

### Cruise Weekly today

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

### Uniworld SQ deal

**TRAVELLERS** can save up to 40% per person on select departures this year when they book a Uniworld cruise before the end of the month.

Additionally, when travellers book their Uniworld river cruise with Singapore Airlines airfares before 30 Jun, they will go in the draw to win 150,000 KrisFlyer Miles - enough points to purchase return business class tickets to Southeast Asia.

**CLICK HERE** to find out more information about the Sail into Savings offer.

## Symposium hits the seas



**VIRTUOSO** has hosted its annual Symposium at sea, chartering Crystal Cruises' *Crystal Serenity* to bring together almost 400 top industry leaders from around 40 countries.

The Symposium was hosted from 13-17 May, welcoming Virtuoso's top leadership and management from the network's travel agency members and preferred partners.

The event explored key travel trends and highlighted Virtuoso's latest technology enhancements, focused on data privacy & quality, and customisable solutions tailored to traveller needs.

Guests embarked in Barcelona, and enjoyed shore excursions in Portofino and Monte Carlo, before disembarking in Marseille.

Virtuoso executives took the stage during the cruise's day at sea, with Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Matthew Upchurch, Executive Vice President David Kolner, and Senior Vice President Global Events Jennifer Campbell addressing attendees.

They looked at the evolving future of Virtuoso events, highlighting how they reflect broader transformations in the luxury travel industry - particularly in the areas of personalisation, sustainability, exclusivity and technology.

Attendees also heard from Senior Vice President Technology Paul Kearney regarding Virtuoso's latest enhancements in this field, focused on data privacy and quality, as well as its philosophy around providing a choice of customisable solutions for the network, as opposed to a single tool for all.

A panel of Virtuoso's senior leadership team provided visibility into the continued strategic focus on membership and partnership quality and network engagement.

This comprised of Senior Vice President Global Operations Michael Londregan; Senior Vices President Global Marketing Helen McCabe-Young; Senior Vice President Global Memberships Cheryl Cheney-Bunker; Senior Vice President Global Products Thatcher Brown; and SVP Global Partnerships Cory Hagopian,

They also discussed Virtuoso's shared focus on the co-creation of new product solutions and tools that drive additive impact and business results, reflecting the foundational belief that "together is better".

This includes the recently launched Social Media Content Centre, which enables more hyper-focused content solutions for members and partners around the world - more on **page 3. MS**

### Port Vila is back

**CRUISE** ships are returning to Port Vila, six months after a devastating magnitude 7.3 earthquake hit the destination (**CW** 19 Dec).

Carnival Cruise Line's *Carnival Encounter* made her return to Vanuatu's capital last week, while her fleetmates *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Splendor* will join next month.

Also returning to Port Vila in Jun will be Oceania Cruises, with *Insignia* to call on 04 Jun, before her fleetmate *Regatta* arrives the following month.

Cruise ships are presently required to tender in Port Vila, due to extensive damage caused to the port and surrounds by the earthquake.

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## Silversea offer

**PASSENGERS** can score up to \$500 shipboard credit on Australian voyages with Silversea on select voyages in the 2025/26 season.

This offer is valid on both all-inclusive door-to-door and port-to-port fares, and is combinable with any other active promotion.

Guests must book by the end of the month to take advantage of this offer.

## Adriatic package

**SAVINGS** are available for solos and couples on a luxury Adriatic cruise package.

Those booking with Cruise Traveller by the end of the month can also score a free hotel stay as part of the Ponant cruise package, which will visit Dalmatia next year.

Savings of more than \$11,000 for couples and more than \$9,000 for solos are up for grabs on the 16-night 'Golden Shores of the Adriatic' package, which departs on 14 Jul 2026.

The cruise visits Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, and Italy, with guests journeying on board *Le Bougainville*.

The 14-night cruise from Dubrovnik takes in two cruises back-to-back, visiting destinations such as Rovinj, Primosten, Zadar, Hvar, Mljet, Tivat, Rab, Brac, Brijuni, Venice, Piran, and Pula.

## Ponant meets the moon



**PONANT** has announced three total solar eclipse itineraries for next year off the coasts of Ireland and Spain.

The 'Where the Sun Meets the Moon' voyages will give travellers the rare opportunity to witness the astrological event.

On 12 Aug 2026, the captain of each ship will navigate to the optimal viewing location, well away from landforms and potential cloud cover.

Guests will head to the outer decks, equipped with observation glasses, where they will listen as renowned specialists and seasoned eclipse chasers share their insights, before observing the moon's shadow completely obscure the sun.

One of the total solar eclipse itineraries is an eight-night Mediterranean sailing aboard *Le Boreal*, featuring meteorologist and astronomer Joe Rao, and science journalist and eclipse

photographer, Serge Brunier.

The voyage departs 06 Aug 2026 from Nice, with prices starting from \$10,270.

Ponant is also offering a 13-night cruise in the Far North on board *Le Lyrial*, accompanied by renowned French astronauts Claudie and Jean-Pierre Haignere, who will share their knowledge during exclusive lectures.

This itinerary is priced from \$22,350, and departs Longyearbyen on 01 Aug 2026.

The third option is an eight-night voyage on *Le Laperouse* round trip from Iceland, with guests to explore the Icelandic fjords, cliffs of the Shetland Islands, volcanoes, Viking lands, and seabird colonies before witnessing the total solar eclipse.

Departing 10 Aug 2026 from Reykjavik, astronaut Jean Francois Clervoy will be on board to share his expertise with guests through lectures and encounters. *JM*

## Big RSSC savings

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) mid-season saving promotions offer 30%-50% off until the end of next month.

There are up to 75 sailings on sale across the next two years, including culinary and wine spotlight sailings and ever-popular close-to-home cruises.

The 'Spotlight on Cuisine' sailing with Michelin-starred Chef Alain Roux transforms RSSC's Culinary Arts Kitchen into his private cooking school.

This sailing from Athens to Barcelona on *Seven Seas Splendor* departs 11 Aug for 12 nights, with up to 75 shore excursions included.

This cruise is 30% off during the promotional period, with pricing now featured at \$10,871 per person for a deluxe veranda suite, a saving of \$5,115 per person.

Cruisers can also enjoy the 'Coastal Wonders of East Asia' voyage from Tokyo to Bangkok on board *Seven Seas Explorer*, departing 08 Nov for 20 nights, with up to 85 shore excursions included on the cruise.

This voyage is 50% off during the promo period, with pricing now featured at \$17,200 for a deluxe veranda suite.

The 'Spotlight on Wine' sailing is also on sale, travelling from Trieste to Barcelona at a saving of \$8,525 per person.

Passengers will learn the story behind Steven Honig's Napa Valley winery.



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\*Terms and Conditions Apply. Entry is open to Australian and New Zealand consultants registered on [GoCCL.com.au](http://GoCCL.com.au). To be eligible, consultants must complete the registration process. Only deposited bookings will qualify for entry. For full terms and conditions, please visit [GoCCL.com.au](http://GoCCL.com.au).





**MOST** people use the gangway to board a cruise ship, but one guy wanted to make waves with a bold entrance.

A 29-year-old man was arrested in Sydney Harbour yesterday afternoon after he was found climbing the mooring lines of *Carnival Adventure*.

Footage depicts the man in a hoodie, sweatpants, and sandals hanging from the ropes tying the cruise ship to Circular Quay, before a NSW Police boat arrived at the scene.

With a crowd watching, the mooring line was lowered down towards the police boat and the Tom Cruise-wannabe was arrested and charged with three offences relating to unauthorised entry; he was granted conditional bail to appear in court on 11 Jun.

The video has gone viral on TikTok, with one user saying, "that's about how desperately I need a holiday".

## What's changing luxe cruising?

**MORE** and more travel advisors are seeing AI as an opportunity, as opposed to a threat, bucking trends of years prior which framed it as antagonistic.

Chair & Chief Executive Officer Matthew Upchurch, speaking on board Crystal Cruises' *Crystal Serenity* at the company's annual Symposium (see **page 1**), said half of respondents to a Virtuoso survey now view AI positively, as more companies attempt to harness the technology to improve their businesses.

"In the midst of another tech inflection - or as some call it, a disruption - with AI, I love how optimistic Virtuoso members are about its potential," said the Virtuoso head.

"Starting in the onset of the millennium, we have seen how these disruptions make travel - and the professional, knowledgeable, well-connected travel advisors - all the more important in people's lives."

The luxury cruise market was valued at USD\$7.7 billion last year, and is expected to reach USD\$21.38 billion by 2032.

Upchurch noted one of the

fundamental trends which he believes is contributing to the strength of luxury travel is six generations all travelling simultaneously for the first time in history, from the Silent Generation to Generation Alpha.

The prioritisation of experiences over goods and the rise of global wealth have also been a boon for the luxury sector.

Upchurch said Virtuoso is tracking how different generations value luxury through its membership with Altagamma and research with Bain.

"We're tracking everything from AI's role in augmenting the workforce to the evolving definition of luxury itself," he said.

"While headlines often suggest AI is replacing human jobs, the reality is our profession is booming - LinkedIn lists 'travel advisor' as the fifth fastest growing career.

"At Virtuoso, we've long embraced what's now called 'prompt engineering' as the art of asking the right questions: at its heart, luxury is the 'how did you make me feel' business," Upchurch enthused. *MS*

## Folgiero still CEO

**PIERROBERTO** Folgiero has been reconfirmed as Fincantieri's Chief Executive Officer, a position he has held since May 2022.

Fincantieri's new board of directors, appointed at a shareholder's meeting last week, confirmed his continuation at the top of the shipbuilding company.

The new 10-person board, which will include Folgiero, will oversee Fincantieri through to Dec 2027.

## Women in cruise

**THE** cruise industry has experience an alarming drop in the number of women in mid-management roles over the past few years.

The *Women in Maritime Survey 2024*, which surveyed female representation in the maritime industry, found women in mid-management roles in the cruise sector had dropped from 50% in 2021 to just 18% last year.

CLIA was contacted for comment on the survey result.

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Cruise Weekly is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Cruise Weekly is Australasia's leading travel industry cruise publication.

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