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Wednesday 20th August 2025

Amun's arrival

VIKING has taken delivery of its newest river ship in Egypt, *Viking Amun* (CW 12 May).

The 42-suite vessel will navigate the Nile River on Viking's 12-day 'Pharaohs & Pyramids' itinerary.

'Power brand' set to rise

UNIWORLD is set to become a "power brand", as private equity firm Apollo pours further investment into its future, Uniworld MD Alice Ager announced at an event in Sydney last night (CW breaking news).

The Uniworld team will now oversee the Luxury Gold hotel business, giving the river cruise line the "superpower" to combine the experiences from 2027 onwards.

"It's fabulous, it's beautiful, five-star boutique hotels, [with] Michelin star dining experiences included, and this will become part of our portfolio," Ager said.

Uniworld will also increase its ship capacity by 40% over the next five years and currently has eight new-build ships under order, including the *SS Emilie*.

"[Apollo] wants to position Uniworld as the top of the river cruise market, investing deeply into a brand new build fleet,"



Ager explained.

The private equity firm will also beef up the line's tech and marketing systems to grow brand awareness.

"Uniworld is going to be taken to another level - we'll be chasing the luxury traveller like never before," enthused Ager.

"We're evolving into a travel company that offers all the things to a luxury guest." JHM

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from **CruiseCo**.

CruiseCo incentive

CRUISECO is offering agents a \$100 booking bonus to celebrate the launch of its Book and Go packages.

The incentive ends 31 Aug - discover more details on the **back page**.



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PORTHOLE



A COUPLE have shared the story of how they met, fell in love, and got married - all thanks to a stranded cruise ship.

After their three-and-a-half-year cruise was delayed for four months due to technical issues, two passengers - Gian (aged 63) and Angie Perroni (54) - got to know each other while waiting in Belfast.

When the residential ship finally set sail in Oct 2024, the couple had already gotten engaged, and were planning a huge wedding at sea.

The lovebirds told *The Sun* how their 300-guest ship-wide ceremony was "way too much fun", with the captain even plunging into the pool with the bride and groom.

NTIA '25 cruise finalists

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has announced the 2025 National Travel Industry Award (NTIA) finalists for the most outstanding judged categories.

Most Outstanding Sales Executive - Cruise will see the best and brightest battle it out, with Barbara Baron, APT Travel Group; Jodi Watson, Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours; Lauren Zischke, APT Travel Group; Moreshnie Pather, Princess Cruises; and Ramon Drew, Viking all in the running for the award.

The Most Outstanding Travel Consultant Leisure honour will also see cruise specialists vying for the title, including Fiona O'Dowd, ATPI Cruise and Travel Terrigal; Kai Floto, Southlands Travel and Cruise; as well as Samantha Renvoye (**pictured**), Clean Cruising.

Meanwhile, Cruise Lines International Association -



Australasia has received a nod in the Most Outstanding Travel Industry Training Program category, and Cruiseabout will vie for Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign, thanks to its Cruise Mega Sail promotion.

"This year's judged categories have been some of the most hotly contested we've ever seen at the NTIAs, with incredibly high-calibre submissions across the board," ATIA CEO Dean Long said.

The winners will be announced at the NTIA gala night on 18 Oct at The Star Brisbane.

Full list of NTIA finalists **HERE**.

Fincantieri sues

RENOWNED ship builder Fincantieri is suing Paroc Group, owned by Owens Corning, alleging that it obtained safety certificates relating to fire insulation panels on "false pretences by submitting altered materials for testing".

The ship builder suggests that the panels were used in three cruise ships and eight military ships and has caused over \$100 million in damages as well as significant reputational harm.

Cruise lines that have been caught up in the situation include MSC and Carnival.

The alleged wrong-doing was discovered when a competitor to Paroc Group tested its products and lodged a complaint when its testing suggested the insulation did not meet code.

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Atlas London offer

CRUISE Traveller has released a new package that pairs a complimentary three-night hotel stay in London with an Atlas Ocean Voyages journey through northern Europe.

Departing 07 Jun 2026, the 16-night package offers savings of \$4,080 per couple and a free bottle of champagne, when booked by 30 Sep 2025 - **CLICK HERE** to find out more.

New Brazil player flagged



A LEADING Brazilian travel company has flagged plans to directly enter the cruise segment after seeing a significant reduction in local ship deployment in the country.

During a recent earnings call, executives for CVC Viagens said that lower volumes were likely to impact its bottom line as cruise sales have been a major driver of its revenue over the last year.

"[Cruise sales] were relevant in the first half of the year and will be even more relevant in the second because the closer we get to the summer season, the more cruises we sell," CVC Executive President Fábio Godinho highlighted during the call.

"We have 30% less inventory... MSC has two fewer ships and Costa has one less, so we are considering bringing back our own ships so that we are not exposed to this type of reduction," he added.

CVC has form on the board when it comes to cruising, having previously chartered ships for several years in the 2000s.

While not stated explicitly, it is likely the company will look to

charter ships rather than order a newbuild, so that it can make up the shortfall in cruise bookings sooner in the Brazilian market.

CVC previously had vessels from companies Pullmantur, Ibero and Louis to service itineraries departing from ports like Santos, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Itajai, as well as cities such as Recife, Maceio and Vitoria.

Its cruise fleet peaked in the 2008/2009 season, when the company brought six ships to Brazil at the same time. AB

Pictured: *Empress*, which was one of the ships operated by CVC in 2008/2009 season.

Wonder to the US

THE ship that pulled out of the Australian market beyond this summer season will be redeployed to the United States to bolster cruise capacity from San Diego.

Disney Wonder will join *Disney Magic* from the Californian hub between Oct 2026 and Apr 2027, offering three- to seven-night options to places like Catalina Island.



Conference season opens in New Zealand

WE HAVE officially entered cruise conference season, and what an energising start it has been.

Last week I was in Napier for the New Zealand Cruise Association Conference, joining industry colleagues to discuss both the challenges and opportunities ahead.

While the outlook for 2025/26, in New Zealand, shows a significant drop in cruise bookings and port visits, the tone of the event was far from negative.

There was plenty of robust and solution-driven conversations on improving operating environments that will spur future growth of the sector, bringing welcome economic drivers to the region.

The highlight for me was a powerful ministerial presentation that discussed a recent roundtable, that brought together five key New Zealand Government ministers from Tourism, Transport, Biosecurity, Customs and the regions, all united in their support for the cruise sector.

This level of engagement sends a clear message that cruise is valued, and there is a willingness to work together to address the pressures of rising costs, regulatory requirements, and biosecurity measures.

It is encouraging to see such collaboration at a time when our region is in the global spotlight.

Later this month, CLIA's Cruise360 will bring together more industry leaders, followed by our own ACA Conference in Sep.

With so many international cruise executives and decision-makers visiting our shores, there is real momentum building, and I am confident these discussions will help shape the next stage of growth.

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To celebrate the launch of our new Book & Go packages, we're offering a **\$100 booking bonus** to the first 100 agents on all **Royal Caribbean** sailings departing Singapore between October 2025 and March 2026.

Simply make a deposited booking via CruiseCo within the offer period to be eligible.

*Conditions apply. Terms and Conditions: This promotion is exclusive to the first 100 Australian agents booking via CruiseCo and Creative Cruising Australia for all eligible sailings. Bookings made within the offer period for any Royal Caribbean sailing ex Singapore between October 2025 and March 2026 are eligible. Agents will receive a \$100 Prezzee eGift card per eligible booking at the conclusion of the incentive offer period. Payment will be made on the first 100 deposited bookings created between 23 May and 31 August 2025. Gift cards are non-transferable and not redeemable for cash. Gift card will be sent by email to the registered email address used when the booking is made. To ensure timely delivery of gift cards, agents are requested to provide full and accurate information to CruiseCo at the time of booking. The total incentive final amount will be advised no later than 30 September 2025. Failure to accurately record agent data including name and email address when booking may result in delays or ineligibility for payment. Changes to booking may result in removal of offer. Offers and prices are subject to availability, cancellation, and change without prior notice at any time. Fringe benefits tax (if any) is the liability of the legal employer of the employee. We recommend that you seek your own independent taxation advice to assess any impact of these prizes on your circumstances. Prezzee eGift Card, Royal Caribbean, Helloworld Travel and CruiseCo website terms and conditions apply. Contact CruiseCo for full details.