

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

Cunard chasing storms in Alaska

CUNARD Line has announced its Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) speaker line-up for the upcoming Alaska season, which starts next month.

The cruise line's 'Insights' program will see a range of speakers join *Queen Elizabeth*, including explorers, naturalists, topographical experts, astronauts, and more.

Speakers will include George Kourounis (**pictured**), an RCGS Explorer in Residence, known for his exploits in storm-chasing.

Another RCGS Explorer in Residence, Laval St. Germain, will also join Cunard during the season, renowned for being the only Canadian to have summited Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen.

Also joining during the season will be naturalists and wildlife filmmakers Brian and Dee Keating; RCGS fellow and



geographer Lynn Moorman; RCGS Vice President Joseph Frey; professional astronaut Andrew Fuestel; RCGS fellow and polar ambassador Sunniva Sorby; and RCGS fellow, naturalist, and photographer David Gray.

"The launch of this partnership in 2023 was met with great enthusiasm from guests, and we're excited to continue the

collaboration for a third season in Alaska," the cruise line's President Katie McAlister said.

"Cunard takes pride in offering an experience that's not only beautiful and luxurious, but also offers stimulating educational components," she added.

"This collaboration adds an intellectual enrichment that provides lasting memories." *MS*

HAL opens 2027

HOLLAND America Line's (HAL) 2027 Grand Voyages have officially opened for booking, featuring rare ports and new overland tours. A highlight is Holland America's 129-day world cruise, as is the 70-day exploration of South America and Antarctica. Both cruises will depart in Jan 2027, with the Grand Voyage setting sail aboard *Volendam* and the South America & Antarctica Voyage aboard *Zaandam*. "The strong interest we've seen in the pre-sale period shows us our guests are excited," Vice President Deployment Paul Grigsby said.



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Princess ad partner

ADVERTISING agency 72andSunny has won Princess Cruises' strategic creative account, with the company to be charged with delivering an "optimistic" brand campaign for the line.

72andSunny will develop a local brand position and integrated advertising campaign for Princess, as the cruise line aims to drive growth in Australia.

"We appointed 72andSunny due to their belief in optimism and their expertise working with modern global and Australian brands and their ability to connect these with modern Australian audiences," the cruise line's Senior Director, Sales & Marketing Nick Ferguson said.

72andSunny President Ross Berthinussen spoke of his enthusiasm for the win.

"We're delighted to be working with the Princess Cruises team to localise such an iconic global brand for Australian audiences," he said. "Cruising remains a much-loved experience for Australians, and we're looking forward to further invigorating the brand."

Princess recently announced Matthew Rutherford as its new Vice President APAC, filling the role left by Stuart Allison late last year (*CW* 06 Mar).

A Prestige-ous new venue



REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled its brand-new Mediterranean dining venue, Azure, which is set to debut on *Seven Seas Prestige* in Dec 2026.

The specialty restaurant will offer a mezze-style dining experience, serving Mediterranean-inspired amuse-bouche (bite-sized hors d'oeuvres), appetisers, main courses, and desserts.

The venue features intricate mosaics in modern arabesque patterns, as well as rustic pottery, dried flower pot arrangements, and a chandelier inspired by olive trees, all of which come together to add an earthy charm.

Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague described Azure as "an innovative and exciting new dining experience that will bring fresh flavours and a bold new concept for Regent guests to enjoy".

Azure will be one of seven

specialty restaurants on board *Prestige*, with a further all-new dining venue to be announced at a later date.

RSSC has now released detailed renderings for all of the ship's specialty restaurants, which have been designed by Studio Dada and AD Associations, and draw inspiration from constellations; the Art Deco sophistication of early 20th-century Europe; Japanese design principles; and the storied history of Chicago's industrial past.

The specialty venue lineup includes Sette Mari at La Veranda, which serves authentic Italian cuisine and boasts the most expansive al fresco dining area ever seen on a Regent ship; Pacific Rim, a Pan-Asian dining experience; and Prime 7, an intimate steakhouse.

Guests can also dine at Compass Rose, the largest specialty restaurant at sea; Chartreuse, offering classic French fare with a modern twist; and breakfasts and lunch buffets available at the La Veranda restaurant.

Prestige will also offer 24-hour in-suite dining; casual dining at the Pool Grill; and teas, coffees and pastries at Coffee Connection.

Specialty restaurant menus will be revealed closer to the ship's launch date.

Reservations for *Prestige's* maiden season open from 25 Jun - **CLICK HERE** for details. *JM*

Truly great news

TRUE North has partnered with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, launching brand new itineraries for this year.

The cruise line will work with the Foundation to develop new cruises to the Reef on board the recently refitted *True North II* (*CW* 22 Apr).

The new Conservation Expedition will be offered on both *True North's* seven- and 13-night cruises, providing guests exclusive access to front line reef protection and restoration efforts.

Guests will be able to engage with leading marine scientists to work on coral restoration research and protection of species such as whale sharks.

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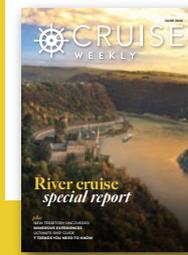
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Margaritaville revealed as *Fortuna* buyer

MARGARITAVILLE at Sea has acquired its third vessel in three years, as it further expands its fleet with the former *Costa Fortuna* (**CW** 12 May).

The ship (**pictured**), which Margaritaville is yet to announce a new name for, will be the largest in the cruise line's fleet, accommodating 3,450 pax.

The vessel will now be reimagined by Margaritaville in its "island-inspired" design.

Fortuna will continue to be operated by Costa until late next year, after which she will transfer to her new owner.

"Over the last three years we have been incredibly focused on building Margaritaville at Sea by delivering more of what our guests love - a uniquely laidback island attitude with award-winning hospitality," Chief Executive Christopher Ivy said.

"With the acquisition of our



third ship in three years, we are proud to once again invite guests to step into the Margaritaville state of mind on the open ocean.

"The launch of the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander* was a significant moment for our company, and the acquisition of *Costa Fortuna*, our largest ship to date, gives us another exciting

opportunity to bring even more fun and escapism to guests from a new home port in 2026."

John Cohan, CEO of parent company Margaritaville, said the line has been on an "exceptional" trajectory since its launch a few years ago, when it was rebranded from Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line (**CW** 09 Dec 2021). *MS*

Barcelona powers

AN ONSHORE power system (OPS) is set to be installed at MSC Cruises' new Port of Barcelona terminal (**CW** 07 Apr), slated to launch in early 2027.

Powercon has been appointed to build and commission the OPS via a €12 million (A\$21m) turnkey contract, which includes drafting the project, construction, plus commissioning and maintenance of the system during the first two years.

"The construction of the first OPS for cruise ships represents an important qualitative leap in the electrification of the wharves of the Port of Barcelona, the key element in the decarbonisation of port activity, which is now entering its decisive phase," stated Port of Barcelona President Jose Alberto Carbonell.

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PORTHOLE

THEY say the Galapagos Islands is the trip of a lifetime - and these five men will certainly never forget their trip to the Ecuadorian archipelago.

A group of South American fishermen lost at sea for almost two months have been rescued by an Ecuadorian tuna boat sailing in the Galapagos, *The Guardian* reported.

The three Peruvians and two Colombians had been missing since setting sail from Pucusana in Mar.

The fishermen reported damage to their boat's alternator two days after setting sail, which caused their communication and navigation tools to malfunction.

The group drank rainwater and seawater to survive, as well as rusted water out of the boat's engine.

They also caught and parboiled fish to eat.

The men are in stable condition, with the Ecuadorian Navy saying it is coordinating with local and foreign authorities to ensure their safe return home.

Cunard courts Princess Anne

CUNARD Line will welcome the first member of the British Royal Family on board its newest ship *Queen Anne* later this month as part of its 185th anniversary celebrations in Liverpool.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, known also as Princess Anne (**pictured**), will lead the festivities along the Mersey River in Cunard's spiritual home town.

The event will take place almost a year to the day after the cruise line held *Queen Anne's* naming ceremony in the northern UK city.

Her Royal Highness will take part in a commemorative ceremony to mark the line's 185-year lineage, its historic links to Liverpool, and the leadership demonstrated on board by *Queen Anne's* Captains Dave Hudson and Inger Thorhauge.

The anniversary celebrations will also coincide with the opening of Cunard's 'Sea of Glamour' exhibition at Liverpool's nearby Royal Liver Building.

The exhibition (**CW** 13 Feb) by British photographer Mary McCartney invited members of the public to submit holiday photos of their adventures on board Cunard as a celebration of classic film photography.

The exhibition's opening will be conducted by five local women chosen for their personal links to



Liverpool, which was named as the godparents of *Queen Anne*.

The five women are former Spice Girl, Melanie C; broadcaster Ngunan Adamu; local restaurant entrepreneur Natalie Haywood; Liverpool music legend Jayne Casey; and British Olympian Katarina Johnson-Thompson.

"This is a landmark moment for Cunard, and we are incredibly honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness to Liverpool as we celebrate 185 years of our heritage," President, Katie McAlister said.

"The opening of the Sea of Glamour exhibition is a fitting tribute to the elegance and legacy that define Cunard, and to the special bond we share with this great city," she added. *ML*

HX's Big Blue Bag

BRITISH TV presenter and marine conservationist Monty Halls has joined forces with HX Expeditions to launch a new citizen science program designed to raise awareness and tackle marine pollution.

The 'Big Blue Bag' initiative is aimed at encouraging people to collect data on marine health across four verticals - microplastics, coastal debris, water temperature and species biodiversity.

Data can be uploaded to a public access database, allowing the people to contribute to research, which will lead future conservation.

Aranui earlybirds

AUSTRALIAN travellers can secure 15% off the first seven voyages in Aranui Cruises' 2026 French Polynesia season as part of a new earlybird deal.

On sale until 08 Jun 2025, five 12-day round-trip voyages from Papeete to the Marquesas Islands and two 13-day itineraries to the southern Austral islands have been discounted as part of the deal.

The itineraries visit inhabited islands in the Marquesas and Austral archipelagos as well as Raiatea and Bora Bora.



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