

### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Imagine Cruising**.

### Imagining more

**IMAGINE** Cruising is offering a luxury all-inclusive Mekong cruise, visiting Vietnam and Cambodia across 21 nights, and available from \$6,499pp - see **page 4** for info.

### Del Rio returns

**FORMER** President and CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Frank Del Rio has reportedly taken up a Director role with Cruise Saudi.

The wealth fund is charged with developing port infrastructure and the cruise brand Aroya Cruises, as Saudi Arabia funnels huge investment into the segment.

## Cruise grows despite impediments

**LAST** year the Australian cruise industry came close to eclipsing its biggest-ever year in 2018, falling only 300,000 passengers short with 1.32 million.

The numbers were revealed in Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) latest *Source Market Report* for Australia, which also represented a 5.9% increase on the previous year.

The most popular cruise region for Australians was close to home, with Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific making up the bulk with 81%.

This was followed by the Mediterranean (6.2%); Asia (3.3%); Alaska (2.3%); the Caribbean (1.2%); Hawaii and the US West Coast (1.1%); and northern Europe (1.1%).

CLIA figures also revealed a healthy 14% bump in overseas arrivals to cruise Australasia, with 247,000 passengers arriving for sailings in Australia, New Zealand



and the South Pacific.

The appetite among Aussies for fly-cruise holidays also continued to grow in 2024, increasing from 15.2% in 2023 to 18.5%.

Australia was the fourth-largest source market, behind only the US (19.12 million), Germany (2.57 million) and the UK (2.34 million).

Despite the obvious rise in demand for cruises in Australia, CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said the growth was still being curtailed by challenging operating conditions.

"We need a regional focus on encouraging cruise ship deployment in local waters," Katz warned, adding that while the appetite for sailings remain strong, governments, destinations and industry stakeholders need to

work together to address the high costs and regulatory difficulties in the region.

"Cruising supports many thousands of local jobs, but we are going to suffer a decline in cruise ship deployment in this region while other global destinations reap the economic rewards," Katz added.

Further insights showed the average age of the Aussie cruiser held steady at 48, while roughly a third of cruise passengers are now aged under 40.

The data also reflected the ongoing shift toward shorter itineraries, with the average eight days at sea down slightly from 8.1 days noted in 2023.

Around one in 20 Australians took an ocean cruise last year - one of the highest rates of cruise penetration in the world.

A record 34.6m people took an ocean cruise globally, a 9.3% increase on the prior record. **AB**

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On location on board  
*Ovation of the Seas*

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean, which is this week welcoming us on board *Ovation of the Seas* as the ship returns to her southern winter home port of Los Angeles.

**SUMMER** has officially arrived in the northern hemisphere, which means Royal Caribbean's Sydney-based *Ovation of the Seas* has returned to her seasonal home port of LA.

*Cruise Weekly* is one of few trade media representatives on board *Ovation's* three-night sailing to Mexico this week.

Guests will today be welcomed with an official media cocktail hour in anticipation of *Ovation* setting sail for Ensenada.

## Four Seasons design goes overboard

**FOUR** Seasons Yachts has unveiled its Marina Day Experience, which aims to set a new benchmark for seaside programming in the cruise sector.

The soon-to-debut boutique line will launch its inaugural ship *Four Seasons I* next year, which will feature a transverse marina (pictured) that can be deployed on both sides of the vessel.

The marina will include two retractable platforms spanning two decks - one portside and one starboard side - along with a spacious interior bar and lounge.

Capable of accommodating up to 105 guests, the marina will host dedicated days for activities such as watersports, wellness, dining, and more.

Fitness classes on the marina will include water-based exercises with electric hydrofoils and water bikes, while those preferring a leisurely pace can use kayaks or inflatable waterboards



The design departs from the tradition aft model, providing the vessel with enhanced versatility and improved stability.

Marina Days will take place throughout most itineraries, in destinations such as Mayreau, Soufriere Bay, the Gulf of Squillace and Monte Argentario.

"Guests will explore remarkable destinations, beautiful bays and hidden coves while enjoying adventures on kayaks, paddleboards, and superyacht water toys that let them glide effortlessly across the water,"

explains Tim Littley, VP of Itinerary & Planning at Marc-Henry Cruise Holdings, joint owner of Four Seasons Yachts.

"These marina days will add a new element of discovery and fun, and we look forward to introducing our guests to this one-of-a-kind experience."

Meanwhile, Four Seasons will also introduce The Grand Touring Experience, featuring the bespoke Limo Tender and Beachlander, which will transport guests while at anchor and in select ports.

The Limo Tender offers guests a 10-metre vessel for those seeking a private group outing or a romantic escape with personal touches and a private captain.

Guests opting in to the Beachlander experience will hop aboard a similar craft, transporting them to exclusive beach clubs, remote coves, vibrant reefs for snorkeling, and scenic coastal cruising. *MS*

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**A COURT** in Germany has ruled in favour of a man who was kicked off a cruise ship after he allegedly urinated in a glass at a bar.

The glass was said to have been left at the bar by the man and his two travelling companions, with wait staff later discovering the urine-filled drinking vessel.

However the cruise line - which has not been identified - perhaps got one-up on the group later on during the voyage, when they were prevented from reboarding the ship during a port call, and were told to book their own flights home.

The man sued the cruise line, and ultimately, the court found that his alleged actions, which the man has continued to deny, did not justify his removal from the vessel without any notice or prior warning, awarding him €9,000 in damages and costs.

## TUI floats second LNG ship

TUI Cruises and shipbuilder Fincantieri have launched their new ship *Mein Schiff Flow* in Monfalcone (pictured).

The vessel is the second of two cruise ships Fincantieri is building for TUI, both of which are designed for dual-fuel operations.

*Flow* is a sister ship to *Mein Schiff Relax*, which was delivered in Feb (CW 11 Feb), and is the second of the two InTuition-class vessels, which are designed for liquefied natural gas and MNG.

The ship will also be future-proofed with the ability to utilise low-emission fuels, such as bio- or e-LNG, once she enters service from the middle of next year.

*Flow* will also boast an electrical shore-power connection, as well as a number of other green features such as catalytic converters meeting Euro 6 standards, a steam turbine, and a waste treatment system capable of transforming organic materials into recyclable components through a thermal process.

On board, guests will be able to enjoy an extra long pool and lounge atmosphere at Bar 17, the main restaurant Atlantik which



spans two decks, and The Street Art Bar, which offers passengers a cozy and modern ambience.

Fincantieri also recently signed an agreement with TUI for two new cruise ships for its Marella Cruises brand, marking the first-ever newbuilds for the line (CW 02 Apr). MS

## 60% off Celestyal

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has launched its European summer campaign, offering up to 60% off cruises, free shore excursions, and bonus credit.

The promotion is available on 87 sailings between Jun 2025 and Mar 2027, including seven departures of the three- and four-night 'Iconic Greek Islands' cruise, which start from \$549pp twin share.

All voyages in the promo also feature 25% extra on all credit added to the CelestyalPay tab before departure, earning pax up to €250 of onboard spend.



On Board: *Ovation of the Seas*

### Amber & Oak

Always popular with *Ovation of the Seas*' Australian guests is Amber & Oak, the pub-style venue located on deck 4. This alehouse serves up a range of premium beers from around the world, along with unpretentious bar snacks, making it the perfect setting for some onboard trivia or live music.

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