Normandy, custom designed specifically for the Seine, allowing her to unlock access to ports such as Honfleur and Rouen.

Guests can expect overnight and extended stays in marquee ports, and French-inspired cuisine, wine, and locally curated excursions.

Onboard programming will include art, culture, regional storytelling, and more.

"This is a transformational moment for Emerald Cruises," Scenic Group Chairman Glen Moroney enthused.

"From our first yachts to today's growing fleet, our vision remains clear: to deliver curated experiences in some of the world's most captivating destinations," he added.

Emerald is also previewing its 2027/28 deployment, designed to meet increasing demand from the charter and group market, with Scenic Group General Manager Sales & Marketing Anthony Laver noting a growing interest in this type of booking.

Select voyages across the expanded Emerald program will open for booking in Jun, with early access and planning support provided to key travel partners and advisors, enabling advance planning and custom group offers in sought-after destinations. **MS**

Silversea offer

SAVE up to \$7,000 with Silversea through to the end of next month.

The limited-time offer also includes US\$500 of shipboard credit, as well as a 15% reduced deposit.

The offer is available on more than 700 ocean-going and expedition voyages - head to **page 4** for more information.

NCL's "bye" to Sky

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has cancelled all *Norwegian Sky* voyages departing on or after 20 Aug 2026, with the Sun-class ship to leave the cruise line's fleet.

In a letter to customers, NCL said the vessel will "embark towards new horizons", with India's premium cruise line, Cordelia Cruises, agreeing to a long-term charter of *Norwegian Sky*.

"Travel partners are asked to please ensure that impacted clients review this information," the line said.

"We fully understand that this cancellation was not in your plans and sincerely apologise for the disappointment this news may cause."

Guests booked on the canned departures will receive a full monetary refund within 30 business days, as well as a 10% discount on their next cruise in the form of future credit.

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Paul prettied up

PAUL Gauguin Cruises has completed the refurbishment of its flagship *Paul Gauguin* (CW 11 Dec).

The ship emerged from a seven-week dry dock in Singapore on 01 Apr, according to media reports, with transformed spaces, enhanced guest amenities, and sustainable upgrades.

The refurbishment included a contemporary redesign of the Le Grill restaurant, a reimagined pool deck with a shaded cabana area, eight new connecting staterooms, refreshed furnishings throughout the ship, and the integration of a range of sustainable technologies.

"We are thrilled to welcome guests aboard the beautifully refurbished *Paul Gauguin*, which represents our unwavering commitment to excellence and to the constant evolution of the guest experience," Ponant Explorations Group Chief Executive Officer Herve Gastinel said.

"This transformative project supports our vision of blending elegant design with advanced sustainable technologies, allowing us to reduce our environmental footprint while elevating the immersive discovery our guests treasure."

Paul Gauguin is now sailing back to French Polynesia.

Azamara dives deeper



AZAMARA has unveiled 'Destination Immersion Elevated', a new program that focuses on destination expansion, authentic local cuisine, cultural engagement, and enhanced excursions.

The new initiative will more than triple the line's specialty voyages from six to 22, including the introduction of three solar eclipse cruises next year.

On voyages of nine nights or longer, the new onboard program will see the pool deck transformed into an al fresco dining experience, complete with a buffet of regional dishes and local entertainment.

"Azamara Cruises is the pioneer cruise line in destination immersion, and we take great pride in being the industry leader and continuing to push the envelope in immersive travel," Chief Executive Officer Dondra Ritzenthaler said.

"'Destination Immersion Elevated' has been designed to deepen our guests' connection to the places we visit."

Azamara is enhancing its Authentic Local Cuisine Program

with more than 150 new locally inspired dishes across its main dining venues.

For all 2025 European voyages, expert chefs from Croatia, France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain have curated every menu.

Azamara is also introducing 'Stories Under the Stars', a fireside style event held on the pool deck and led by one of more than 250 destination speakers.

Travellers will hear tales of local folklore and myths of the regions visited, while indulging in s'more-themed desserts and spiked hot chocolate.

Additionally, Azamara will serve 21 new beers as part of the premium beverage package, allowing guests to taste libations from destinations such as Australia and the Caribbean.

Beyond the ship, Azamara will offer an expanded range of shore experiences, with over 13,500 Elevated Excursions available for the 2025-2026 season.

The brand is also introducing the Curator's Collection, which offers unparalleled access to the heart of each destination. JM

Cruise stocks vary

CRUISE lines incorporated in the United States saw a sea of red in their share prices to start the week, as global stock markets crashed.

However the sector is starting to recover, with shares in cruise lines not immune from plummeting prices, following President Donald Trump's trade wars.

The biggest loser was Norwegian Cruise Line, which at the time of publication sits at US\$15.50 per share, having recovered more than US\$1 since nearly hitting US\$13 earlier today.

Similarly, shares in Carnival Corporation sunk to US\$15.30 as trading began yesterday but have now recovered to US\$16.43, near its most recent closing price of US\$16.50.

Conversely, Royal Caribbean is one stock making significant gains, with its current trading price sitting at US\$179.55, a considerable rise from US\$166.64 earlier today.

Lindblad Expeditions Holdings was also performing well, holding steady at its price of US\$8.03, having recovered from US\$7.56 earlier today.

Analysts say the rebounding price is largely being driven as a reaction to a false rumour that President Trump was considering a 90-day pause on his tariff agenda, which the White House has denied.

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CONTRARY to what you might think, it's not always easy being the billionaire owner of a megayacht.

Canadian businessman and part-owner of Aston Martin, Lawrence Stroll, was likely on the edge of his seat as his new multi-million-dollar vessel navigated tiny Dutch canals during her recent sea trials.

The nail-biting journey was captured by YouTube channel *Dutch Yachting*, showing the ship navigating waterways that are, at times, just a touch wider than its 13-metre hull.

Onlookers gathered to witness the spectacle of a 79-metre-long yacht squeezing through narrow canals, towering over the town's houses and church.

Although there were plenty of iffy moments involving tight turns and small bridges, the luxury vessel completed the journey unscathed.

World America is home

MSC World America has sailed into her new year-round home port in Miami for the first time ahead of a christening ceremony set for tomorrow.

The arrival, which marks MSC Cruises' first World-class ship to be home ported in the United States, will be followed by a two-night shakedown sailing to MSC's private Bahamian island, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

Regular operations will then commence with *World America* setting sail on alternating seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean itineraries.

Port calls will include Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico; and Isla de Roatan, Honduras; with both itineraries also stopping at Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.

Passengers sailing on *World America* (pictured) will also benefit from the line's newly-opened cruise terminal (**CW** yesterday) in Miami, which boasts biometric technology designed to get guests from shore to ship more quickly.

After checking-in online, guests



are issued with a boarding pass which, when coupled with their passport, allows them to scan and verify their way through luggage drop, security and embarkation.

The terminal also features a six-level, 2,400-space carpark, dedicated waiting areas and a private lounge for guests sailing in the MSC Yacht Club. **ML**

'More for less' sale

VIKING is offering savings of up to 30% on selected ocean and river voyages under its new 'Discover More for Less' sale, on until 30 Jun.

Voyages available under the offer include the line's flagship 15-day 'Grand European Tour' river cruise between Budapest and Amsterdam, with selected expeditions also discounted by up to \$2,400.

Princess to a Queen

PRINCESS Cruises' Julian De Carlo is getting a "royal upgrade", taking up a new role within Carnival Corporation as Cunard Line's Trade Marketing & Event Specialist.

De Carlo has spent the past four years with Princess as its Trade Marketing Executive.

"I'm really looking forward to diving into this new chapter, continuing my journey in the cruising industry, and working with amazing partners across Australia and New Zealand," he told his LinkedIn followers.

"Thanks to the Cunard team, for making me feel so welcome...can't wait to see where this new adventure takes me."

Zurvas to Celestyal

JARROD Zurvas has announced he has taken up a new role as Celestyal Cruises Director of Business Development for Asia, which will see him move to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Zurvas spent the past nine months as SeaDream Yacht Club's Director of Sales, and has also worked with Coral Expeditions.

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