



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Silversea incentive

**SILVERSEA** Cruises has launched rewards for its Travel Partner Appreciation Month.

The cruise line's new incentive sees travel advisors who make a new confirmed booking on any expedition sailing during May and Jun automatically be entered into a weekly prize draw for a chance to win a gift card.

One winner will be selected for each week during the incentive period.

In addition, Silversea is offering an extra 1% kicker commission on all expedition cruises, an extra 1% kicker commission on all new-to-brand guests, and more - find the complete details [HERE](#).

## Royal Caribbean "robust bookings"

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group (RCG) has reported a USD\$48m loss for the first three months of the year, with the figure "significantly better than the company's guidance" due to strong close-in bookings at higher prices.

The company also increased its 2023 profit forecast, attributing the result to continued strength of onboard spend, and favourable timing of operating costs.

The company's Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea Cruises brands together recorded a 102% occupancy figure for the quarter.

"We knew demand for our business was strong...(but) what transpired over the past four months was much better than we anticipated," Group Chief Executive Jason Liberty (pictured) said.

"The fact that demand for the coming nine months is so much stronger says a lot about the



strength of the consumer."

Liberty said leisure travel demand continues to strengthen, with consumer spend further shifting towards experiences.

"Demand for our brands is outpacing broader travel due to a strong rebound and an attractive value proposition," he added.

Total revenues for the quarter amounted to US\$2.9 billion, and

Liberty noted record levels of customer deposits which sat at USD\$5.3 billion as at 31 Mar.

Liberty revealed that capital expenditures for the full year are expected to amount to USD\$4.2 billion, with the company expecting to take delivery of *Icon of the Seas*, *Celebrity Ascent* and *Silver Nova*.

As well as strong demand, the company "continued to benefit from multiple actions taken over the past several years to reshape its cost structure, which is helping to offset persistent inflation," Liberty said.

Net yields are expected to improve compared to 2019, and Royal Caribbean Group is now expecting to significantly exceed its prior record profit which was achieved the year before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RCG shares jumped about 8% after the results were announced.

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## Cunard appoints new President

**CUNARD** Line has appointed Katie McAlister (**pictured**) as President, with the brand's new head to join in Aug.

McAlister has enjoyed a 20-year career with TUI Cruises, where she is currently Chief Marketing Officer, UK & Ireland, leading the line's sales channels and marketing in the region and globally.

"This was an unrivalled opportunity to join an iconic travel company at a key point in its history," she said.

"I am so looking forward to joining the team as it widens its appeal and expands its guest base whilst retaining its renowned luxury, signature touches."

McAlister started at TUI in 1998, and has held roles across most parts of the organisation, including overseas delivery, commercial, digital, and marketing.



Carnival President United Kingdom Sture Myrmell said McAlister's commercial and operational experience, as well as digital transformation expertise and strategic oversight, will ensure that Cunard's brand and growth opportunities are maximised.

He said the company is delighted to have someone of

McAlister's calibre join Cunard, particularly at this vital time of the cruise line's expansion, with the brand yesterday celebrating the float out of its new ship *Queen Anne*.

The launch ceremony in Italy marked a year to go until the ship's maiden voyage, when she becomes the 249th vessel to sail under the Cunard flag.

The float out completes the first comprehensive phase of construction for *Queen Anne*, ahead of the building of the luxury ship's interiors.

She will set sail on her maiden voyage to Lisbon on 03 May 2024.

**MEANWHILE**, Cunard has launched "the Ultimate Gift for Mother's Day", adding USD\$200 of onboard credit to all staterooms booked on five select domestic sailings.

The Mother's Day promotion is live until 14 May - [CLICK HERE](#).

## Heritage releases 2024 NZ season

**HERITAGE** Expeditions has released its New Zealand cruise season for next year aboard 18-guest yacht *Heritage Explorer*.

Fiordland summer voyages and some exciting new expeditions are highlights of the new season.

There will also be exciting new voyages to the primordial wilderness of Stewart and Ulva Islands, and the beauty of Marlborough Sounds and Abel Tasman National Park.

"Purpose-built in New Zealand, *Heritage Explorer* combines comfort and refined surrounds with the nimble maneuverability allowing navigations of narrow waterways, fiords and island clusters off limits to larger vessels," Commercial Director Aaron Russ said.

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**AUTHORITIES** in New Zealand have shown a keen propensity to control the ships which enter the country's waters over the last few years - so the unexpected discovery of a French warship in the Hauraki Gulf off the North Island came as quite a surprise.

The frigate *Vendemiare* was identified by a volunteer Coastguard vessel while it was searching for a missing yacht which had lost its navigation systems in a storm.

The Coastguard vessel *Thelma Wilson* was scanning its radar screens for any sign of a vessel, and identified the visitor using specialised equipment called an Automatic Identification System (AIS).

The technology confirmed the identity and specifications of the *Vendemiare*, which features a 100mm artillery turret and two mounted 20mm guns, according to *Stuff.co.nz*.

After making contact with the naval vessel, Coastguard officers asked its crew to help locate the sailor in distress, with the French ship's advanced systems able to quickly provide a compass bearing which led to a successful rescue of the yachting who had been trying to find shelter during the storm.

Reports don't indicate exactly what the *Vendemiare* was doing so far from home.

## New Heritage Line ship



**HERITAGE** Line is counting down the weeks until the launch of its new ship *Heritage Line Anouvong*, in the brand's new destination, the Upper Mekong.

The ship sets sail on her maiden voyage on 27 Aug on a selection of distinctive itineraries exploring the less-discovered villages, fascinating cultures, and breathtaking scenery of Laos.

*Anouvong* will offer a choice of three-, seven-, and nine-night itineraries, with guests staying in her 10 elegant cabins, made up of four deluxe staterooms, four deluxe executive staterooms, and two generous suites.

The journeys also feature sandbank barbecues and other one-of-a-kind al fresco culinary events, both on and off the ship, as well as sunrise yoga and Tai Chi on the rooftop, an open-air evening cinema, a hands-on Laotian cooking class, and a range of cultural performances & spiritual ceremonies.

"*Heritage Line Anouvong* has been thoughtfully designed in the ideal size to navigate the fluctuating water levels and winding curves of Laos' Upper Mekong, without compromising on guests' desire for plenty of personal space on board," Director of Sales & Marketing Andreas Schroetter said.

"Our compelling new Upper Mekong itineraries tap into the current 'slow travel' trend and guests' growing demand for more exotic and educational cruise experiences to far-flung and fascinating destinations.

"This new cruise destination further consolidates our position as Southeast Asia's premier boutique luxury river cruise line, building upon our existing offering in Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar, where our luxurious ships sail other fascinating waterways such as the Lower Mekong, Ha Long Bay, Lan Ha Bay and the Irrawaddy River."

## Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	05 May
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	08 May
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	12 May
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	12 May
BRISBANE	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	05 May
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	12 May
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	06 May
CAIRNS	
<i>Carnival Splendor</i>	07 May
FREMANTLE	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	05 May
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	08 May
BROOME	
<i>Caledonian Sky</i>	09 May
<i>Coral Geographer</i>	09 May
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	12 May
GERALDTON	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	09 May
HOBART	
<i>El Dorado Express</i>	11 May
DARWIN	
<i>Coral Adventurer</i>	08 May

## Evoy joins Quark

**QUARK** Expeditions has announced Shane Evoy as Snow Hill Expedition Leader for this year.

Evoy will lead Quark's voyages to Antarctica's remote Snow Hill Island Important Bird Area this Nov.

He is one of only a few people to have visited Snow Hill multiple times, completing 20 expedition landings.