



### Cruise Weekly today

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



On location in the Kimberley

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Scenic, aboard the *Scenic Eclipse II*.

SCENIC passengers, including CW, are making the most of the company's first-ever *Scenic Eclipse II* Australian season, exploring the remote Kimberley region between Broome and Darwin.

A day at sea proved the perfect way to ease into adventure cruising Scenic-style, with guests enjoying the onboard spa, multitude of restaurants, activities, and all-inclusive service.

An onboard briefing from Rosanna Angus of Oolin Sunday Island Cultural Tours and her family set the scene, with a deep personal insight into the culture and history of the local Indigenous people.

Tomorrow, our discoveries begin in earnest with Zodiac cruises taking in the spectacular scenery of remote Talbot Bay and the iconic Horizontal Falls, through which gigalitres of water flow each day as the huge tides change.

## New experiences aboard Xcel



**CELEBRITY** Cruises Chief Executive Officer Laura Hodges Bethge has just revealed new details about *Celebrity Xcel*, which will debut in Nov 2025.

"While I can't disclose too many details just yet, I can reveal that *Celebrity Xcel* will introduce seven new experiences that live up to her name in every way," she told *Cruise Weekly*.

The construction of *Xcel* began last month with the laying of the first keel (CW 17 Jun).

Hodges Bethge, on board *Celebrity's* President's Cruise last week (CW 28 Jun), is already building excitement for the line's fifth Edge-class ship.

"We've designed these with our guests in mind, offering experiences unlike any other at sea," Hodges Bethge added.

*Xcel* will also be equipped with the cruise industry's first tri-fuel engine, Hodges Bethge shared,

meaning she will be able to run on biofuels, methanol, and traditional marine fuels.

"This innovative feature is part of our decades-long commitment to sustainability and advances our energy transition efforts under Royal Caribbean Group's SEA the Future platform," she said.

"With every new ship, we strive to sustain the planet, energise communities, and accelerate innovation, ensuring we continue to deliver the best premium vacation experience responsibly."

*Xcel* will offer seven-night itineraries for her inaugural season, with sailings to the Bahamas, Mexico, the Cayman Islands, Puerto Plata, St. Thomas, and St. Maarten. MS

**Pictured** is a *Celebrity Captain's Club* rewards program member and Hodges Bethge arriving at Perfect Day at CocoCay during the President's Cruise.

## Sinfield voted in

**HOME** Travel Company owner Robyn Sinfield has been announced as Australia's newly elected representative for Virtuoso's cruise committee, where she will represent the country's member travel agencies.

Sinfield thanked all owner-managers who trusted her for their votes.

"I can't wait to bring my passion and experience to the table and collaborate with the exceptional group of travel professionals on the Australian Regional Advisory Board and the Global Cruise Board," Sinfield said.

## Seattle agreement

**THE** Port of Seattle has approved a 10-year agreement with Carnival Corporation, which will see the company's cruise lines continue to home port in Seattle for the Alaska cruise season.

The long-term agreement supports the port's path to work with partners to achieve its zero-emission sustainability goals, along with providing local economic development opportunities, and boosting the economic impact of cruise in the region.

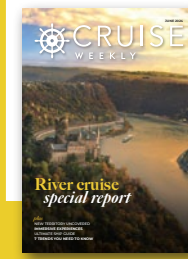
The 10-year term, from 2024-2033, includes a mutually agreeable option to extend for five more years.



## Our Galápagos fleet has expanded!

Introducing our two newest expedition ships:  
*National Geographic Delfini* &  
*National Geographic Gemini*!

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**HURTIGRUTEN** has retrieved another 4,500 sparkling wine bottles from the Arctic Sea off the coast of Norway.

The cruise line launched the Bubbles from the Sea concept last year (**CW** 22 May 2023), the first underwater-aged sparkling wine matured in the Arctic region.

A new batch of bottles has been stored and collected, this time from in the far northeastern part of Norway near Kirkenes.

The 2024 batch, which was submerged last year (**CW** 22 Dec), comprises 4,500 bottles stored at a depth of 34 metres.

Ageing in colder seas (five degrees celsius) with a higher pressure and constant darkness will provide a very distinctive maturation of the wine.

Due to high demand, the next batch will increase to as many as 5,000 bottles - bottoms up to all Hurtigruten passengers!

## DCL's culinary Treasures

**NEW** culinary adventures aboard Disney Cruise Line's (DCL) *Disney Treasure* will include the brand's first-ever venue themed around *The Aristocats*; a new *Guardians of the Galaxy* offering; and a *Coco*-inspired menu.

A direct extension of the Grand Hall, the Scat Cat Lounge (**pictured**) will offer guests a craft cocktail menu, in addition to live music and performances of classic songs like *Ev'rybody Wants to be a Cat* from *The Aristocats*.

The Scat Cat Lounge also takes design cues from the Grand Hall's Agrabah-inspired architecture with a complementary colour palette and curated decor.

Symbols of cats, both hidden and overt, will help bring the animated adventures of Duchess and her kittens into the real world for the first time.

Meanwhile, Worlds of Marvel, DCL's Marvel-themed dining experience, will host *Treasure* guests for two nights per cruise, including a brand-new offering that will showcase Rocket and Groot from the *Guardians of the Galaxy* films.

Throughout the evening, guests



will eat to the beat of a mix of hit songs from decades past, and have the chance to test their Marvel knowledge.

Guests on *Treasure* will also experience 'Avengers: Quantum Encounter', a fan-favourite cinematic dining adventure following Ant-Man and The Wasp, as they work to protect new Quantum Core technology from a fearsome foe.

Meanwhile, at Plaza de Coco, an array of artful dishes will transport guests to the picturesque town depicted in *Coco*, with traditional recipes from the Rivera family's kitchen to guide a modern menu with festive flavours. *MS*

## Princess is in Love

**LOVE** by Britto, Princess Cruises' newest high-end specialty restaurant, has officially opened aboard the line's new *Sun Princess*.

The new restaurant is located on deck 17 aft, the 68-seat venue featuring an exquisite display of Romeo Britto's familiar designs, and carries a cover charge of \$79pp.

The seven-course dining experience begins with oysters with lemongrass kafir, mirin and gold flakes.

Mains include savoury tuna & avocado, pomegranate, togarashi; cappuccino of wild mushroom soup; salad of beets, figs and goat cheese; granita of pink champagne & rose petals; tail of lobster thermidor; and beef tenderloin & truffle jus.

Desserts features a heart-shaped chocolate lava cake, fresh berries & raspberry cream, and petits fours.

Additional special touches include vibrant dinnerware featuring Britto's art, heart-folded napkins and cutlery with heart-shaped cut outs.



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*Cruise Weekly* is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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