

Cruise Weekly today

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

New godparents

OCEANIA Cruises has named a collection of *Food & Wine* Best New Chefs as the godparents of its newest ship *Allura*, joining the christening ceremony in Miami on 13 Nov.

The ship will debut next month, and will introduce almost 300 fresh onboard recipes, a hands-on Culinary Center, and more.

The announcement was unveiled late last week at a *Food & Wine* event in Aspen.

"By naming *Food & Wine* Best New Chefs alumni as the godparents of *Allura*, we're paying homage to the future of food and the creative forces driving it forward," said Jason Montague, Oceania's head.

Cunard's agent pledge

NEW Cunard Line Sales & Marketing Director Amy Williams (**CW** 04 Mar) has been tasked with carrying forward the brand's key platforms: entertainment, wellness, cuisine, and a commitment to the Australian travel trade.

Williams (**pictured**), who spoke to **Cruise Weekly** in her first interview as Cunard's local leader, said the cruise line will increase its level of devotion to its travel advisor partners despite the redeployment of line's locally based vessel *Queen Elizabeth* (**CW** 12 Jun).

The long-time Cunard employee is now the top of the cruise line's local operation following the departure of Commercial Director Katrina McAlpine earlier this year (**CW** 07 Jan), and will be carrying on the former leader's mandate of involving advisors in the brand's success.

This includes the cruise



line's recently revamped trade engagement platforms, with a series of 10 trade training videos featuring the local team, designed to convey key information to trade partners.

The videos cover the *Princess Grill* (**CLICK HERE**), the *Queens Grill* (**CLICK HERE**), and Cunard's dining options (**CLICK HERE**).

Key will be the entertainment program, with Cunard offering a number of theatrical shows on board, in addition to hosting high-profile speakers.

This includes representatives from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society for *Queen Elizabeth's* Alaska season, which started this month (**CW** 15 May).

Cunard is also making wellness as a key priority.

Queen Elizabeth was recently updated with The Pavilion Wellness Cafe (**CW** 19 Mar), which serves a plant-based menu, alongside sustainable meat, fish, and dairy.

The concept has been taken from *Queen Elizabeth's* sister ship *Queen Anne*, with Williams confirming Cunard is experiencing significant demand from Aussies its the new flagship. *MS*

A Regent's treat

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' greatest savings offer ends this month, with up to 50% off a number of the line's voyages.

The sale ends 30 Jun, on select cruises 2025 and 2026, call 1300 455 200.

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RSSC trialling more casual dining

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) upcoming ship *Seven Seas Prestige* (CW 09 May) will take a more casual approach to dining, in response to guest preferences changing in the luxury sector.

Vice President Sales & General Manager Lisa Pile (pictured), speaking at an RSSC event earlier this month, said feedback had indicated guests do not want fine dining every night of their cruise.

"Chartreuse on the Explorer-class ships was probably more fine dining; we called it 'classic French with a modern twist'... now we're reviewing Chartreuse and it's becoming more 'bistro French'," she explained.

"It's got a bit more of a relaxed atmosphere, not so heavy on the sauces, so this new Chartreuse reflects the new menu of the 'bistro Chartreuse'."

Guests particularly prefer a more relaxed dining style after a



day on shore, Pile added.

"They come back and they naturally gravitate to the pool deck for a glass of champagne or a beer...some people just don't want to go back to their suite, have a shower, get dressed to go for dinner, they want the option to dine by the pool," she said.

"We're reintroducing dining by the pool, and that will be throughout the entire fleet

"The new pool grill has got much more of a beach club atmosphere...[it's] extremely elegant, but it has that lovely relaxed feel as well."

Other brand-new dining options

tailored to Australians on the upcoming *Prestige* include the Mediterranean-influenced *Azure* (CW 15 May), which allows guests to enjoy a unique mezze-style concept designed for sharing.

"This style of cuisine is of course already very popular in Australia given our heritage and mix of European cultures," Senior Vice President International & Consumer Sales Steve Odell explained to *Cruise Weekly*.

"We expect La Veranda and Sette Mari at La Veranda will also be popular with Australians with its chic indoor dining room or the shaded, open-air deck...it boasts the most expansive alfresco dining area ever seen on a Regent ship," he added.

Asian restaurant Pacific Rim on RSSC's Explorer-class ships is also a popular choice for Aussies, Odell said, with the restaurant soon to be revamped. *MS*

Eclipse II Antarctica

SCENIC Luxury Cruises & Tours has announced expert-led voyages to East Antarctica and the Ross Sea on board *Scenic Eclipse II*.

The new journeys will take place between Dec and Feb, and are the last planned *Scenic Eclipse II* departures to this region of Antarctica.

The cruises will set sail from Hobart and New Zealand, with experts including Robert Swan, the first person in history to walk to both the North and South Pole; and his son Barney, who skied to the South Pole with his father in 2018.

Also joining the program will be Ian Godfrey, Head Conservator at the Mawson's Huts Foundation, who leads critical expeditions to monitor and preserve the historic 112-year-old collection of buildings at Cape Denison.

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WHAT'S that in the sky - a bird, a plane, a...boat?

In Washington, 14 abandoned boats were airlifted off an uninhabited island by firefighting helicopters this week, taking them to the mainland where they can be deconstructed later.

"It was a very, very weird sight," said Kate Gervais, who owns Boston Harbor Marina, just north of Olympia.

"The sail boat with the mast was the weirdest one to see."

While it may seem like towing boats off an island would be more logical, the Washington Department of Natural Resources opted to airlift them to avoid disrupting the surrounding environment.

Interestingly, the department has hauled more than 1,200 derelict vessels since the boat removal program began three years ago and there are 300 that are yet to be rescued.

Carnival tech deal

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has selected DXC Technology to power its tech infrastructure, and support its guest experiences across its fleet.

The agreement will also extend to Carnival's portside operations, with DXC delivering reliable and scalable IT services designed to enhance efficiency.

Carnival turning the Key



CARNIVAL Cruise Line is getting ready to "unlock paradise", with the opening of Celebration Key (pictured), the first destination to be built specifically for the brand's guests.

Celebration Key is set to debut in just a few weeks, with Carnival President Christine Duffy to officially open the destination.

Located on the island of Grand Bahama, Celebration Key is part of the cruise line's Paradise Collection, which also includes RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay; and Isla Tropical, which will both receive enhancements next year (CW 12 Dec).

Guests will enter Celebration Key through the Sun Portal (pictured), where they will first encounter Paradise Plaza, offering wayfinding and destination information to help passengers choose how they want to spend their day.

One of Celebration Key's highlights will be the 10-storey Suncastle, adorned with five massive conch shells, and the centerpiece of the destination's five distinct portals.

The Suncastle features two

water slides, each more than 100 metres long. MS

An exploding Star

STARCUISES has unveiled new itineraries for *Star Voyager's* extended Hong Kong deployment, sailing across East and South East Asia, now until 14 Nov.

Voyager will sail weekly from Hong Kong Ocean Terminal, offering a total of 45 sailings during her more than five-month home port in the city.

The now-extended season builds on the original 21 cruises scheduled from 27 Jun to 29 Aug.

The cruises range from two to five nights.



FOR SALE: two well-established Australian travel publications.

Signature Media is exploring the sale of two of its popular consumer travel titles in order to re-focus on our core publications. This offers a unique opportunity to acquire and further develop these highly respected publications, and we'd love to find them an excellent home.

Vacations & Travel

Established over 41 years: Australia's longest-running consumer travel magazine and a trusted source of travel inspiration and information for Australian travellers. Full suite of established digital platforms.



Ski & Snowboard

Operating for over 19 years: originally launched as Ski & Snowboard with Kids, expanded in 2025 to serve the wider snow travel market. Editorial focus: Global ski destinations, gear reviews and expert advice.



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