



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Viking**.

Ten reasons why...

VIKING is today listing its top 10 reasons to choose a river cruise with the line.

The world's largest fleet, with nearly 80 ships cruising the world's rivers; more dates and destinations, with voyages open for booking through to 2025, are just some of the reasons.

Viking also offers peace of mind to plan, incredible value for money, flexible deposits, extra marketing support, and more.

For the full 10 reasons to choose a river cruise with Viking, visit the **back page** of today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Myrmell out in Carnival UK shuffle

A **RESTRUCTURE** of Carnival Corporation in the United Kingdom will see the company's President Sture Myrmell (pictured) depart after "30 years of dedicated service".

The change will see Paul Ludlow take on a consolidated leadership role for the Carnival UK business which includes P&O Cruises and Cunard Line globally.

Recently appointed Cunard President, Katie McAlister (**CW 05 May**), who joins the company in Aug, will report to Ludlow, who will assume all commercial and operational responsibility for both of the brands.

Carnival Corporation Chief Executive Officer Josh Weinstein said Ludlow is a 21-year-veteran of the company "with far-reaching experience across every commercial department and multiple brands in our portfolio of world-class cruise lines".



"That deep expertise, coupled with Paul's proven leadership and track record of outstanding results, make him the clear choice to support our entire UK organisation and to drive our return to strong profitability."

The highly respected Myrmell is well known to the local market having spent 14 years, almost half of his Carnival Corporation career, in various Sydney-based roles, culminating as Carnival President Australia for five years from 2017,

until he relocated to lead the UK organisation (**CW 29 Sep 2021**).

Weinstein paid tribute to Myrmell's decades of service, saying "from his start in our company as an officer aboard Cunard, to becoming President, P&O Cruises - Australia, to coming full circle and ultimately leading Carnival UK including the venerable Cunard brand, Sture's dedication and contributions to our company have been significant".

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A "RUSSIAN spy whale" has appeared off the coast of Sweden, after first appearing in Norway four years ago.

The beluga whale, which has spent the past three years tracking around Norway, was speculatively claimed as spying for the Russian Armed Forces.

It first captured attention in 2019 when Norwegian fisherman sighted the uncommonly tame whale with an unusual tight harness strapped around its upper body.

The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries said "Equipment St Petersburg" was written on the harness strap, which featured a mount for an action camera.

According to the BBC, an investigation by Norway's domestic intelligence agency found "the whale is likely to have been part of a Russian research program".

It was last monitored near Hunnebostrand, off south-west Sweden.

During the Cold War, both the USSR and United States trained dolphins to detect underwater threats.



CCL introduces Italian fun

CARNIVAL
Cruise Line's (CCL) *Carnival Venezia* is now on her way to New York City, beginning her voyage from Europe.

Venezia departed Barcelona on 29 May for a two-week transatlantic Carnival Journeys sailing, which will arrive at her new home port at the Manhattan Cruise Terminal on 13 Jun.

The ship is debuting "Carnival fun, Italian style", which will include distinct entertainment programming, such as a special Captain's Venetian Toast and an Italian street party on Lido.

Venezia also introduces several new dining and beverage offerings, including the specialty restaurant, *Il Viaggio*, which promises a culinary voyage of the best regional dishes and drinks from around Italy.

President Christine Duffy greeted the first guests embarking from Barcelona ahead of the cruise, and has joined *Venezia* for the first part of her itinerary, including the sail away party (pictured).

"Following an extensive enhancement, *Carnival Venezia* really looks and feels like part of the Carnival family - with Italian theming and unique flair that I know our guests will appreciate,"



she considered.

"I'm looking forward to experiencing some of the Carnival Fun Italian Style elements with our first guests and I can't wait to welcome the ship for her debut in New York."

Venezia's first cruise from NYC is a four-day sailing to Bermuda, set for 15 Jun.

From her New York homeport, *Venezia* will operate 22 unique itineraries featuring visits to 25 ports across 14 countries.

In the northern winter of 2024, *Venezia* will reposition from New York with a 12-Day Southern Caribbean Carnival Journeys cruise, arriving to Port Canaveral on 18 Dec 2024, to begin a season deployment in Florida.

After a series of departures from Port Canaveral, visiting popular destinations across the Caribbean and the Bahamas, the ship will return to New York in the spring of 2025.



Time for a solution

YET again, Australia's gateway port of Sydney has been left without a clear vision for the future and no long-term solution to its berthing constraints.

If there's one certainty, it's that our industry will continue to innovate, inspire and open new possibilities.

The NSW Government may have abandoned a third cruise terminal at Yarra Bay, but in the short term the Australian cruise sector - and cruise fans - are already finding ways to overcome the bottleneck at Circular Quay.

Some lines are deploying smaller ships that reach the White Bay terminal.

Some are expanding their offering from the new terminal in Brisbane.

Others are ready to position ships in Melbourne, including newcomer cruise lines about to make their regional debut.

For some cruise fans, the allure of sailing further afield makes fly-cruise a great opportunity.

But the underlying problem still persists - without a plan, Sydney's capacity constraints will only intensify.

CLIA is in discussions with the NSW Government and is putting cruising firmly back on the table, for the sake of all our members.

We need a solution. Sydney's standing as an international gateway is in jeopardy.



1 THE WORLD'S LARGEST FLEET

We own and operate our fleet of nearly 80 innovative river ships sailing Europe, Egypt, the Mekong and the Mississippi - making us the largest river cruise line in the world. We're proud to also own many of the best docking locations throughout Europe, giving your clients priority access in each port.

2 MORE DATES & DESTINATIONS

The scale of our river ship inventory gives you the widest variety of sailing dates, itineraries and destinations to choose from. With 2025 voyages now open for sale, finding the right cruise for your client is easier than ever.



3 VOTED WORLD'S BEST

We've received over 250 awards over the last 25 years, including #1 River Line by Travel + Leisure's 2022 "World's Best", Condé Nast Traveler's 2022 and 2021 Readers' Choice Awards, and recently we've been named Best River Line for the second consecutive year in the 2023 Cruise Critic's Cruisers' Choice Awards.

4 EXPERTS AT HANDLING THE UNEXPECTED

No one handles the unpredictable waterways like Viking. Whether it's navigating fluctuating water levels with identical sister ship swaps or adjusting itineraries to accommodate unforeseen changes to travel requirements, we provide the highest level of quality and consistency in the industry.



5 PEACE OF MIND TO PLAN

Viking's global market share and loyal returning guests ensure we never need to cancel or consolidate departures due to low passenger numbers, giving you and your clients added peace of mind to plan.

6 INCREDIBLE VALUE FOR MONEY

Viking's inclusive value fare offers remarkable value for your client with everything they need included—and nothing they don't. Most importantly, you can trust the price we advertise is the price your client pays with no hidden surcharges, port charges, taxes or gratuities.

7 YOU EARN MORE WITH NO NCFs

Our No NCFs promise ensures you earn commission on all components of our inclusive cruise fare. This means more money in your pocket because you don't miss out on commission for add-ons your clients would have booked once onboard.



8 FLEXIBLE DEPOSIT

Thanks to overwhelming feedback, Viking's Flexible Deposit Policy is here to stay. Our Flexible Deposit Policy allows your clients to book their cruise with just a \$1,000 per person* deposit, and if they change their mind, we will refund \$900 of their deposit in the form of a future cruise voucher.



9 MORE MARKETING SUPPORT

Viking invests more in marketing river cruises than any other cruise line, and we're planning to do even more in the months ahead. With advertising across TV, radio, newspapers, social media, digital and more, our marketing activity will drive new client demand into your business.



10 YOU CAN NOW BOOK ONLINE

We're excited to announce the launch of our new online booking platform. Giving you the ability to make Viking bookings, with pre-and-post extensions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Just log into My Viking Journey to make an online booking today.