



Cruise Weekly today

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

Aurora takes over

AURORA Expeditions subsidiary Pacific Travel Partners has finalised its acquisition of the assets of the collapsed Vantage Deluxe World Travel (**CW** 10 Aug).

The cruise line did not acquire the Vantage business or agree to employ former management, but has taken on obligations to clients who will receive a future travel credit.

Terms & conditions of the credits will be communicated ASAP, with Aurora confirming Pacific Travel Partners will trade under a new business name, and will put in place a customer service team to deal with enquiries from impacted passengers.

Fitzgerald steps down from Carnival

CARNIVAL Corporation President Australia Marguerite Fitzgerald has resigned from her position with the company (**CW** breaking news yesterday).

A Carnival spokesperson said Fitzgerald has departed the role for family reasons, after returning to Australia to take the role in Jan 2022 (**CW** 29 Sep 2021).

"We would like to thank Marguerite for her significant contribution in restoring confidence and certainty in the industry and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours," the spokesperson said.

Fitzgerald helped successfully lead the return of the sector in Australia, with Carnival at the forefront of the revival of the local cruise industry.

"Restarting a company and an industry from scratch takes a massive effort and I am extremely proud of the Carnival Australia



and P&O teams for what they have achieved, under what has often been unfair scrutiny from the media and the government," Fitzgerald said.

"It is time for me to take a breath and focus in on the most important people in my life."

P&O Cruises Australia SVP Guest Experience Peter Little will serve as interim leader to guide the

company through the transition in leadership.

Little has vast experience with Carnival, having served in a number of leadership positions in Australia and the United Kingdom during his tenure with the company.

Pictured: Marguerite Fitzgerald and Carnival Cruise Line President Christine Duffy.

You are invited

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We invite you and your clients to join us at our Exclusive Cruise Events series, beginning in August. Find out what makes Oceania Cruises so special, along with our latest news including the launch of our newest ship *Allura* set to sail in 2025. Join us for special offers, canapés and drinks on the day.

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APT to build two new Europe ships

EXCLUSIVE

APT Travel Group is set to expand its presence in the European river cruise market with the construction of two brand new vessels set to sail in 2025.

Chief Executive Officer David Cox said the major investment will see a continuation of the “proud history of innovation from the company that pioneered European river cruising”.

“APT is the market leader in luxury river cruising in Australia, and this marks the next steps for the business after a highly successful partnership with AmaWaterways across 10 years,” Cox said.

“The time is now right for the APT Travel Group to lead the way once again.”

The newbuilds will be specifically designed to align with the APT luxury brand and the needs and wants of Australian

travellers, Cox confirmed.

“We have been investing in the future, and with the strong support of the McGeary family, will continue to invest and grow our portfolio in river cruising now and for many years to come.”

The new APT Europe ships will complement the company's other river cruise offerings, including the brand-new APT *Mekong Serenity* which will sail in South East Asia from next month, as well as the brand-new *Estrela*, which will debut on the Douro in Portugal next year, sailing on behalf of both APT and TravelMarvel (CW 04 Jul).

“No one knows the Australian traveller better than APT and no one is better placed to custom design quality luxury ships specifically for our market than Australia's leading and most awarded touring and cruising company, APT,” Cox enthused.

The company also operates a three-ship fleet of TravelMarvel vessels in Europe, which have been receiving “incredibly high praise from travellers” in their second year of sailing.

The news of the European APT newbuilds comes alongside confirmation that AmaWaterways is establishing its own operation in Australia from next month, which will offer the cruise line's full portfolio to local clientele (CW 17 Aug).

The McGeary family issued a statement saying “across our nearly 100 year history APT has continually evolved to stay ahead of the changing needs of the customer...after a highly successful partnership with Ama, APT is excited to design and build what will be the most innovative and luxurious ships on the river”.

“We can't wait to reveal more to you in the coming months.”

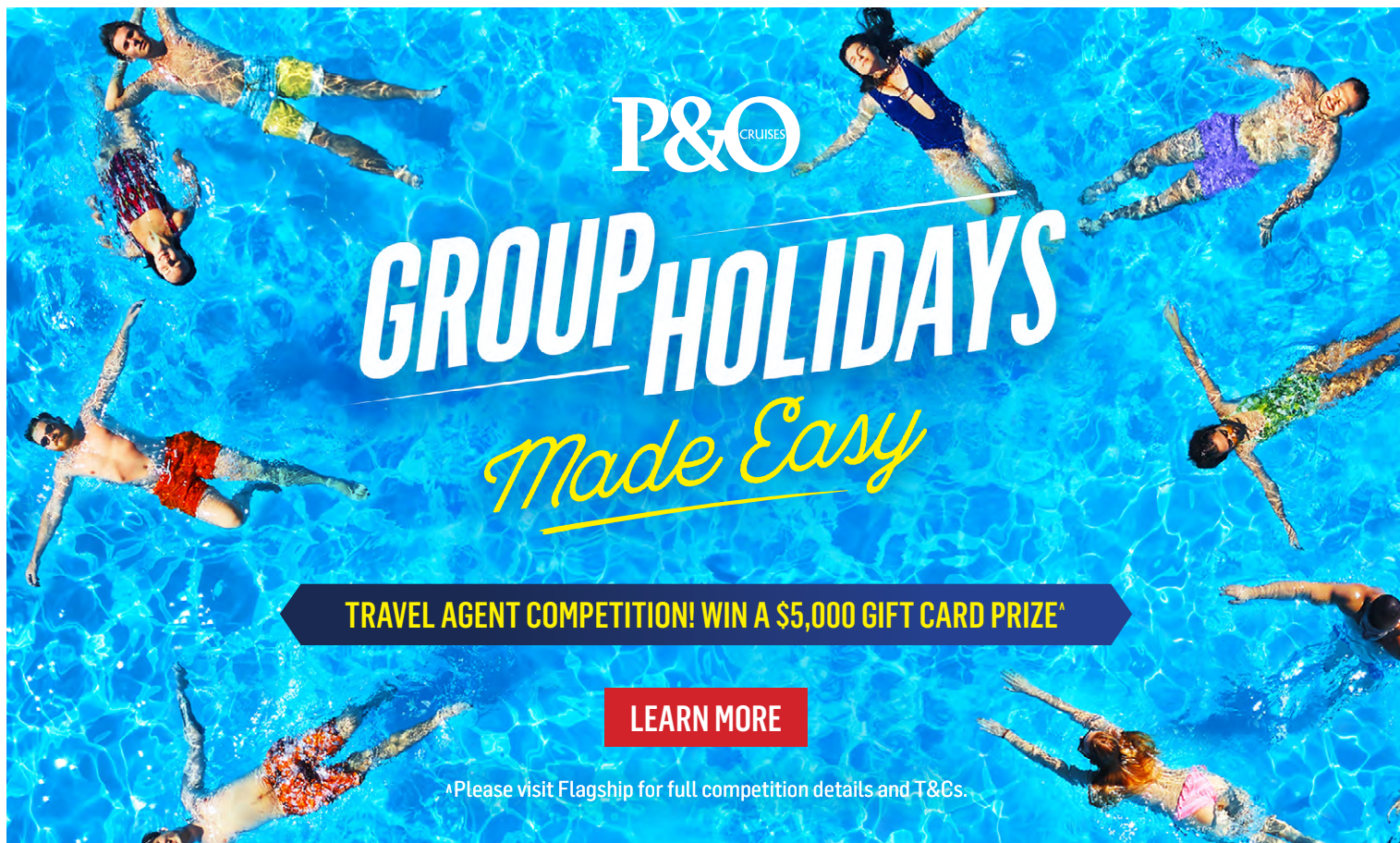
Shanghai plans

SHANGHAI is aiming to become a first-rate cruise hub by 2035, by which time it aims to draw in three million passengers annually, according to the *Shanghai Action Plan for Promoting the High-quality Development of the International Cruise Economy (2023-25)*.

The destination's ambition is to grow its influence in the industry, including a specific goal of building a cruise hub, which is among 20 measures outlined in the *Action Plan*.

Shanghai also aims to upgrade the quality of its local cruise brand, according to *China Daily*.

The destination last week waved goodbye to the country's first international cruise in three years, with *Blue Dream Star* setting sail for Japan (CW 16 Aug).



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CARNIVAL Cruise Line is preparing to welcome its third BOLT: Ultimate Sea Coaster, which is taking shape atop the company's next ship *Carnival Jubilee*.

More than 150,000 cruise passengers have experienced BOLT since it launched aboard *Mardi Gras* two years ago (**CW** 10 Aug 2021).

Jubilee's 250-metre track is being installed on deck 19, and is expected to be completed next month, with test runs scheduled for Oct.

The track will carry two all-electric, two-person cars, which the rider can control the speed of.

True speed demons can travel at over 60kmh, if they so dare.

RCI kicking goals

FRENCH Ligue 1 soccer team AS Monaco is on board with Royal Caribbean International (RCI) as a premium partner.

The cruise line's logo will appear on Monaco's jersey, while Royal Caribbean will also be promoted throughout the club's home field, Stade Louis-II.

"Monaco is an excellent football club with a rich history and dedicated and loyal fan base that mirrors that of Royal Caribbean," Vice President Europe Middle East & Africa Ben Bouldin said.

Cunard literature cruise



CUNARD Line Commercial Director Katrina McAlpine has revealed the brand's next event cruise will be a literature-themed voyage, departing next year.

The newly announced voyage will follow on from the Sporting Greats & Wellness cruise, set to depart later this year (**CW** 16 Aug), and the Great Australian Culinary Cruise, Cunard's first-ever event sailing in the country (**CW** 18 May), which departed in early 2023.

Cunard has already hosted a number of Literature Festivals at Sea, often on a transatlantic crossing from Southampton to New York City aboard *Queen Mary 2*, but the concept is finally set to arrive in Australia in Dec 2024, McAlpine revealed.

"We've got some incredible headliners that we're in discussion with at the moment," McAlpine said at an event last night at the Sydney Opera House's new restaurant, Midden by Mark Olive.

She also divulged Cunard's new exclusive partnership with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

"We're looking to create lots of memorable experiences, both on board and on land," she added.

Pictured are McAlpine, Australian journalist and Sporting Greats cruise headliner Mark Beretta, Vice President International Development & Planning Matthew Gleaves, and Australian chef Mark Olive with the cruise line's famous bellboys.

Orkney limits?

THE Scottish archipelago of Orkney is considering restricting cruise traffic, it announced last week.

No official plan has been made, but the Orkney Islands Council is expected to present a plan this week which will limit the amount of large cruise ships daily, according to media reports.

Orkney's population numbers just over 20,000, and pre-pandemic, occasionally welcomed as many as 7,000 cruise passengers per day.

The destination is the United Kingdom's most popular cruise ship stop, according to the Orkney Islands Council Harbour Authority.

It would be the latest European destination to restrict cruise ship traffic, with Venice, Barcelona, and Amsterdam all moving to limit cruise calls.



Travel Daily

The Chat

with Jenny



A Conversation with Debra Fox

of Abercrombie & Kent



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