

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### CCL back to P. Vila

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) has returned to Port Vila, with *Carnival Adventure* to be the first ship call since last year's earthquake (**CW** 18 Dec).

*Adventure* will visit the Vanuatuan capital on 08 Aug, followed by *Carnival Encounter* and *Carnival Splendor* later in the month.

A temporary tendering port has been arranged, as work to repair the road linking the cruise terminal with the downtown area continues.

Carnival Corporation Country Manager Peter Little said CCL is "delighted" to be returning to Port Vila, bringing a much-needed economic boost.

## Most cruise lines passing on Greece tax

**MANY** cruise lines are planning to pass on Greece's incoming passenger tax to their guests, once it is implemented next week (**CW** 16 Jul).

Cruise travellers will be slugged an extra €20 per head (A\$35) when visiting popular ports such as Santorini (**pictured**) or Mykonos, with Ponant and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) believed to be some of the only cruise companies that will absorb this cost, rather than pass it on to guests.

"Following the introduction of a new cruise passenger tax in Greece, this summer Ponant Explorations has decided to cover the cost of the tax for the guests who had already booked their voyage," the cruise line told **CW** in a statement.

NCLH and its Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises brands will



also not pass the tax on.

"Beginning with the 2025 season and continuing into future seasons, NCLH will cover the cost of this fee, as the company had anticipated this increase," a company spokesperson told **CW**.

"We remain committed to providing a seamless guest experience and working collaboratively with local authorities to ensure sustainable tourism for our partners and the communities we visit."

Most cruise lines, however, are

including the levy as part of the guests' fare.

"Government taxes and fees are already included in the price of a Holland America Line cruise, and that is the case for our voyages this summer in Greece," a Holland America spokesperson told **CW**.

MSC Cruises will also pass on the tax to guests who disembark the ship, through a charge to their onboard account.

However, those who do not disembark will have the fee covered for them. **MS**


# RIVER<sup>of</sup> REWARDS

## Your Passport to the Danube



WIN A PLACE ON OUR MEGA FAMIL  
ENDS 28 FEBRUARY 2026

\*Conditions apply

 AMAWATERWAYS®





[Click here to discover](#)

Travel Daily

**SHARPEN YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE  
ON TAIWAN &  
EVA AIR**

Travel Daily  
Training Academy

## River of rewards

**AN ENTIRE** ship of agents from Australia and New Zealand will be treated to a famil by AmaWaterways as part of a “mega” new trade incentive launched this week.

Dubbed ‘River of Rewards’, the eight-month campaign is now open, with each winning advisor able to bring a travelling companion.

Agents will need to complete a series of challenges to be in the running, starting with a 10-question quiz testing their knowledge of AmaWaterways and the Danube.

Agents can qualify for the incentive by being a monthly top seller of AmaWaterways across both FIT and Groups or by engaging in the monthly challenges to earn points.

The incentive will culminate with a weeklong sailing from 02-09 Aug 2026 on board the new *AmaSofia* on the line’s popular ‘Melodies of the Danube’ cruise from Budapest to Vilshofen, complete with guided tours, onboard dining, guest seminars, and more.

“The mega famil is not only a celebration of top performers, but a hands-on learning journey that we hope will inspire and empower our partners to grow their river cruise business,” said AmaWaterways Managing Director AU/NZ, Steve Richards.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## Sip into the South of France

**OCEANIA** Cruises has expanded its culinary program with an exclusive Gerard Bertrand Food and Wine Pairing lunch, a new signature experience designed to elevate the cruise line’s food and wine offerings.

Debuting today during the inaugural voyage of *Allura* (CW 11 Jul), the indulgent six-course lunch matches dishes with hand-picked wines from French winemaker, Gerard Bertrand.

The experience takes place in Oceania’s signature French restaurant, Jacques, and is available for up to 40 guests on select days during each voyage.

The menu is suited to wine connoisseurs and novices alike, featuring selections like venetian risotto riced calamari scallop and leeks paired with a white wine with citrus notes, the Gerard Bertrand Chateau l’Hospitalet La Clape White Blend.

There is also a potato fritter with Sturia Oscietra caviar and vodka-lime chantilly accompanied by the winemaker’s Cabrieres ‘Clos du Temple’ rose.

Guests can also enjoy braised beef short rib with pressed potato cake and glazed carrot, coupled with Gerard Bertrand Minervois La Liviniere ‘Clos d’Ora’ - a smooth red wine.

Diners will have their sweet tooth satisfied with a gold



chocolate cake from Belgian chocolate brand Callebaut, accompanied by caramel and white chocolate mousse and hazelnut praline, complemented by a dessert wine.

“At Oceania Cruises, we are always looking for unique ways to inspire curiosity and create deeper connections through our onboard offerings,” Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

“Our guests aren’t simply looking to enjoy exceptional food and wine, they want to explore, learn and personalise their luxury cruise vacation in meaningful ways,” he added.

“The new Gerard Bertrand experience is a perfect example of how we continue to expand our diverse collection of discovery-led offerings, allowing guests to connect with place, people and culture from a fresh perspective.”

The Gerard Bertrand Food and Wine Pairing experience is available for US\$175 per person (excluding gratuities). JM

## Wine not try this?

**A NEW** wine-themed cruise on the Rhone and Saone rivers has been introduced by CroisiEurope, offering passengers the chance to visit some of France’s most celebrated vineyards.

The seven-night cruise departs 21 Oct 2026 on *Rhone Princess*, round tripping from Lyon, with calls in Macon, Vienne, Avignon, Arles, Camargue and Tournon.

Combining wine, art, and history, the cruise offers an immersion into some of France’s great vineyards.

This includes renowned winemakers such as Beaujolais, Condrieu, Cote-Rotie, Tain l’Hermitage and Saint-Remy-de-Provence.

There will also be visits to the Palais des Papes in Avignon, Arles’ ancient city, and the medieval village of Viviers.

The cruise is priced from €1,995pp (A\$3,566pp), including all meals and drinks, excursions, wi-fi, port fees, and repatriation insurance.

## A HAL of a tour

**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) is bringing back its behind-the-scenes ship tours.

Guests will be allowed exclusive access to rarely-seen areas, such as the ship’s galley, bridge, engine control room, and more.



**TIME** is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

## JOIN THE PRESTIGIOUS RANK OF TIME MENTORS

Provide knowledge, guidance and advice to aspirational individuals within the Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and the Aviation industry.

Prospective Mentors are invited to complete an Expression of Interest form which is submitted to the TIME Board for approval.

Visit [www.travelindustrymentor.com.au](http://www.travelindustrymentor.com.au) or **CLICK HERE** to download your Expression of Interest or for more information call us on

**+61 (0)2 8411 1506**

[www.travelindustrymentor.com.au](http://www.travelindustrymentor.com.au)



**SO-CALLED** TikTok influencers have a lot to answer for in terms of social disruption and some of the ridiculous and dangerous trends they inspire.

One in particular, known as Megan Million, recently uploaded a video of herself on a Norwegian Cruise Line ship, in the midst of a dangerous prank, telling a crew member she was going to jump overboard later that night.

Naturally, the crew member became worried and began urging Million not to do it, as he tried to work out how serious she was.

Whether or not the crew member reported the threat to ship superiors is unknown, but one of the video's viewers, Alex Roberson, certainly did.

"Thank you for sharing this with us, and we have shared it with the appropriate team members," NCL's team said in response to Roberson's notice.

Other viewers of the video called for Million to be banned from cruise ships, while others likened it to prank-calling emergency services, admonishing Million for scaring the crew member.

Million was clearly unaware of statistics from CLIA showing only 28% of those who go overboard are rescued, which should serve as a reminder that a MOB is no joke.

## Explora to rev up again



**EXPLORA** Journeys is returning to Monaco for the city's Formula 1 Grand Prix next year.

The cruise line's *Explora I* will return to Port Hercule for next year's Grand Prix de Monaco from 03 to 08 Jun, playing host to exclusive events and curated luxury showcases during race week, the brand said.

*Explora II* (pictured) marked the cruise line's debut at the Monaco Grand Prix this year, with the vessel hosting passengers metres from the circuit, as the only cruise ship in town (**CW** 16 May).

The experience aboard *Explora II* this year featured a VR race simulator; racing trivia; miniature tracks; appearances from Formula 1 legends like Jackie Stewart and David Coulthard; and high-end jewellery showcases from Buccellati, Panerai, and Piaget.

*Explora II* also came alive at night with soirees, themed cocktails, and a champagne celebration (**CW** 27 May).

The latest announcement continues the momentum of the partnership between Explora's parent company MSC Group, and Formula 1, which was recently extended until the end of the decade (**CW** 27 May).

"The Monaco race weekend has become a meaningful and unforgettable chapter in the ever-evolving story of Explora," President Anna Nash said.

"Our return to the Formula 1 Grand Prix de Monaco in 2026 is not just a celebration - it's a reaffirmation of our belief that true luxury is found in the richness of experience." MS

## Very Clean work

**CRUISE** agency Clean

Cruising has been recognised as one of Australia's 'Best Places to Work' by *The Australian* and employee experience platform WorkL.

Clean Cruising was named in the medium-sized business category of between 50 and 250 employees, with WorkL praising the company's high levels of job satisfaction, wellbeing, empowerment and employee rewards.

Australia's top workplaces were selected based on a confidential 31-question poll developed by behavioural scientists and experts.

Other businesses that made the list include 1Cover Travel Insurance, G Adventures, and The Big Banana Fun Park.



**PLATINUM PARTNERS**

**CVR TRAVEL GROUP**

**LIVE NOW**

**EXPEDIA TAAP**

**ROYAL CARIBBEAN**

**HOME EX**  
HOME AGENT  
VIRTUAL  
EXPERIENCE

**SIGN UP FREE HERE**

