

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news plus a full page from Silversea.

Sitka ticks cruise

RESIDENTS of the city of Sitka in Alaska have voted against limiting cruise ship visitors to 300,000 annually by a margin of two-to-one.

40% off Silversea

SILVERSEA'S limited-time offer, which allows passengers to save up to 40% on sailings, will expire on 13 Jul.

Passengers can enjoy significant discounts on more than 700 voyages as part of the promotion, available on select suite categories, and is also combinable with Silversea's all-inclusive fares. See **page five** for details.

Royal courting younger pax energy

ROYAL Caribbean's onboard atmosphere will help attract younger cruisers to the line, Senior VP Sales & Trade Relations Vicki Freed believes.

The Royal Caribbean executive, speaking at a Q&A session on *Ovation of the Seas* yesterday, said she believes the cruise line's combination of quality and energy is perfectly suited to attracting younger Millennial and Generation Z passengers.

"There are other quality lines out there, and there are lines that have energy, but nobody else has that combination of quality meets energy," Freed said.

"That energy piece is what's catering to the new generation of cruisers, and they're loving the experience," she added.

Live music in particular helps Royal Caribbean bring this onboard personality to life, Freed said, with the line's performers



playing a central role developing a program that resonates with younger cruisers.

This includes the new Dueling Pianos show aboard its new ships *Icon of the Seas* and *Star of the Seas*, and the live 17-member orchestra on *Icon*.

"All of our entertainment is really geared toward live music... we have a lot of the energy on

our ships," Freed enthused.

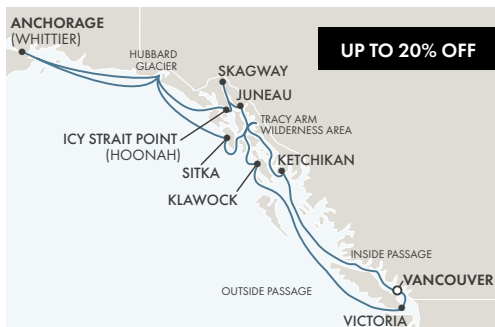
"We are going big time on live where a lot of people have gone to tape music or DJs.

"While those ideas can work, for us, it is about having the street parties on the Royal Promenade on the bigger ships, so we're not having any trouble attracting that [younger] audience." *MS*

Pictured: Dueling Pianos show.

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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.

TODAY is a day at sea as we cruise to Mexico, meaning we will get to enjoy all that *Ovation of the Seas* has to offer.

First up, we will experience *Ovation's* NorthStar elevated observation deck, which serves as one of the many top-deck "showstoppers" that the Royal Caribbean brand has become famous for.

Later in the day we will experience the musical genius of the house string quartet, before dinner at Jamie's Italian.

Voyages fit for Cunard's four Queens

CUNARD Line has launched 195 new voyages between 2027-2028, visiting 115 destinations across the globe.

The new itineraries include sailings to 93 UNESCO sites, as well as 18 overnight port calls and 33 late-evening departures.

Among the highlights are four maiden calls for Cunard's newest ship, *Queen Anne*, including Sorrento and La Rochelle.

The ship will be based in Southampton for the season, sailing on Mediterranean getaways to Nordic adventures in search of the Northern Lights.

Other highlights will include extended time in Barcelona and Copenhagen, as well as a late-evening New Year's Eve call in Madeira to witness the fireworks.

Queen Mary 2 (pictured) will make a maiden call for Cunard during the season, with her visit to Charlottetown in Canada.

She will continue to offer iconic transatlantic crossings following



her major refit in early 2027, as well as immersive itineraries to Norway, Canada, New England, the North Cape, and the Caribbean, where guests can spend Christmas and New Year's.

A highlight of her season will also see *Mary 2* spend Independence Day in Boston.

Meanwhile, *Queen Victoria* will also enjoy a first visit to Riga during her season voyaging the waters of the United Kingdom

round-trips from Southampton.

Itineraries will include Scandinavia and the Mediterranean, as well as Iceland, where Cunard will make its first visit to Grundarfjörður since 2009.

Queen Elizabeth will round out the season visiting Trieste and Calvi for the first time during her return to Europe, sailing 65 new itineraries varying from seven to 28 nights. *MS*



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Give Crystal a lick

CRYSTAL is exclusively collaborating with gelato producer Badiani.

Pax aboard *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity* can now savour a newly curated selection of gelato flavours crafted by the Florentine gelato producer at the Scoops Gelato Bar, with options like Buontalenti, Cioccolatissimo, and Croccantino al Rum.

Oceania's tasty cruises return



OCEANIA Cruises has announced its speciality voyages for next year, which will feature celebrated culinary figures, exclusive events, hosted shore excursions, and more.

Returning for next year's specialty program are chefs Claudine Pepin and Sara Moulton, along with Oceania's own Executive Culinary Directors and Master Chefs of France, Alexis Quaretti and Eric Barale.

Guests will enjoy culinary demonstrations, hosted shore excursions, and dinners, with Moulton to join a 12-day cruise from Lisbon to Paris, departing 12 May 2026 aboard *Marina*.

Pepin will join a 12-day round trip from Seattle departing 02 Jul 2026 aboard *Riviera*, while Quaretti and Barale will both lead a 10-day cruise from Belfast to Lisbon, departing 15 Sep 2026 aboard *Marina*.

Also included in next year's speciality voyages is the Oceania Club Reunion Cruise, which will be hosted by the club's head Neli Arias and the Oceania team.

The cruise will sail for 10 days from Barcelona to Rome,

departing 05 Nov 2026 aboard *Marina* and treating guests to Oceania's gala brunch, exclusive dinners, cocktail receptions, and tailored shore excursions.

More speciality cruises for next year will be confirmed at a later date, Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

"With the return of celebrated culinary talents...these voyages offer guests opportunities to enjoy the finest cuisine, discover rich cultures, and create lasting connections both on board and ashore," Montague said. *MS*

Hassle-free Ponant

PONANT has introduced a fly, stay and cruise package for Kimberley cruises this year.

Available on 16 departures between May and Sep, the package includes return economy airfares from major ANZ cities, a 10-night sailing, transfers, and Zodiac landings.

The new bundle is on offer until 30 Sep, with prices for a deluxe stateroom with private balcony starting from \$13,670 per person - more info **HERE**.

The end of the world

SILVERSEA has completed its Controtempo World Cruise 2025, after 136 days visiting 30 countries aboard *Silver Dawn*.

The cruise disembarked in New York City on Thu, having cast off on 13 Jan in Tokyo.

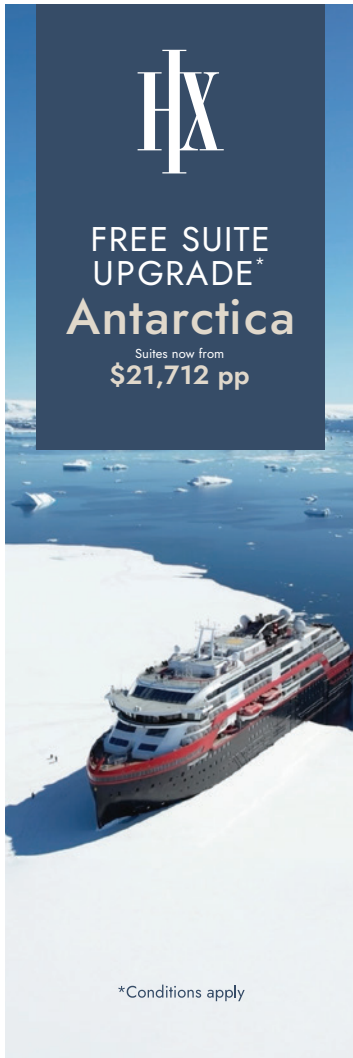
Guests visited Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America, with highlights including Da Nang, Singapore, Namibia, Rouen, and Stockholm.

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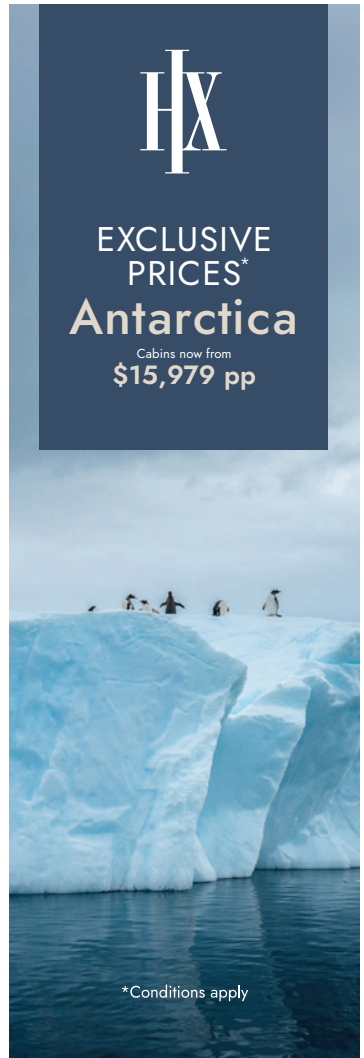
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Holland  America



FOR those who have a spare US\$300 million (A\$468 million) lying around, you soon may be able to score yourself a new Russian superyacht.

The vessel, which an American court recently decreed as belonging to Russian billionaire and oligarch Suleiman Kerimov, is now up for sale, according to *The New York Times*.

She is on the market because the judge presiding over the case to determine its future has decided Kerimov is indeed the ship's owner - a claim he has denied to avoid the ship's seizure by the United States under laws introduced by the Biden administration.

The yacht has an infinity pool, a movie theatre, and a helicopter pad, and is one of the most expensive vessels of its kind ever designed.

NCL guest overboard

A GUEST on board a Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) vessel fell off the gangway and into the water after the ship separated from the pier due to strong winds on 30 May.

The passenger sustained minor injuries during the incident, which occurred while *Norwegian Epic* was docked in Catania, Sicily.

NCL said crew members assisted the guest immediately.

CruiseHQ reveal Icon-ic winner



CRUISEHQ has crowned its top Royal Caribbean travel advisor as part of its "iconic" incentive with the cruise line (**CW** 24 Jan).

The campaign celebrated top-performing advisors across Australia, with the ultimate prize being one of 10 spots aboard *Icon of the Seas* - the world's largest ship - on a seven-night itinerary in the Caribbean.

Ash Sims from Cruiseabout was celebrated as the top overall performer throughout the campaign period, and was invited to Royal Caribbean's head office to meet with senior leaders from the line and CruiseHQ.

Sims will now travel on the coveted 'Western Caribbean and Perfect Day' sailing departing Miami on 16 Aug.

"Being able to experience the world's biggest ship, *Icon of the Seas*, is an unreal opportunity," Sims enthused.

"I'm eager to explore its incredible features and bring that knowledge back to help my clients," she added.

The rest of the winning advisors will be announced shortly.

"This campaign delivered a strong uplift in Royal Caribbean

sales through CruiseHQ and reinforced our commitment to supporting advisors with such amazing opportunities to experience world-class brands," CruiseHQ General Manager Caroline Hitchen said.

"A big thank you to all participating advisors and to Royal Caribbean for their ongoing support and partnership throughout the incentive." *MS*

Pictured are Royal Caribbean Director of Sales Dave Humphreys; Head of Retail Sales Nicole Stojic; Sims; Hitchen; and CruiseHQ Marketing Manager Caitlyn Paris.

Lefebvre leads WTTC

FORMER Silversea boss Manfredi Lefebvre has been appointed Chair-Elect of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

Lefebvre, who is also Chairman of Heritage Group and co-chair of luxury travel company Abercrombie and Kent, will take up the position in Sep during the global tourism body's 25th Global Summit in Rome.

See the sun on HAL

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has unveiled its 2027 solar eclipse cruises, with passengers able to take in the celestial event on board an in-depth Mediterranean journey.

The total solar eclipse will occur on 02 Aug next year, with the path of totality crossing over North Africa.

Two Holland America Line ships, *Nieuw Statendam* and *Oosterdam*, will be positioned off the western coast of Morocco and eastern Tunisia respectively, for passengers on board to experience maximum totality of the eclipse.

Nieuw Statendam will sail on a 28-day 'Legendary Solar Eclipse & Cosmic Port Explorer' cruise, while *Oosterdam* will depart on a 14-day 'Solar Eclipse & Astronomical Discovery' itinerary.

Travellers can expect lectures, themed activities, and the opportunity to connect with scientific experts.

"The excitement around viewing a total solar eclipse the past few years has been palpable, and we jumped at the chance to create more itineraries that give our guests the incomparable opportunity of viewing the eclipse," VP Deployment Paul Grigsby said. "When you're at sea, there is a greater opportunity to witness an eclipse in the clear because the ship can attempt to position itself away from cloud cover - and the view on the horizon means you get more of the shadow coming in and going out," he added.



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