



Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news.

Amsterdam ditched

AMBASSADOR Cruise Line will divert the remainder of its Amsterdam voyages for the year, following anti-cruise protests in the city.

The line's Amsterdam calls will instead berth at IJmuiden, with pax to then be shuttled to the Dutch capital.

An Ambassador spokesperson told the media an update regarding next year's Dutch ports of call will be provided soon.

Many lines have become caught in protests in Amsterdam this year, including Virgin Voyages (**CW** 02 Sep).

Ambassador was also prevented from docking in the city in Aug (**CW** 20 Aug).

Albatros joins CLIA in Australia

ALBATROS Expeditions has partnered with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), joining as a 'Regional Cruise Line' to support its local presence.

The partnership brings Albatros into CLIA's wider Australian cruise community, made up of cruise lines, travel advisors, and executive partners representing ports, destinations, tourism operators, and industry suppliers from around the world.

CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz said the addition of Albatros to the Association's membership highlights a growing interest in expedition cruising and its place within the wider tourism industry.

"Albatros Expeditions is part of an innovative class of expedition cruise lines catering to travellers who want close-up encounters with rich cultures, pristine landscapes and extraordinary wildlife," Katz said.



"Expedition cruising is one of the most dynamic and exciting areas of cruising, and we're delighted to have Albatros Expeditions join our community at such a time of innovation and development in this sector."

Albatros Expeditions Sales Director Craig Upshall said the cruise line looks forward to an even stronger collaboration with the Australian travel trade, and the CLIA community.

The Australian travel community

plays an important part in delivering guests to the cruise line, he added.

"Albatros Expeditions is excited to join CLIA, recognising the crucial role that trade engagement and travel agents play in shaping the future of the cruise industry," he said.

"We look forward to collaborating and contributing to its growth and innovation."

"As we look forward to developing our online booking tool in 2025, this will bring our product closer to our travel partners, making it easier to book and work with Albatros."

The cruise line recently welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer, Jakob Lunoe (**CW** 22 Nov).

Albatros' new head has a background in senior positions in the tech sector, with particular expertise in digital transformation and customer engagement. *MS*



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Cruise with Peter

PETER Sommer Travels has launched a new cruise in Greece's Cyclades next year.

The new 'Cruising the Cyclades' voyages will start and end on Naxos, and visits the island's capital, and the iconic Portara, the doorway of an archaic temple.

Travellers will also visit the stone basilica of Katapoliani on Paros; los' capital city Skarkos; the volcanically preserved town of Akrotiri; and Episkopi, Antiparos, and Delos.

The eight-night cruise departs three times - 19 Sep, 26 Sep, and 03 Oct - while there is also a 13-night option, departing 07 Sep.

Fares start from £3,995 per person (AU\$7,770), based on double occupancy.

The cruise will depart with a maximum of 12 guests - [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

I just can't get you out of my glass

PRINCESS Cruises has partnered with Kylie Minogue to add her No Alcohol Sparkling Rose to the brand's Love Line Premium Liquors Collection.

The wine will be available across the Princess fleet, offering guests notes of fresh strawberries.

"At Princess Cruises, we are dedicated to creating exceptional experiences that delight every guest, and our collaboration with Kylie Minogue is a perfect example of how we are always evolving to meet their needs," Vice President of Food & Beverage Sami Kohen said.

"Kylie's Sparkling Rose is an ideal fit for our Love Line Premium Liquors Collection, offering a refreshing, alcohol-free option that still delivers the premium taste and elegance our guests expect."

Minogue is the seventh celebrity to join the Love Line



Premium Liquors Collection, launched earlier this year, including American actress Blake Lively, and her Betty Booze and Betty Buzz lines (**CW** 28 Oct).

Other celebrities who are already part of the initiative include musicians Pitbull and Jason Aldean, actor Matthew McConaughey, and others.

The collection was launched earlier this year, and is available on all 16 ships in the fleet. Meanwhile, the celebrity

influence at Princess has also extended to the cruise line's advertising, with British actress and *Sun Princess* godmother Hannah Waddingham bringing the magic of *The Love Boat* back to life in a new ad for the brand (**CW** 25 Nov).

The new campaign sees Waddingham reintroduce audiences to one of television's most recognisable theme songs: *The Love Boat* - [CLICK HERE](#) to view. MS

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WILL *Sunrise's* Sam Mac be invited back on board a Disney Cruise Line ship any time soon? The jury is certainly out on that, after the television host committed an unfortunate no-no aboard *Disney Wonder* yesterday, live on air.

Mac surprised his co-star Natalie Barr with a drawing of a princess in her likeness, drawn at one of *Wonder's* magical restaurants, which holds the power to animate any drawing.

However, as Mac was showcasing the drawing to Barr and *Sunrise* viewers from aboard *Wonder*, Mac unfortunately lost his grip on his drawing in the sea breeze, dropping it overboard, and in the process, breaking arguably the number one law of the sea. "Anyone in New Zealand can you please return it to us?"

"If you find it in Auckland, we need that...I'm shocked," Mac told viewers.

"She's gone free - she'll wash up somewhere wonderful," Mac's fellow co-host Mark Beretta quipped.

If nothing else, Mac showcased exactly how one should behave on the deck of a cruise ship: maintaining one's firm grip at all times on anything which may fly away.



The six shades of Violet



BOUTIQUE Asian cruise brand Heritage Line has unveiled its new-look small ship *Violet* following an extensive makeover.

The smallest vessel in the Heritage fleet now features six distinctively decorated staterooms for guests to enjoy on Ha Long Bay sailings.

Each suite is uniquely named after natural wonders such as 'Water', 'Mountain', and 'Moon', with all six of the staterooms now offering brighter colour schemes inspired by French-Indochinese and Art Deco influences.

Guests will also enjoy a private balcony, upgraded amenities, and a more spacious layout.

Public spaces have been redesigned, with *Violet's* sun deck refined to preserve privacy, and new deck chairs added for guests to enjoy.

There are also new lounges for couples to relax at the aft of the ship, alongside a more intimate al fresco dining option.

Violet's main restaurant also boasts a new look and a new menu concept, which will be unveiled early next year.

Elsewhere, *Violet's* lounge,

bar, and day spa have also been refreshed with new furnishings and decor aimed at relaxation after a full day of exploring.

"Sailing through the breathtaking Ha Long Bay, *Violet* grants its residents the highest level of privacy and comfort," Heritage said. *ML*

Scenic incentive

AGENTS can earn a bonus \$100 in Scenic Group Rewards points on every new deposited ocean, river and land booking with Scenic and Emerald as part of a Black Friday promo.

The incentive is available on all new bookings made with both brands until 31 Dec.

Maximum bonuses can be earned on selected Scenic Eclipse Antarctica itineraries, with the incentive taking the potential earn per booking for agents to \$250.

Scenic river cruises in Europe are also lucrative, with top dollar earned on numerous 21-day sailings in France and the Douro river in Portugal.

CLICK HERE for more details.



CLIA UPDATE

with Joel Katz
MD, CLIA Australasia

Celebrating new talent

CLIA'S community of travel agents has grown enormously, which presents a fantastic opportunity to celebrate new talent as we prepare for our 22nd Annual Cruise Industry Awards.

With thousands of new members in Australasia, we're looking to honour not only the established performers of our CLIA network but also the new faces and rising stars who are helping to build cruising's success.

Nominations close at the end of Friday, so now is the time to put yourself forward and be in the running to win.

If you've never entered the CLIA awards before, it's a great opportunity to raise your career profile and gain recognition for your achievements.

A CLIA award is a resounding endorsement of your professionalism as a cruise specialist and helps elevate your standing among clients.

If you've entered previously, take the time to nominate again - your experience and dedication are among the qualities judges are looking for as they decide upon the leading performers in our industry.

Nominations are open to all CLIA members, and there are 10 different categories open to self-nomination or peer nomination - click here to nominate.

