



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

### All that glitters is...

**PONANT** has expanded its team with the return of former BDM Julie Golding as Key Account Manager.

The appointment rectifies the growing need for additional support for trade and retail consortia, as Ponant continues to experience substantial industry growth.

The role is newly created within Ponant's local set-up, with Golding to report in to Director of Sales Julie Rogers.

"We are thrilled to welcome Julie Golding back to our dynamic team," Rogers said.

"Julie brings a wealth of expertise in luxury product development," she added.

## Crystal forges ahead with expansion

**CRYSTAL** Cruises is powering ahead with plans to expand its fleet, firming an agreement to build a third new ocean ship with Italian shipbuilder, Fincantieri.

The latest addition exercises an option held as part of an order placed earlier this year for two new ships, **CW** understands.

The latest newbuild (render **pictured**), will see Crystal Cruises' fleet rise to five once all ships are delivered, expected to take place in 2028, 2030 and 2032.

Plans for the new ship, which is tentatively set for delivery in 2032, will carry 690 passengers in double occupancy, making her slightly larger than fleet-mate *Crystal Symphony* but noticeably smaller than *Crystal Serenity*.

A suite of ultra-modern design and amenity standards will be applied to the new ship, including a wrap-around promenade deck.

All-suite accommodations will



include dedicated keys for solo travellers, with many offering private verandahs.

Like *Serenity* and *Symphony*, elevated fine dining will be a key focus onboard, with the new ship to feature Umi Uma which will be the only Nobu restaurant at sea.

The popular Japanese global fusion restaurant concept by Chef Matsuhisa and co-owned by Hollywood legend Robert de Niro has expanded around the world but until now has never ventured onto a cruise ship under the Nobu brand.

Other culinary options will

include popular Crystal staples including Beefbar by restaurateur Riccardo Giraudi and dishes from popular chefs Massimiliano and Raffaele Alajmo.

Crystal's latest newbuild will also feature the Casino de MonteCarlo, a new entertainment partnership signed earlier this year (**CW 27 Jun**) which will debut on *Serenity* and *Symphony* in Dec.

"Exercising this option and agreeing to build a third ship together showcases the trust and partnership between my family and Fincantieri, dating back to Sitmar Cruises and evolving through Silversea to our present vision with Crystal," said A&K Travel Group Executive Chairman, Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio.

A&K Travel Group CEO Cristina Levis added she is pleased to bring an expanded fleet to our guests and new ways to explore the world with Crystal." **ML**

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## CCL commitment

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line says it is committed to offering year-round cruising in Queensland as *Carnival Luminosa* arrived in Brisbane for its third summer.

Next year, Carnival Cruise Line will base the renamed *Carnival Encounter* - formerly *Pacific Encounter* - in Brisbane following the closure of the P&O Cruises Australia brand.

"The decision to keep *Carnival Encounter* based here in Brisbane year-round is an indication of how much Queenslanders love cruising from their capital city," said Carnival Cruise Line Vice President, Kara Glamore.

The 2,260-passenger *Carnival Luminosa* will welcome more than 70,000 pax on 24 sailings from Brisbane this summer, visiting destinations including Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and North Qld.

## Celestyal Qatar boost

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Visit Qatar at last week's World Travel Market in London.

The MOU signifies a three-year commitment to the region, promoting Qatar as a key destination among Celestyal's guests and agents.

"It's a privilege to sign this agreement with Visit Qatar and we would like to thank them for all their support in bringing this partnership to life," said Celestyal Cruises Chief Commercial Officer Lee Haslett.

"Qatar is an extraordinary destination and an ideal fit for our guests who are seeking immersive, culturally rich experiences," he added.

The agreement coincided with last week's announcement of Celestyal and Visit Qatar hosting agents on a super famil in the

Arabian Gulf (**CW 07 Nov**).

Advisors will experience *Celestyal Journey*, attend the Qatar Grand Prix and be invited to a speaker event with David Coulthard, who competed in F1 from 1994 to 2008. *MS*

## Spectrum gremlins

**ROYAL** Caribbean has offered \$600 in compensation to passengers onboard *Spectrum of the Seas* due to a technical issue which saw the ship delayed in Japan for two days.

The line has blamed the issue on "unplanned maintenance" and has been forced to cancel its next sailing to investigate the cause more thoroughly.

"We apologise to our guests for the inconvenience and are communicating with our guests directly," a spokesperson for the line said.

## Circle the Pacific

**PRINCESS** Cruises has launched what it says is its most "destination-rich voyage ever" with a 131-day voyage circling the Pacific Ocean.

Replacing its 2026 World Cruise to bypass ongoing hostilities in the Red Sea, the Circle Pacific voyage will depart 05 Jan 2026 from Fort Lauderdale on *Coral Princess*.

Venturing through the Panama Canal, the ship will sail Hawaii, French Polynesia, the South Pacific, New Zealand and Australia before heading north to Asia and visiting Japan and Alaska before concluding in Los Angeles on 16 May.

Key destinations on the line-up include Fiji, Auckland, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Osaka, Singapore, Sydney and Tahiti, with late-night stays in several ports to allow guests to make the most of their day in port.

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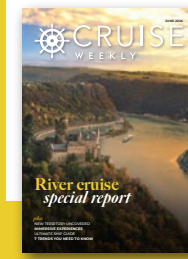


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### Sapphire NE debut

**PRINCESS** Cruises will introduce *Sapphire Princess* to the New England and Canada region in 2026 - a year which marks the 250th anniversary of the United States.

To mark the occasion, *Sapphire* will sail a 14-day 'Canada and Colonial America' itinerary on 23 Oct 2026, which will overnight in New York City and visit Saguenay, Charlottetown, Cape Breton Island and more.

Joining the celebratory year will be *Majestic Princess*, which will offer seven-day round-trip cruises from New York, calling in Boston and a range of New England towns.

Princess has also launched supplementary Cruisetour land extensions, with multi-day options taking travellers to Washington DC, Niagara Falls, Philadelphia and more.

## NCL's big green step with biofuel delivery



**GOODFUELS** has successfully delivered its sustainable B30 biofuel blend to Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) *Norwegian Dawn* at IJmuiden (**pictured**).

The biofuel was supplied by FincoEnergies in partnership with KPI OceanConnect, marking an important step toward decarbonising NCL's operations.

The blend, produced exclusively from feedstocks certified as 100% waste and residues, offers a sustainable alternative that

avoids competition with local food resources.

GoodFuels' sustainable biofuel advertises as offering *Dawn* a 80-90% reduction in lifecycle CO2 emissions compared to traditional marine diesel, while requiring no engine modifications to realise these benefits.

The biofuel also contributes to cleaner air quality along cruise routes, meaning fewer local pollutants such as sulfur oxides, particulate matter, and

black carbon, benefiting local communities NCL visits.

"We're excited to support Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings in their move toward cleaner cruising," FincoEnergies Commercial Manager Marine Mayu Kubo said.

"By choosing sustainable biofuels, they're driving down emissions and setting a strong example for the cruise industry."

The initiative aligns with NCLH's 'Sail and Sustain' program, which advocates and documents the cruise line's use of renewable fuels across 40% of its fleet. *MS*

### Savings of \$12,000

**CRUISE** Traveller has opened a new 13-night Kimberley deal featuring two free nights accom and a 10-night Ponant cruise in 2025 from Broome to Darwin if booked by 30 Nov.



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## PORTHOLE

**EVERYBODY** knows when a cruise ship is in town - the unmistakable serenity-splitting echo of her horn serves both a safety and a ceremonial role.

It's also easy to tell when a Disney Cruise Line ship is in town, with its horns taking a wildly different course by playing unmistakable melodies from familiar Disney films.

The line's next ship, *Disney Treasure*, has been testing various tunes during its trans-Atlantic crossing to its Port Canaveral home port ahead of its 21 Dec debut.

These include 'Grim Grinning Ghosts' from *Haunted Mansion*, 'Remember Me' from *Coco* which pays homage to the line's theatrical dining experiences, and perhaps the more familiar 'A Whole New World' from *Aladdin*.

One keen observer filmed the horns being tested and posted it on YouTube - [CLICK HERE](#).

## Carnival diversity

**CARNIVAL** Corporation has been named one of Europe's diversity leaders for 2025 by the *Financial Times*.

The annual list rates European companies on their inclusion and equality policies, with Carnival the only cruise line recognised.

"As a global company, we are focused on cultivating a workforce that mirrors the diversity of the communities we visit," Carnival President UK Paul Ludlow said.

"We believe in celebrating our diversity and fostering an environment where people from different backgrounds, experiences and all walks of life can succeed, and it's an honour to be recognised among our peers who share the same values."

The 2025 Diversity Leaders list was determined through an independent survey of more than 100,000 employees across 16 European countries.

Participants were asked to rank their employers' promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

## Viking's perfect pitch



**VIKING** Cruises and Vivaldi - they have much more in common than just the letter 'V'.

The renaissance composer played a key role in a performance on Sat evening, where the cruise line hosted some of its key partners at an exclusive dinner at Sydney's Government House.

NSW Governor Margaret Beazley presided over the annual Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Spring Dinner - an exclusive affair featuring special performances of never-before-heard Vivaldi music,

interspersed with a curated menu paired with a stellar selection of matched Australian wines.

Viking is a longstanding supporter of the orchestra, which is a world leader in bringing Baroque music to the fore with authentic instruments, thoughtful performance curation and exquisite musicianship. *BP*

Viking's Jane Moggridge and Kirsty Hill are **pictured** in the Government House venue flanking Brandenburg Orchestra Chair, Jane Hemstrich AO and NSW Governor Margaret Beazley.



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