



CRUISE

WEEKLY

delivered daily!



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Loxley to Lindblad

LINDBLAD Expeditions has welcomed Rosie Loxley as Key Account Manager for Victoria, WA, SA, and Tasmania.

She brings almost a decade of front line experience with Flight Centre to the role.

TV star power for CLIAs

EXCLUSIVE

TWO-TIME *Dancing with the Stars* winner Luke Jacobz (pictured) will take charge as emcee of next month's Cruise Industry Awards spectacular, **Cruise Weekly** can reveal.

The veteran Aussie actor, famous for starring roles in *Home & Away*, *McLeod's Daughters* and as host of *The X Factor*, will join 500 cruise industry professionals to celebrate the year's top performers in the sector.

Jacobz is also seen regularly on Channel 7's *Sydney Weekender* travel and lifestyle program.

The cruise industry will converge at The Star Event Centre on 08 Mar for its annual gala dinner and awards, with 75 finalists (**CW** 16 Jan) set to do battle across 15 tightly contested categories.

Awards to be presented will include Agency of the Year, Cruise Consultant of the Year, Home-Based Cruise Agent/Broker of the Year, Rising Star, Cruise Champion, Promotion of the Year and many more.

"This year's awards night will celebrate the achievements of our travel agent members with an energy and showmanship to rival our cruise line entertainers," CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said.

Cruise Weekly today

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



"Jacobz is a brilliant fit for a night that promises to reflect the same excitement we create for our guests at sea."

More than 800 nominations were received for the 2025 gala event, highlighting the calibre of expertise across the cruise sector in Australia and New Zealand. **ML**

MSC on an F1 car

THE Alpine F1 Team has brought on board MSC Cruises as a premium partner, deepening the line's connection with the racing world championship.

The MSC brand will feature prominently on this year's Alpine car, the A525, which will be launched at O2 Arena in London tonight.

The Alpine team will feature young Australian driver Jack Doohan for the 2025 season.

"With a strong heritage and legacy and our shared values of innovation and team spirit will make for the perfect partnership," MSC Cruises Executive Chair Pierfrancesco Vago said.

Kotanidis' big move

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection (RCYC) has appointed Anastasia Kotanidis as Director Travel Partnerships.

The long-time luxury cruise expert most recently spent three years with Seabourn.

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On location on board
Diamond Princess

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Princess Cruises, which is this week hosting us on a trip to Sydney aboard *Diamond Princess*.

IT'S a day at sea today and we're starting the morning at the Wheelhouse Bar with a trade marketing update from the Princess team, who will share with us all the upcoming news from the cruise line.

Our trade marketing group is made up of 13 attendees, while there is also a group of 49 agents on board, including a number of incentive winners.

We're really looking forward to hearing from CLIA's Head of International Training and Development, Peter Koller, who will also be joining in the presentation.

Diamond will call Newcastle tomorrow and Sydney on Fri.

DCL's new Adventures



DISNEY Cruise Line (DCL) has revealed an array of new immersive experiences coming to *Disney Adventure*, including several firsts for the fleet.

Beloved stories and characters will come to life through Marvel Style Studio, which will make its DCL debut.

Guests can celebrate fan-favourite superheroes with Marvel-inspired hair, makeup, and clothing options at the new DCL experience.

Children and adults alike will revel in the opportunity to be styled like icons from the Marvel Universe, including Iron Man, Spider-Man, Ghost-Spider, Captain America, Captain Marvel and Thor, through a range of styling packages.

The sleek salon will also transform into an adults-only lounge at select times throughout the cruise, with bookable

beverage tasting experiences.

Also new on board will be the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique, which will see Fairy Godmother's Apprentices provide an enchanted salon experience catered to younger guests aged three-12, before they are cordially invited to the Royal Society for Friendship & Tea with their favourite Disney Princesses.

Duffy and Friends will appear on board through a series of retail and entertainment experiences, including the 'Duffy and The Friend Ship' show (**pictured**).

There is also a new action-packed show, 'Captain Jack Sparrow & The Siren Queen', encouraging guests to dress up in their best pirate finery.

Adventure will set sail on her maiden voyage on 15 Dec from Singapore, with guests able to book new sail dates from Apr through Sep 2026. *MS*

New wave of renos

WINDSTAR Cruises' flagship sailing yacht *Wind Surf* has unveiled its redesigned public spaces and new suites, in the first stage of its refurbishment (**CW** 18 Oct 2024).

Highlights of the renovation include a full refurbishment to the main lobby and reception area, Yacht Club Cafe, Compass Rose Bar & Lounge, Amphora Restaurant & Wine Room, Pool Bar & Deck, Owner's Suite, Star Boutique, and public restrooms, along with new televisions in all staterooms.

Wind Surf's refurbishment also feature the brand-new addition of Broadmoor and Sea Island Suites, which are inspired by luxury lodges The Broadmoor in Colorado, and Sea Island in Georgia.

The final phase of the refurbishment will see *Wind Surf's* staterooms receive new furniture, soft goods and decor, as well as updates to Stella Bistro, and Veranda.

The full project will be completed in Dec 2026.

All of Windstar's three Wind-class sailing ships (*Wind Surf*, *Wind Star*, and *Wind Spirit*) are undergoing redesigns.

"*Wind Surf* has always been a guest favourite, and this refurbishment honours its legacy while elevating the onboard experience to new heights," COO Stijn Creupelandt said.

New Murray shorex

A **NEW** onshore *Murray Princess* experience has been launched, the 'Highlights of the Murray' tour.

The new itinerary, now bookable thanks to SeaLink South Australia, will take guests to the cliffs of Bowhill, Big Bend Lookout, and more.

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IS IT just us, or do elevators on cruise ships move more slowly when running late?

This was certainly the sentiment felt recently by one traveller on Royal Caribbean's *Wonder of the Seas*, who took to Reddit to vent their spleen on the antics of a fellow guest.

As the story goes, the aggrieved traveller was in the elevator on the Oasis-class ship with a lady who was furiously hitting the 'close doors' button as soon as they opened at each floor, eager to keep moving.

"It didn't matter if a family was trying to leave or someone was in the lobby trying to get on, she would just hit that button furiously," they wrote.

Another Reddit user said they had the same experience and questioned whether it was the same person, but descriptions shared did not match, meaning there were at least two.

While running late for a booking can be appreciated as a reason to rush, elevator etiquette should be sacrosanct, or maybe just take the stairs.

New cruises on *Emilie*



UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises will introduce three new itineraries next year, in line with its 50th anniversary, and the arrival of new ship *Emilie* (CW 14 Mar 2024).

The 10-day 'Vineyards & Palaces Along the Danube' sails from Vienna to Nuremburg with a land extension to Prague, showcasing imperial city palaces, vineyards and Germany's first national park.

Also new will be the 10-day 'Vienna & Capital Cities of the Danube', which takes travellers further into Eastern Europe on a voyage between Vienna and the Serbian capital of Belgrade.

The two itineraries can also be combined into a more comprehensive 17-day holiday that offers more of the Danube between Belgrade and Prague.

Slovenia will also become more accessible for Uniworld travellers, with the country being added to multiple itineraries that cross into Italy onboard *La Venezia*.

When the 154-pax *Emilie* launches, she will be the first newbuild to join the Uniworld fleet in five years, with the ship's

interiors inspired by Austrian painter Gustav Klimt.

The ship also allows families or groups to book a two-bedroom suite, by combining a Grand Suite with an adjoining Deluxe French Balcony stateroom. *ML*

Ponant Cote d'Azur

PONANT has unveiled a brand-new itinerary along the Cote d'Azur aboard *Le Ponant* (pictured) for summer 2026.

The cruise departs round trip from Nice, and includes visits to ports such as Portofino, Menton, Cannes, Antibes, Saint-Tropez, and Cassis.

The seven-night cruise will depart twice, on 07 and 23 May 2026.

"*Le Ponant* is a proper sailing yacht for sailors, as we are managing the wind and sea every day," Captain Jean-David Lemaire said.



MEET THE SPEAKERS



STEVE LABROSKI

CEO
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SESSION

Helpful advice for hungry advisors

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Flash sale for MSC

SAVINGS of up to 60% are now available on MSC Cruises on selected 2025/26 sailings in the Western Mediterranean.

Multiple sailings through to 26 Apr 2026 are eligible, with up to \$500 OBC also on offer.

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