



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### CLIA: freeze the PMC

AUSTRALIA'S cruise industry is calling for a freeze on the passenger tax, supporting appeals for the federal government to commit to a five-year freeze on the current pax movement charge of \$60 per person.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is warning any further increase to the PMC will be detrimental to the revival of international tourism across Australia.

The charge is imposed on everyone departing the country, including nationals, with CLIA MD Joel Katz pointing out Australia's PMC is already one of the highest.

## Oceania christens Vista in Valletta

OCEANIA Cruises newest ship, Vista (pictured), was formally welcomed into the fleet overnight in a lavish ceremony in Malta, which also served as a tribute to outgoing Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) Chief Executive Officer and Oceania founder, Frank Del Rio Sr.

The event was attended by more than 1,200 dignitaries, travel industry partners, suppliers and other members of the wider Oceania family, as Del Rio Sr effectively handed over the reins of the cruise line to his son, Frank Del Rio Jr.

The departing chief said his heart was overflowing with "joy, pride, gratitude and appreciation" harking back to the early days of Oceania and the support of those who backed his vision.

Harry Sommer, who takes on the NCLH Chief Executive role, hailed the incredible contribution



Del Rio Sr has made to global cruising as well as his own career, having been the founder's protege for more than 30 years.

"I am blessed to take the mantle of Frank Del Rio, a true industry icon who has set the bar for excellence to new heights," Sommer said.

"I enter his role with a sense of excitement to build on his unbelievable legacy."

Vista's godmother is Italian-American celebrity chef Giada

de Laurentiis, who somewhat nervously pulled a giant lever which successfully triggered a mechanism to smash a bottle of Champagne against the hull.

De Laurentiis cited Oceania's proud culinary tradition, saying she was delighted to be associated with the "finest cuisine at sea" tag line.

The ceremony was followed by a performance from crooner Harry Connick Jr, with Del Rio Sr and family joining in on stage.

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## CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location in  
Valletta

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Oceania Cruises, aboard the brand new *Vista*.

**THE** big moment arrived overnight, with the stellar christening event on the dock beside *Vista* where she was docked in Valletta Harbour.

Guests had spent the day exploring this fascinating destination, which has been the crossroads of the world for millennia.

After an overnight in Malta, *Vista* will head off to Naples, where guests can enjoy explorations of Pompeii and Herculaneum among a wide variety of shore excursions in the capital of Campania.

# Disney brings more magic to *Magic*

**DISNEY** Cruise Line has debuted new family friendly experiences, bringing the colourful worlds of *Encanto* and *Soul* - two fan-favourite films - to *Disney Magic*.

Enhancements took place during a three-week dry dock project, and include themed entertainment, a new lounge, and amplifications to the concierge experience.

'An Encanto Celebration' brings the family Madrigal to the high seas for the first time during an all-new immersive experience.

Designed to engage families through music, crafts, and storytelling, the interactive experience gives guests an opportunity to meet and take photos with Mirabel, as well as Bruno - the family member we don't talk about.

Families can also join a spirited sing-along of beloved *Encanto* songs and create butterfly and

flower crafts inspired by the film.

Guests can experience a true taste of South America during the show thanks to a selection of Colombian beers, cocktails, and sodas along with film-inspired mocktails.

Meanwhile, the new Soul Cat Lounge has been designed to look like Joe Gardner's favourite music spot from the film, the Half Note Lounge.

The space is located on deck 3 near Rapunzel's Royal Table restaurant, and instantly transports guests to a classic New York jazz club, appointed with decorative details like brick walls, wood accents, and plenty of rich leather seating around a stage set for live music.

Guests are invited to grab their partner and head to the dance floor for a swinging good time each evening.

For guests seeking the ultimate

comfort and service at sea, the concierge spaces aboard *Magic* have also been elevated.

The lounge has been reimaged and expanded to feature a sophisticated new theme and tropical colour palette inspired by *Moana*.

All concierge suites, including one- and two-bedroom accommodations and the two signature Royal suites, have been completely refurbished with fresh fixtures, furniture and elegant artwork, further elevating the premium experience for guests.

There is also an additional outdoor covered seating area on deck 10, where guests can relax with a refreshing beverage while enjoying the ocean breeze.

The dry dock also saw shorepower technology installed, which will allow *Magic* to plug in to a port's electrical grid, reducing the ship's emissions.

# THINKING ASIA? THINK NCL.

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**THE** naming ceremony for Oceania Cruises' new *Vista* overnight (see p1) included traditional blessings from the Archbishop of Malta, Monsignor Charles Scicluna, and Rabbi Marc Labowitz.

Miami-based Labowitz (pictured), who is a regular at Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings events, had guests in stitches when he noted that "I don't know if the event planning team realises I'm a rabbi - and this is a 'christening'".

"I'm going to leave the christening to the Archbishop and [godmother] Giada de Laurentiis, and instead I'm going to do a 'bris'-tening," Labowitz explained.

"Firstly, I don't waste a drop of Champagne - Jews, we don't do that," he quipped.

"Secondly, I'm going to have to climb up to the deck and shave a little off the tip of the bow - it's customary, and I'm licensed, so don't argue."

Labowitz also recalled the naming ceremony for *Norwegian Prima* last year in Iceland where he was similarly jocular, with Chief Executive Frank Del Rio asking him "you're funny and all, but did you actually bless the ship?"

He then proceeded to do just that for *Vista*, saying "God bless *Vista*, this fine vessel, and everyone who sails upon her... my friends, that is a bristening."

## California here we come!



**PRINCESS** Cruises has released 75 sailings to Hawaii, Mexico, and Coastal California for the 2024-2025 season.

Billing itself as "Los Angeles' hometown cruise line", Princess is positioning four ships from LA, as well as one each from San Francisco and Seattle.

On sale now, deployment highlights of the 2024-2025 West Coast season include 21 unique itineraries visiting 28 destinations in seven countries.

*Discovery Princess* will sail seven-day Mexican Riviera voyages with stops in Cabo San Lucas (pictured), Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta.

There will also be week-long Coastal California cruises, visiting Santa Barbara, San Diego, and more.

Also sailing from Los Angeles will be *Grand Princess* and *Majestic Princess*, which will sail 10-day Baja California peninsula & Gulf of California adventures.

*Grand* will also sail 16-day voyages to Hawaii, visiting Kauai, Maui, Oahu, and the Big Island.

Princess' Los Angeles season will round out with *Sapphire Princess*, which alongside *Grand* will offer longer, 32- and 33-day cruises to the South Pacific and Hawaii,

including exotic isles in Tahiti.

Cruisers can also sail under the Golden Gate Bridge with voyages from San Francisco, as *Ruby Princess* returns to Northern California, offering round trip itineraries to Hawaii, Mexico, and the Golden Coast & the Pacific Northwest.

*Ruby* will also sail on a special 16-day Hawaii cruise round trip from Vancouver.

Voyages from Seattle aboard *Majestic* will round out the season, with the ship offering a 11-day round trip on a 'Classic California Coast' itinerary, with stops in San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and a late-night stay in San Diego.

## New P&O show

**ENGLISH** television presenter Ben Shephard's new interactive game show WaveLength has opened on the United Kingdom's P&O Cruises' *Arcadia* and *Aurora*.

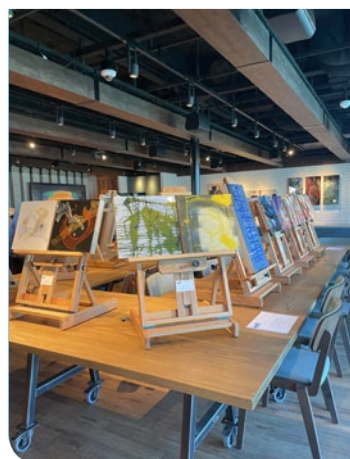
Shephard will appear virtually on the two adult-only ships, in a show which is exclusive to P&O.

WaveLength guests will find out how well they know their partners, as they try to match their answers.

The show will be available in *Aurora's* Curzon Theatre and in *Arcadia's* three-tier Palladium.

It will be rolled out across the rest of the fleet in time for the northern summer season.

"Having hosted many game shows on TV, I'm excited to have partnered with P&O Cruises," Shephard said.



## CRUISE WEEKLY

### On Board: *Oceania Vista*

#### Artists Loft

Artists in residence offer *Vista* guests the opportunity to explore their creative side with step-by-step instruction and expert guidance during classes such as painting, drawing, sculpture or photography. Classes vary by sailing depending on the artists' specific medium. You will leave with a unique memento of your time onboard. The studio has a wall of windows for plenty of inspiration.