



# CRUISE

## WEEKLY

*delivered daily!*



cruiseweekly.com.au  
cruiseweekly.co.nz  
Thursday 23rd Jan 2025

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### CruiseHQ adds Ryan

**CRUISEHQ** has welcomed Kimberly Ryan as its National Business Development Manager, bringing with her 14 years of experience in the travel industry, including eight years within the cruise sector.

Ryan worked with Carnival Cruise Line as a BDM from 2018-2023, and most recently served as a Trade Account Director with travel marketing communications agency GTI.

"Cruise has always been close to my heart, and I'm excited to bring my experience back to an industry that feels like home," Ryan shared.

Ryan has also previously worked with Contiki Holidays and Flight Centre.

## Celebrity Xcel-erates once more

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has announced its sixth ship in the Edge series will launch in 2038 (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

The agreement, signed with shipyard Chantiers de l'Atlantique, represents another step forward in Royal Caribbean Group's (RCG) "moderate capacity growth" strategy, focusing on gradually expanding the fleet in a controlled manner.

The vessel, which is being billed as *Xcel 2*, will include innovations seen throughout the Edge-class, such as the Magic Carpet (**pictured**), and the Infinite Veranda staterooms, as well as a number of new, as-yet-unannounced features.

RCG's new build pipeline now includes eight ships, with *Celebrity Xcel* (**CW** 01 Jul 2024) and Royal Caribbean's *Star of the Seas* (**CW** 04 Oct 2024) launching this year.



"Celebrity's Edge Series redefined premium travel at sea, blending groundbreaking design and unforgettable guest experiences," RCG President & Chief Executive Officer Jason Liberty said.

"Each ship in this award-winning series has set a new standard

for the industry, and *Celebrity Xcel*, sailing later this year, is no exception," he added.

"Partnering with Chantiers de l'Atlantique to expand the Edge Series with Edge 6 is another milestone in our mission to deliver the world's best holidays responsibly," Liberty said. *MS*



In Celebration of Australia Day, invite your clients to enjoy a limited time offer of **US\$500 Shipboard Credit\*** when you book before 7 February.

In addition they will also receive a **FREE 2-Category Suite Upgrade\*** plus up to **40% off** select 2025 and 2026 sailings when they book before 28 February.



SOJOURN TO OZ  
BALI (BENOA) TO AUCKLAND  
*Seven Seas Explorer\**

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## Discover our River Cruise Special Report

*Click here*



On location in Buenos Aires

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Viking, which is this week hosting key industry partners on an Antarctic expedition aboard *Viking Polaris*.

**WE HAVE** arrived in Buenos Aires today, ahead of joining *Viking Polaris* on her next Antarctic expedition.

Together with a group of Viking's key trade partners, we will spend the next 13 days exploring the awe-inspiring White Continent.

Before boarding the luxury expedition vessel tomorrow in Ushuaia, we are today enjoying a pre-departure day in Argentina's capital.

## Foster-ing some thrills



**BROADWAY** legend Sutton Foster (**pictured**) has performed on board Cunard Line's newest ship *Queen Anne*, ahead of her engagement during *Queen Elizabeth's* 2025-2026 Miami home porting.

The star-powered performance marked *Queen Anne's* maiden arrival in Miami, her second stop in the United States, following her call in New York City earlier this week (**CW** 20 Jan).

Foster dazzled the audience in *Queen Anne's* Royal Court Theatre, with the Broadway star set to headline a special voyage engagement during *Queen Elizabeth's* upcoming Caribbean season (**CW** 10 Oct 2024).

The Miami home port program will feature a number of Broadway performances throughout the season, with

details (including Foster's voyage) to be announced shortly.

"It was a true honour to perform on board *Queen Anne* during her first visit to Miami," Foster said.

"I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to sail and perform on board *Queen Elizabeth* during the ship's first Caribbean season.

"It's gratifying to see Cunard's dedication for the performing arts, bringing their guests truly special entertainment experiences, and I'm delighted to have been asked to be a part."

President Katie McAlister said Cunard was proud to be in Miami to celebrate *Queen Anne*.

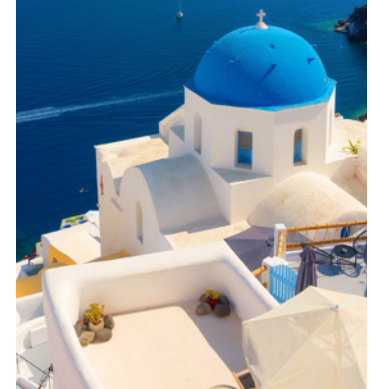
"We are equally excited to call Miami home when *Queen Elizabeth* begins her Caribbean season from this vibrant city later this year," she said. *MS*

## Big Croisi savings

**CROISIEUROPE** is celebrating 30 years on the Rhone and 25 years in Venice with a number of offers.

Guests can choose between savings of up to €360pp or no single supplement.

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OR AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE

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180° FROM ORDINARY

## Costa gets musical

**COSTA** Cruises will once again be in Sanermo this year for its 2025 Music Cruise across the Mediterranean.

The journey, inspired by some of the world's iconic music festivals, will take place from 08-16 Feb, with two shows from Italian radio station Radio DeeJay and local DJ Gigi D'Agostino.

The cruise will sail aboard flagship *Costa Toscana*.

## Cruise ship? Or expedition base camp?

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## Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

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**GREAT** mystery and intrigue surrounds many elements of the fabled sinking of *Titanic* nearly 113 years ago, including some of its cargo onboard.

**Cruise Weekly** is exploring London with a group of Aussie buyers, who today paid a visit to the Berry Brothers & Rudd wine and spirits store, which has been in business for 326 years in Pall Mall.

While *Titanic* is of course infamous for her sinking and the loss of more than 1,500 souls, the ship was also carrying 69 cases of champagne and whiskey to a client in New York City.

At the time, the only way to send freight across the Atlantic was by sea, with transatlantic freight crossings by air still several years away.

Sitting in a frame on the wall of the store is a telegram from White Star Line (pictured), operators of the doomed liner, dated the same day the ship sank, casually advising Berry Brothers & Rudd that its cases of alcohol had been lost.



## Get well with Windstar

**WINDSTAR** Cruises has released new Mind, Body, and Spirit Collection cruises for this year, available on four itineraries throughout 2025.

The cruises will be hosted by wellness expert Debbie Dixon, and will feature iconic destinations such as the Panama Canal, Rome, Bermuda, Lisbon, and more.

The new dedicated wellness cruises will include daily offerings of meditation, breathwork & yoga; inspirational talks each day, focusing on mental, physical and spiritual health; a pop-up bar featuring a complimentary menu of elixirs that are intended to improve the mind & body; and heart healthy food options with vegan & vegetarian meals & morning juice cleanses.

There is also the opportunity for private sessions with Dixon for an additional fee.

Mind, Body and Spirit Collection cruises are available on the 08 Feb *Star Pride* 'Panama Canal, Colombia & San Blas' cruise; the 23 Feb *Star Legend* 'Europe's Winter Riviera' cruise; the 19 Oct *Pride* 'Bermude Bliss' cruise; and the 04 Nov *Wind Spirit* 'Ocean Crossing' cruise.

"Windstar Cruises recognises the growing demand for wellness travel as a reset and escape from daily schedules and habits," Chief Operations Officer Stijn Creupelandt said.

"We are excited to introduce these dedicated theme cruises



that allow our guests to nurture their minds and bodies while experiencing some of the world's most beautiful destinations with like-minded travellers.

"These wellness cruises build upon Windstar's commitment to guest wellbeing and offering transformative experiences that blend travel, wellness, and adventure," he added. *MS*

## Carnival is a-AK

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has closed its Alaska season, highlighting its significant environmental contributions.

Holland America Line, Princess Cruises, and Carnival Cruise Line all visited Alaska for the company this season, with the latter brand's donation of US\$50,000 to the Alaska Carbon Reduction Fund a highlight.

The charity installs heat pumps in low-income family homes to reduce their heating costs and environmental impacts, with the donation to help expand the program further into Ketchikan.

Both Princess and Holland America's Alaska hotels also diverted around 350,000kg of waste from Alaskan landfills.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**WENDY WU**

Founder  
Wendy Wu  
Tours

### SESSION

How I built it:  
The story of Wendy Wu

**HOME EX**  
HOME AGENT  
VIRTUAL  
EXPERIENCE

LIVE FROM 10 MARCH

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