



### On location aboard *Avalon Alegria*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Avalon Waterways, who are hosting us aboard *Avalon Alegria* this week on her inaugural cruise along the Douro.

IT IS a leisurely morning aboard *Avalon Alegria* today, as we enjoy breakfast in the Panorama Bistro while taking in the stunning views of the Douro Valley as we sail.

This afternoon *Alegria* will dock in Porto, where guests have the option of choosing between each of the excursion styles offered by Avalon Waterways - Classic, Discovery, and Active.

The discovery wine experience sounds perfect to us.

## River ride for Cruise360

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is now offering a River Cruise Showcase as part of its Cruise360 2024 conference.

All travel advisor delegates will have the opportunity to attend the optional River Showcase, which will take place on 29 Aug, the day before the conference.

The Showcase is designed to help advisors understand the different experiences each river offers, the unique points of difference for each brand, and help them to identify new potential river cruise clients.

It will be held ahead of Cruise360's official evening Welcome Cocktail Party, which all conference delegates will also be invited to attend.

The Showcase, which in essence extends Cruise360 to two days, was welcomed by the local river cruise sector, with Uniworld Boutique River Cruises' local MD

Alice Ager praising CLIA in a LinkedIn post.

"We are delighted that the amazing team at CLIA are adding an extra day focused on river cruise to the biggest professional development event in cruise this year," she said.

"The River Cruise Showcase is designed to help agents understand the different experiences each river offers, the unique points of difference for each brand, and be able to identify new potential river cruise clients, which sounds brilliant."

Although the river sector makes up only a small portion of CLIA's membership, its visibility at Cruise360 has grown in the past few years, with Avalon Waterways President Pam Hoffee and Uniworld River Cruises Chief Exec & President Ellen Bettridge speaking at the conference the past two years. MS

### Cruise Weekly today

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



### On location aboard *Norwegian Spirit*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is hosting us aboard *Norwegian Spirit* for an Easter cruise to Fiji.

TODAY is another day at sea for *Norwegian Spirit*, after the ship called in at two ports in the South Pacific over the Easter long weekend.

Yesterday *Spirit* called in Aneityum in Vanuatu, the country's southernmost island, which is home to less than 1,000 people.

*Regent*

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A SYDNEY man has found a bottle containing the ashes of a seafaring couple whose sons scattered them at sea.

The ashes were found at 4am one morning at Manly Beach, located inside a bottle with an accompanying message.

"In this bottle is a small part of our parents..if you find this bottle washed up somewhere... please feel free to set it off once again on its journey," the message read.

The sons gave their parents a fitting bon voyage by launching several bottles from locations around the world where their parents had lived at various times, *The Guardian* reported.

The man who found the bottle contacted the family, who had first launched it from Bondi Beach.

Wanting to ensure the bottle made it farther, the man consulted tides experts, and re-launched it into the ocean.

## Ama to spread the love

OFF the back of opening its new local reservations centre (CW 14 Mar), the AmaWaterways team (pictured) is on a mission to visit as many travel advisors around the country as possible.

The team will be visiting agencies to spread the word about AmaWaterways, with the cruise line's business development managers to get out and about this month.

Kim Vaughan will be visiting advisors in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania; Christine Oliver will introduce herself to travel partners in Queensland, Western Australia and the NT; and Kylie Chapman will call in on travel agents in New South Wales and ACT.

There will also be two training sessions in Perth, on Wed 10 Apr at 9am and 11:00am at Perron Place in Victoria Park.



Numbers are limited, so email [salesaunz@amawaterways.com](mailto:salesaunz@amawaterways.com) to reserve a space. MS

## The Lord's new look

RIVIERA Travel River Cruises' *Lord Byron* is set to get a new look for this season.

All 74 staterooms on the 140-guest *Lord Byron* will be renovated, while her La Brasserie restaurant will feature a fresh design.

Guests will also benefit from new furniture in *Lord Byron's* public areas, while the carpets will also be replaced throughout the ship.

Work is being carried out at the shipyard in Chalon, and will be completed for the start of the season, which begins on the Rhone later this month.



On Board: *Norwegian Spirit*

### Spirit Casino

Try your luck at some of the most popular slot machines at sea at Spirit Casino. The facility includes both traditional reel slots and modern video slots. If table games are more your style, the Spirit Casino offers classics like blackjack and craps, among others. The ship also offers learn-to-game lessons, helping beginner gamers graduate from novice to expert.

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#### EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman

Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon

Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai

Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper

Publisher - Damian Francis

Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

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#### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan

Advertising - Sharad Goodfella &

Dante Muranty

[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)

#### HEAD OF OPERATIONS & CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Anna Piper

#### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd

Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia

Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220

Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

