

### Third eclipse cruise

**PRINCESS** Cruises has added a third solar eclipse voyage for next year, a 14-day journey in the Mediterranean.

The 'Mediterranean & Adriatic with Total Solar Eclipse' cruise on board *Enchanted Princess* will depart from Rome on 04 Aug 2026.

The cruise line's two other solar eclipse voyages depart aboard *Sky* and *Sun Princess*.

### Avalon to package with Globus



#### EXCLUSIVE

**AVALON** Waterways will package more product with its sister brand Globus under new MD Chris Hall's leadership.

The strategy of pairing a river cruise with a land itinerary from its premium touring sister brand will cater to the desires of Australian travellers, the new Globus Family of Brands head (pictured) told **CW**.

"Something we haven't really taken advantage of is the combination opportunities there are between either river-plus-river, or river-plus-land," he said.

"From what I can see, we've done a few things in the past, but I do think that there's an opportunity for more of that, particularly for our market, where we travel longer...we don't just go for a seven-night river cruise, there are always add-ons.

"It's really about having an

overall holiday packaged up with what the market is wanting...we need to look closely and make sure we're serving up the right packages," he added.

Sharper combination itineraries will also help Avalon differentiate itself in the market, as ocean lines and other travel brands rush to launch river cruise products.

"We don't have an aggressive approach to growth...it's more of a responsible pace is how we see it," Hall explained.

"We're not trying to be everything to all people, and I think the size and this intended growth makes sense for the demand that we've got."

The cruise line has a commitment to inventory growth of 5%-7% each year, which Hall believes is enough to answer to the growing demand for the river cruise sector.

"I think some of the data going around says there's a 50% increase in demand coming over the next three to five years, and we'll participate in that as we also lift our capacity," he said. **MS**

#### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Teeing up in France

**AMAWATERWAYS** has expanded its dedicated Concierge Golf Program to France's Seine.

Launching on the popular 'Impressions of the Seine & Paris' itinerary aboard *AmaDante*, the new program has been developed in an exclusive partnership with tour operator LGT Golf - **CLICK HERE** for more information.



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## Lindblad river trip

**TWO** eight-day itineraries have been revealed by Lindblad Expeditions as the brand gears up to debut its new European river cruise operation (**CW** 07 May).

The eight-day 'Rhine River: Castles, Culture and Culinary Delights' voyage will sail the Rhine between Cologne and Basel, passing through the Rhine Gorge and encountering towns such as Mainz, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Colmar.

Also on offer will be the eight-day 'Holland and Belgium: Medieval History and Scenic Waterways' cruise, which will visit Antwerp, Delft, and the Dutch countryside.

Highlights of both itineraries include private wine tastings, after-hours tours of popular art galleries, and visits to blossoming gardens.

Itineraries will be operated by the 120-passenger *Transcend Connect*, which will feature a range of state-of-the-art technology, wrap-around picture windows and a sun deck with swimming pool.

"These new itineraries are crafted with the same pioneering spirit that defines our expeditions around the world, delivering deeply immersive, authentic, and all-inclusive experiences of these destinations," said Lindblad Expeditions Chief Executive Natalya Leahy.

## Navigating Singapore



**ROYAL** Caribbean's *Navigator of the Seas* is preparing to make her Singapore debut in 2026-27, offering a combination of short getaways and longer cruises.

From Oct 2026 to Feb 2027, the Voyager-class vessel (**pictured**) will operate a selection of three- to 12-night itineraries, visiting Southeast and East Asian destinations, and allowing guests to experience its range of onboard entertainment for all ages, including a surf simulator and glow-in-the-dark laser tag.

"With *Navigator of the Seas*, we are bringing an adventure-packed holiday experience tailored to Asian travellers, especially families and large groups," Vice President and Managing Director Chad Grospe said.

"From thrilling activities to world-class entertainment and

dining, there's something for everyone from every generation to enjoy together."

The line-up includes a 10-night voyage taking travellers to the jewels of Thailand and Vietnam, including Ho Chi Minh City, the beach town of Da Nang, and an overnight stay in Bangkok.

Guests can also embark on 11- and 12-night holidays from Singapore and Tokyo, which will visit destinations across East Asia including Hong Kong and Taipei.

*Navigator* offers short trips ranging from three to five nights, with opportunities to explore the heritage-rich town of Penang, while indulging in local street flavours; unwind on the beaches of Phuket; and enjoy a stopover at the island of Langkawi.

Bookings for the new season are now available **HERE**. *JM*

## Araya joins Aman

**FORMER** Virtuoso Vice President Cruise Melissa Araya has joined the new Aman at Sea as its VP of Sales.

The new superyacht project will be named *Amangati*, it has been announced (**CW** 10 Apr).

## EMERALD<sup>o</sup> CRUISES



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**WHO** says adventure has an age limit?

Certainly not German shipbuilder Meyer Werft, which has just unveiled a new ship concept (**pictured**) designed for people aged 80 and above.

The project, named Serenity, was recently presented for the first time at a cruise conference in Miami.

The climate-neutral ship concept takes into account the prediction that in the year 2100, people 80 years and older will make up the same size population as the age group 65 and older today in the United States.

"Put simply, today there are ships for young, middle-aged and old, and in future there will be a need for a subdivided older target group," said Tim Krug from the Meyer Werft Concept Development Group.

"However, it is important to note that we are not talking about a nursing home.

"Serenity would offer services for people who live in independent living homes with some additional features from assisted living homes."



## Signing off on *Paspaley Pearl*



**PASPaley Pearl** is now in the hands of Pearl Expeditions following a handover ceremony of the luxurious yacht in Singapore this week.

Executive Chair Sarina Bratton formally accepted the 53-metre ship from marine interior refurbishment specialist ICF International, toasting to the moment with champagne.

Bratton described the internal fit-out and upgrade of *Paspaley Pearl* as having "many highs and thankfully few lows".

"Annie Chua, Group CEO of ICF International, has developed a highly successful Singapore headquartered turnkey interior solutions group for the maritime industry," Bratton said.

"They have worked closely with the Paspaley team in bringing our *Paspaley Pearl* to the high standard we feel our guests will appreciate when exploring the very remote areas of Australia

and our close neighbours."

The 30-passenger ship has now departed Singapore bound for her new home in Darwin, where she will take her first guests on a 10-night expedition on 31 Jul.

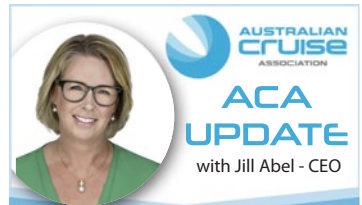
The ship's maiden 70-day season through to early Oct is almost completely sold out, with only four voyages over a 37-day period offering any availability.

Bratton is **pictured** above right with Chua.

## Stockholm power

**THE** Port of Stockholm has switched on its second shore power facility, enabling it to supply up to 50% of its cruise calls with green electricity from wind and hydropower.

*Viking Jupiter* became the first ship to hook up to the new connection, which follows the first outlet which was inaugurated in Sep last year.



## Darwin's expedition season heats up

**AS THE** cruise season winds down for many destinations across the country, I'm pleased to report that several have once again achieved record-breaking results.

One destination that's just hitting its peak is Darwin, which is gearing up for a standout expedition cruise season.

With around 60 ship calls expected in the coming months, the city is alive with activity on the waterfront and behind the scenes.

Darwin's success is powered not just by its location but by its strong cruise supply chain.

From provisioning to logistics, local businesses are playing a critical role in supporting the needs of expedition vessels operating in some of our most remote regions.

A standout in this space is Select Fresh Providores, a key player in fresh produce supply, and a sponsor for our 2025 conference.

Their support underscores the importance of the supply chain in delivering world-class cruises.

Meanwhile, year-round cruising remains strong from Sydney and Brisbane, Australia's two major turnaround ports.

Further north, Queensland ports including Cairns, Townsville, and Airlie Beach also benefit from increased cruise calls, providing a welcome boost to regional tourism and local economies beyond the peak summer season.

Adding to the optimism, we're thrilled to see Royal Caribbean announcing *Quantum of the Seas* will join *Anthem of the Seas* in Australia for the 26/27 season - a strong vote of confidence in the ongoing growth of our market.