



New Viking trip

VIKING has launched a new India and Europe Grand Passage ocean itinerary, uniting three different cruises. The new voyage provides a seamless extended sailing from Mumbai to Barcelona.

Northern Europe hot for MSC

AUSTRALIAN and NZ travellers are wholeheartedly embracing MSC Cruises' itineraries in Northern Europe, according to Communications Manager, Leisa Chell (pictured).

Speaking to *Cruise Weekly* aboard *MSC Euribia* this week as the vessel undertakes a cruise from Copenhagen up the Norwegian coast (see **page 2**), Chell confirmed the voyages have "definitely increased in popularity with the local market".

The ongoing unrest in Ukraine and Russia has seen MSC rejig its Baltic itineraries this year, eliminating visits to Russian ports, meaning a number of its Northern Europe cruises now conveniently depart from Southampton.

These popular voyages take in destinations such as Brussels, the Netherlands, and Norway as well as the British Isles.

"As COVID meant many expat Brits couldn't visit home, and Australians couldn't tour Europe, they are now travelling and booking a cruise, which allows guests to visit many countries affordably," Chell noted.

An innovation reflecting the increasing onboard cohort of English, Australian, and New



Zealand guests has seen kettles provided in the cabins of these departures, with Chell saying many are now taking the opportunity to enjoy a "cuppa" and unwind after a day of exploring, with complimentary English breakfast and Earl Grey teas provided.

The current *Euribia* departure in the North Sea strongly reflects MSC's pan-European appeal, with guests on board from Germany, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy as well as Australians.

There's a wide demographic of guests, with many families enjoying facilities such as the Doremiland, which encompasses seven distinct spaces for children from babies up to 17 years.

Dedicated childcare services are run by professional child-minders, while a new MSC Foundation Lab offers a full program of activities to educate children and teens about sustainability. *BP*

A Legend returns

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's (CCL) *Carnival Legend* will home port in Galveston in 2025, offering a variety of Caribbean voyages. The ship will add more options from Texas, as the fourth CCL ship in the state.

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CRUISE

WEEKLY

On location on board
MSC Euribia

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of MSC Cruises, as its brand new MSC Euribia cruises toward Norway.

THE seas may be a little rough, but the advanced stabilising (and perhaps the distractions of 10 restaurants and 21 bars) of MSC Euribia have meant relatively smooth sailing as we head up the Norwegian coast.

After a day at sea today which wrapped up with a pre-dinner Captain's Cocktail Party on decks five to seven, we will tomorrow arrive at Hellesylt, where Euribia will dock for a day of exploration and excursions such as glacier hikes, boat rides, and more.

Oceania debuts new Pacific cruises

OCEANIA Cruises has announced seven new 2025 summer sailings to French Polynesia and Hawaii, exploring far-flung destinations.

Cruising on board the 670-guest *Regatta*, the new voyages will open for reservations on 04 Oct, and sail from Aug-Oct 2025.

Itineraries span Bora Bora (pictured), Tahiti, Raiatea, Nuku Hiva, and more.

Four of the seven new sailings link French Polynesia with the captivating craters, dramatic canyons, and lush waterfalls of the Hawaiian Islands.

Sailing from Tahiti or Honolulu, the seven new voyages range from 10 to 18 days, allowing plenty of time for exploration, adventure, and relaxation.

New summer sailings in 2025 include the Polynesian Dreams 15-day cruise from Honolulu to Papeete, the 10-day Tahitian



Legends voyage round trip from Papeete, the 15-day Divine Pacific Oases sailing from Honolulu to Papeete, and the 18-day Song of Polynesia trip from Papeete to Los Angeles.

"At Oceania Cruises, we offer a captivating array of sailings in French Polynesia and Hawaii, charting lesser-known coastlines and taking travellers to boutique ports and off-the-beaten-track

islands thanks to our small, luxurious ships," President Frank Del Rio Jr said.

"One of the highlights of these parts of the world is undoubtedly the food.

"Whether you're exploring Bora Bora and Nuku Hiva or Nawiliwili and Hilo, the flavours of these islands are meant to be savoured and enjoyed just as much as the spectacular scenery." MS



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PORTHOLE

GUESTS aboard *MSC Euribia* yesterday were given some special help during the ship's innovative compulsory safety briefing - and all it required was that they just look up.

The newbuild boasts a 1,250m² central promenade with boutiques, restaurants and retail outlets - as well as the "longest LED dome at sea" (pictured).

The massive ceiling is effectively a screen soaring high over the deck, and can be programmed to display just about anything.

It's natural that during the safety procedure, which required guests to find their muster stations and swipe their cards to confirm attendance, the directions were assisted by a high-flying graphic indicating which way to the various gathering points on the ship.



RCI punts on Ponting



ROYAL Caribbean International (RCI) has uncorked an exclusive partnership with Ponting Wines, the winemaker co-founded by former Australian cricket player Ricky Ponting.

From Oct-Apr, guests travelling aboard *Ovation of the Seas*, *Quantum of the Seas* and *Brilliance of the Seas* will be able to enjoy six of Ponting's award-winning wines, including fan favourites Ponting First Session Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc and Ponting Mowbray Boy Tasmanian Pinot Noir.

Wine lovers and connoisseurs alike can raise a glass of handpicked rose, red, or white wine on two- to 18-night getaways from Brisbane and Sydney this summer, across all restaurants and bars from Jamie's Italian to Royal Caribbean's signature steakhouse, Chops Grille, and the Vintages wine bar.

Ponting launched his label in 2019 alongside his wife Rianna and renowned Australian winemaker Ben Riggs.

"Rianna and I have always shared an affinity to explore and taste wines at vineyards as we travel the world," Ponting enthused.

"Ponting Wines is an embodiment of our shared passion for beautiful wines and the dedication and passion that has driven me."

Pictured is Royal Caribbean Vice President & Managing Director Gavin Smith with the Pontings and Director of Marketing Kathryn Lock. *MS*



On Board: MSC Euribia



Jean-Philippe Chocolates

MSC Euribia boasts an exclusive onboard chocolate shop as part of the line's ongoing collaboration with famed pastry chef Jean-Philippe Maury.

Offering what the line calls a "profound chocolate experience", this area offers a huge array of curated sweet treats as well as architectural chocolate creations.

Guests can even create their own chocolates, while watching the team of expert chocolatiers working on stunning displays that look too good to eat.

The Chat

Travel Daily

with
Jenny



A Conversation with
Robyn Sinfield

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