



Cruise Weekly today

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

SH's virtuous news

SWAN Hellenic (SH) has been accepted into global luxury travel group Virtuoso, which will present new sales and marketing opportunities to both cruise line and agents.

"Virtuoso's acceptance process is incredibly selective, so becoming a preferred partner is a true honour," SH CCO Patrizia Iantorno said.

"The reputation Virtuoso member agencies have for outstanding dedication to their clients is a perfect fit with our own bespoke approach.

"We look forward to offering Virtuoso advisors and their clients the special amenities, values and experiences that surpass their expectations."

Ritz-Carlton to sail new yacht in Asia

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection (RCYC) has announced its first Asia-Pacific season aboard *Luminara*, its upcoming third luxury superyacht (CW 11 Jan).

The cruise line will offer 10 new journeys between Dec 2025 and May 2026, exploring almost 30 ports across 10 countries, including Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, and Thailand.

The journeys range from 10 to 15 nights in length and will depart from Tokyo, Hong Kong, or Singapore, with itineraries stopping in destinations such as Ha Long Bay, Puerto Princesa, Seoul, Osaka, Bangkok, and more.

Guests are also invited to choose from select group excursions, pre-designed private excursions, or custom private excursions, which include kiteboarding in the Philippines, exploring the iconic street food



in Thailand, whitewater rafting in Malaysia, or discovering museums in Vietnam.

"As luxury travellers continue to seek unforgettable, personalised experiences around the world, we are thrilled to introduce voyages in the Asia-Pacific region," RCYC Executive Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Jim Murren said. "These new itineraries

exemplify our steadfast commitment to continually raising the bar in luxury cruising, offering innovative ways to experience our superyachts and explore vibrant local cultures across the globe."

Luminara (render pictured) is set to launch next year with up to 452 guests, making her RCYC's largest ship. MS

Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES
AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE™

THE
EXOTICS
EDITION

with UP TO 45% OFF SELECT SAILINGS*

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT



PACIFIC SHORES & A CITY OF SAILS

PAPEETE
- TO -
SYDNEY

included
3-NIGHT
LAND
PROGRAMME

*Seven Seas Mariner**

DEPARTS	DURATION	UP TO
6 MAR 2025	21 NIGHTS	20 EXCURSIONS

SUITE CATEGORY	WAS	NOW
CONCIERGE from.....	AU\$28,210pp	AU\$17,078pp*
	NZ\$30,990pp	NZ\$18,758pp*

+INCLUDED 3-NIGHT LAND PROGRAMME
POST-CRUISE: SYDNEY ICONS
- OR -
SCENIC BLUE MOUNTAINS
Visit RSSC.com/Land for details



ASIAN ENCHANTMENTS

HONG KONG
- TO -
TOKYO

included
3-NIGHT
LAND
PROGRAMME

*Seven Seas Mariner**

DEPARTS	DURATION	UP TO
28 APR 2025	16 NIGHTS	47 EXCURSIONS

SUITE CATEGORY	WAS	NOW
CONCIERGE from.....	AU\$22,170pp	AU\$15,596pp*
	NZ\$24,350pp	NZ\$17,129pp*

+INCLUDED 3-NIGHT LAND PROGRAMME
PRE-CRUISE: JEWELS OF HONG KONG
- OR -
POST-CRUISE: VIBRANT TOKYO
Visit RSSC.com/Land for details

FIND OUT MORE [HERE](#) OR CALL OUR CONTACT CENTRE ON 1300 455 200 (AU), 0800 625 692 (NZ)

*Terms and Conditions apply, visit RSSC.com/EXOTICS-EDITION. ©2024 Regent Seven Seas Cruises. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8060 7578 781.



RWC turns two with 'Open House'

RESORTS World Cruises (RWC) has celebrated its second anniversary, having sailed almost 3.3 million passengers to date.

The cruise line held a special 'Open House' event on Sun in Singapore aboard its two ships, *Genting Dream* and *Resorts World One*.

Close to 1,000 attendees turned out, including business and travel partners, as well as local authorities, with many offered a special preview of the ships' onboard facilities, accommodations, entertainment, food & beverage, and more.

RWC said both of its ships will continue to expand their footprint across Asia to more than 30 destinations, including recent additions such as Jakarta, Keelung, Dubai, Ho Chi Minh City, Con Son, Bangkok, Ko Samui, and Redang Island.

Resorts World One will continue to sail between Singapore and Jakarta on five-night cruises, with a stopover in Kuala Lumpur, until early next month.

The ship will then commence sailings from Keelung and Kaohsiung with a series of two-, four- and five-night cruises to Kyushu, Okinawa, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Sasebo and Nagasaki, Naha, Miyakojima and Ishigaki.

Resorts World One will then chart new waters to home port in the Persian Gulf from Oct to Apr, with two-night departures from Dubai to Sir Bani Yas, three-night Oman cruises to Khasab and Muscat, and a two-night itinerary to Doha.

"Today's Open House celebration is our way of thanking our valued guests and also to those that had supported us over the years," President Michael Goh said.

Celestyal doubles down



CELESTYAL Cruises' newest ship *Celestyal Discovery* will join her fleetmate *Celestyal Journey* in the Persian Gulf next year.

The move doubles Celestyal's capacity in the region, and will also see the cruise line sail year-round from two destinations, increasing its departures by 30%.

Discovery will offer new three- and four-night 'Iconic Arabia' itineraries from next year, as well as a seven-night 'Gulf Icons' combo cruise, with sailings through to 2027 now on sale.

Celestyal has also expanded its summer Greek and Mediterranean offerings, including its popular seven-night 'Heavenly Adriatic' route aboard *Journey*, which sold out this year.

The itinerary will return in Mar, featuring stops in Greece, Italy, Croatia, and Montenegro.

The seven-night 'Idyllic Aegean' cruise is also back, with a new option to combine both itineraries into a 14-night voyage on select dates.

"We're honoured to be recognised as the cruise specialists of the Greek islands and Mediterranean," CCO Lee Haslett said.

"With tremendous support from our customers and partners, we're now poised to become the go-to cruise specialists of the Arabian Gulf as well."

The move builds on Celestyal's declaration in Jan it will begin sailing year-round, when it

announced *Journey's* inaugural season in the Persian Gulf, set to begin later this year (**CW** 10 Jan).

MS
Pictured is a render of *Discovery* and *Journey*.

New Hudson cruise

AMERICAN Cruise Lines has introduced new Hudson River Summer Classic voyages, tripling the number of departures available next year.

The cruise line just completed the first few sailings of the new eight-day 'Hudson River Summer Classic', which is operating in addition to its popular 'Hudson River Fall Foliage' cruises, which only run in Sep and Oct.

The new voyage adds May and Jun departures along the river, which sail round trip from New York City, exploring the Hudson Valley.

The cruise offers magnificent views of Manhattan's skyline, sails right past the Statue of Liberty, and visits Catskill, Albany, Kingston, Hyde Park, West Point, and Sleepy Hollow, with a range of excursions to also be available.

It departs from Pier 81 NYC, with cruises operating aboard American's newest riverboats and small ships, which offer a private balcony, interior and outdoor lounges, walking tracks, and other amenities.

Back in the game

CRYSTAL has announced an exclusive collaboration with Casino de Monte-Carlo, kicking off the reintroduction of onboard casinos in response to guest feedback, just a year after they were removed.

Gaming will return to *Crystal Symphony* during her Chairman's Cruise in Nov, and to *Crystal Serenity* in Dec.

The collaboration will see the cruise line host the first Casino de Monte-Carlo at sea.

The casino will be positioned at the Bridge Lounge, and will feature on Crystal's two future oceangoing ships, and in all of the cruise line's new vessels, with the exclusion of its expedition ships.



**Brilliant
For You**



EXCLUSIVELY ADULT,
AWARD-WINNING CRUISES BY VIRGIN.

**Brilliant Lady's
Inaugural
Voyages**

LEARN MORE



A fresh look at the **next 24 months** in travel.
Get your tickets now!

TRAVEL 24
REVEALING THE NEXT
24 MONTHS IN TRAVEL

Disney on theme with its new *Adventure*

THEMED areas inspired by Disney, Pixar, and Marvel stories will highlight Disney Cruise Line's *Disney Adventure*, which will set sail from Singapore next year.

Adventure (CW 11 Sep) will be "a destination itself", according to Disney, with seven different themed areas to create the "ultimate family vacation".

Disney Imagination Garden will be the "emotional heart" of *Adventure*, serving as an enchanted valley, a garden, and open-air performance venue all in one.

At Disney Discovery Reef, families will shop and dine in an ever-changing retreat, featuring favourite aquatic characters and nautical stories including *The Little Mermaid*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Luca*.

San Fransokyo Street, inspired by *Big Hero 6*, will be a family entertainment area pulsing with

the energy and atmosphere of a vibrant street market and featuring an assortment of interactive games & activities, shops, cinemas and more.

At Wayfinder Bay, guests will find a "sophisticated yet casual" poolside retreat, which will reflect the Pacific Islands-inspired artistry of *Moana*, while offering some of the most stunning views aboard *Adventure*.

Town Square will be a celebration of Disney royals, filled with shops, lounges, cafes, restaurants, and entertainment venues, with nods to *Tangled*, *Cinderella*, *Frozen*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *The Princess and the Frog*, and more.

Marvel Landing will offer Avengers-level adventure, with all-new attractions and experiences showcasing imaginative representations of guests' favourite superheroes.

Lastly, Toy Story Place will inspire guests to explore, create, connect and have fun in a play land with themed food venues and water play areas, where the world of *Toy Story* movies spring to life.

"We're bringing the magic of Disney Cruise Line to Asia for the first time ever, and we want to give our guests the cruise relaxation and Disney fun they can only experience aboard one of our ships," the cruise line's Senior Vice President & General Manager Sharon Siskie said.

"Guests will find incredible, immersive areas that bring the worlds of Disney, Pixar and Marvel to life in ways like never before - and these uniquely Disney experiences will inspire families to reconnect, recharge and make unforgettable memories that they'll cherish forever," she added. MS

McKenzie to MC

INVESTIGATIVE journalist Nick McKenzie has joined Cunard Line's Australian Literature Festival at Sea as master of ceremonies.

McKenzie will engage guests with facilitating insightful talks, and a special session detailing his most exhilarating cases, including *Crossing the Line*, his pivotal investigation into former soldier Ben Roberts-Smith, who was found to have committed war crimes.

Guests aboard *Queen Elizabeth* will enjoy stage talks from authors such as Alexander McCall Smith, Fiona McIntosh, Paul Cleave, and more, who will share insights into their careers, inspirations, and challenges.

The authors will discuss their approach to writing, and conduct intimate writing and illustrating workshops.



Discover Norway with the Original

No NCFs. Earn in Full.

©Ole Saloromsonen

For a limited time only, **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE** on last places across selected Original Coastal Voyages.

We'll take your clients closer and deeper into the Norwegian coastal landscape, history and culture than anyone else.

Our ships hug the coastline closely giving your clients the best views from the outside observation decks. The smaller size of our ships means we visit narrow fjords and secluded hamlets that big cruise ships simply cannot reach.

EOFY SALE!
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

PRICED FROM **\$1886***

Secure your clients' savings today!
Call 1300 151 548
or visit agentportal.hurtigruten.com

 **HURTIGRUTEN**

Live the legend of Norway.

*T&Cs apply. From price based on two people sharing a polar inside cabin on 7-day Original Coastal Express Voyage Northbound 07/12/2024 departure, on MS Midnatsol. Price accurate as of 07/06/2024.



Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

Follow Cruise Weekly on social media to get your cruise news first

Facebook Instagram CRUISE WEEKLY



AS IF you need any other reason to sail with Holland America Line, the Dutch brand has partnered with Swiss chocolatier Lindt for a 'Sweet Dreams' turnaround service.

As night falls on Gala Night, guests can retreat to the comfort of their stateroom and be greeted by Lindt Lindor milk chocolate truffles.

Meanwhile, throughout the cruise, guests can indulge in Lindt chocolate desserts, including a Lindt Flourless Chocolate Cake created in partnership with Lindt's Master Chocolatier, Ann Czaja, just in time for World Chocolate Day next month.

The cake will be available on the Dining Room menu for cruises over seven days, and will be featured during Holland America's new onboard dessert extravaganza 'Cake Me Away' (CW 21 Nov).

Also available will be a signature tulip-shaped chocolate mousse cake.

The dessert is already aboard *Rotterdam* on its Dutch Day dinner menu in the Dining Room, and will be fleetwide as of Aug.

In the northern summer, guests will be able to enjoy a Lindt Sundae, including vanilla ice cream topped with a custom-made Lindt chocolate sauce, as well as Lindt chocolate tulips.

Explora to peak with Horn



EXPLORA Journeys has unveiled unique Destination Experiences with professional explorer and adventurer Mike Horn (pictured) on *Explora I*.

Guests will have the opportunity to join Horn on two extraordinary adventures, showcasing the wild beauty of Lanzarote and La Palma in Spain from 10-20 Nov.

The journey will round trip from Barcelona, visiting Cadiz, the Canary Islands, and Gibraltar.

Guests on the cruise can embark on an intrepid hike up the formidable Haria Extreme ultra-marathon trail, guided by Horn.

Starting from Famara, participants will ascend the rugged cliff face, enjoying breathtaking island panoramas.

The journey continues along the Camino de Los Gracioseros before reaching the village of Haria, where guests will relish a revitalising lunch at Restaurante Tacande, followed by an exploration of the picturesque streets and thriving palm groves of the town.

Guests will also be able to explore La Palma's beauty and piratical past with Horn.

Starting in Tijarafe, participants will be guided through the island's lush subtropical environment down a rugged coastal path to Poris de Candelaria, a hidden hamlet at the cliff's base.

Guests will then sail with Horn to the spectacular Cueva Bonita, a sea cave once used by fishermen to evade pirates, also known as the 'Atlantic Sistine Chapel'. MS

TIME to celebrate

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has celebrated its third team member graduating from the Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME), Groups Team Leader Will Kaafi.

The long-term Norwegian staffer recently graduated from the 54th intake of the TIME program, and was mentored by Australia & Beyond Holidays Managing Partner Simon Bernardi.

"TIME is the best thing I have done professionally... my mentor Simon Bernardi challenged me and opened my eyes," Kaafi said.

Norwegian is an invested supporter of TIME, as part of its Partners First philosophy, and has so far sponsored six travel industry scholarships.

All mentees have now successfully graduated and benefited from the program.

Several of Norwegian's leadership team are available as mentors including Vice President & Managing Director Ben Angell and Director of Field Sales Angela Middleton.



CLIR CRUISE360 AUSTRALASIA

ICC SYDNEY | 30 AUGUST 2024

EARLYBIRD RATE ENDS 30 JUNE!

GET TICKETS



THE LARGEST CRUISE CONFERENCE IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

EXCLUSIVE TO CLIA MEMBERS. MORE INFORMATION AT CRUISING.ORG.AU

CLIR

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

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan

Advertising - Laura Aghajanian &

Dante Muranty

advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

HEAD OF OPERATIONS & CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

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