

Cruise Weekly today

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

Par-tea with HAL

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) is elevating its afternoon tea service by featuring its own bespoke tea blend, through an exclusive collaboration with Tasmanian company Art of Tea.

Announced on today's International Tea Day, the custom blend is inspired by the rich heritage and flavours of the Netherlands, and will be the featured item during every afternoon tea service in the main dining room.

The blend will also be served at 'Royal Dutch Tea', which is offered on the first sea day of every voyage, and the regionally themed afternoon tea, which is offered on the second sea day.

The tea will also be part of Holland America's sampler pack, available for purchase in the ship's gift shops.



CLIA LIVE wraps up in Sydney



CLIA LIVE has wrapped up in Sydney following the biggest-ever program, which visited six cities across Australia.

Hundreds of tickets were booked for this year's CLIA LIVE program, which visited Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Gold Coast, and Sydney.

The two-day event, which was sold out in all cities, allowed cruise specialist travel advisors to receive in-person training from more than two dozen cruise lines in a seminar format.

The events are exclusive to CLIA members, and are aimed at both new-to-cruise advisors, as well as

experienced cruise sellers looking to update their knowledge.

This year's program was themed 'Connecting Travellers to their Perfect Cruise Holiday', giving advisors a deeper understanding of how to match clients with their ideal cruise, based on their personal preferences, budget, and travelling style. *MS*

Pictured are CLIA Managing Director Joel Katz; TravelManagers Cruise Product Manager Lia Malone; LUXE by itravel advisors Megan Catterall; itravel advisors Lyndal Collins; and CLIA Director of Memberships Marita Nasic.

ACA picks speakers

THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has announced the keynote speakers for its conference, which will be themed 'Anchoring Success Across Every Region'.

Registrations are now open for the conference, which will take place in Fremantle, and will be helmed by three international guests.

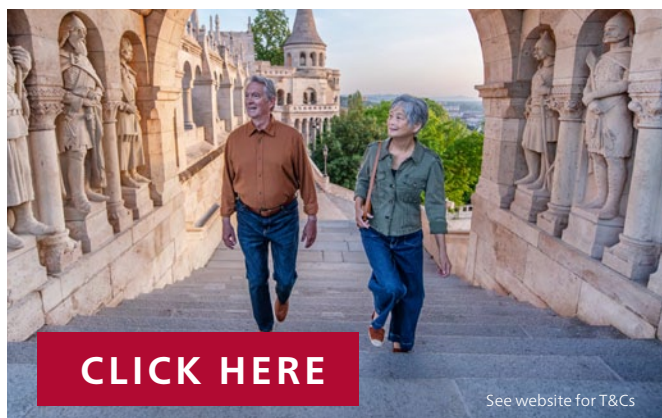
Leading the keynote program will be Holland America Line Director of Deployment & Itinerary Robert de Bruin; Princess Cruises Director of Deployment & Itinerary Debbie Holbrook; and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings VP of Destination Services Christine Manjencic.

ACA Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel said the executives will bring deep insight into global deployment strategies, regional planning, and the evolution of cruise itineraries.

"Returning to Fremantle after two decades reflects the incredible momentum of our industry," she said.

"This year's program highlights the diversity of our regions and the power of collaboration in shaping the future of cruise in Australia."

Abel added the theme of the conference reflects ACA's commitment to celebrating the vital contribution of regional ports.



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New Crystal tool

CRYSTAL has announced a new Experience Finder, an innovative new tool designed to help travel advisors quickly explore the range of shore excursions available to guests.

The Experience Finder is now accessible through the Travel Partner Center, showcasing half-day and full-day excursions, exclusive overland journeys, and immersive pre- and post-cruise adventures, many of which have been created in partnership with Crystal's sister brand Abercrombie & Kent.

The Experience Finder allows users to search by region, country, month and year of travel, duration of experience and areas of interest.

This dynamic filtering tool ensures that travel advisors can tailor recommendations to match their clients' passions.

Atlas' \$700 offer

ATLAS Ocean Voyages is offering Australian travel advisors a \$700 gift card for bookings made on a range of sailings in Europe.

The exclusive offer applies to every new booking made by the end of next month on select voyages departing between Jun and Oct.

President & Chief Executive Officer James Rodriguez said the special incentive is designed to thank advisors.

MSC Cruises' new dining era



MSC Cruises has announced an overhaul of its speciality dining options, with new menus and packages fleetwide.

The updates are designed to make it more convenient for guests to purchase speciality dining experiences, easier to order from the menu, and deliver high value across the board.

A key change is the introduction of a fixed-fee menu, allowing guests to choose from most of the items on the full restaurant menu for one set price.

MSC said this provides greater variety, value, and transparency, with cruisers able to choose at least one starter, one main, and one dessert for a fixed fee, while extra-special dishes, such as Ozaki Wagyu beef, will be available for a small extra charge.

Additionally, guests can now

pre-purchase customisable packages with one to four speciality dining experiences.

Travellers who buy their speciality dining packages before their cruise can enjoy savings of up to 20%.

"With increasing demand from our guests for flexibility, transparency, and personalisation, this upgrade further strengthens our culinary product, offering today's cruisers what they expect and deserve," Senior Vice President On-Board Revenues Georg Schmickler said.

The cruise line revealed further enhancements are in the pipeline, aimed at streamlining the speciality dining purchasing and scheduling experience.

New speciality restaurant packages are available to book now - **CLICK HERE** for more. *JM*

Perfect Day plans

MORE than 30 waterslides across five towers will be among the highlights for cruise travellers to enjoy at Royal Caribbean's private island destination, Perfect Day Mexico (**CW** 11 Oct 2024).

The cruise line has revealed some of the attractions coming to the island destination, due to open in early-to-mid 2027.

Visitors will be able to climb more than 50 metres to ride 'Jaguar's Peak', which will feature 10 slides by itself including two dueling slides, which the cruise line says will be the longest in the world.

Those after a more subdued experience can head to Splash Cove and meander down the longest lazy river in the world, which will take an hour to loop.

The lazy river will feature multiple entry and exit points along with float-up bars and a cup holder in each tube.

Adults will have access to their own zone at El Hideaway, which will feature a swim-up bar and in-pool DJ.

Perfect Day Mexico will also offer 12 regionally inspired dining options from table service to grab-and-go options along with six swim-up bars.

Guests will also be able to enjoy Mariachi performers, local stalls and art installations.

Perfect Day Mexico will be visited on Western Caribbean cruises sailing from Galveston.



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CARNIVAL Cruise Line has unearthed something of a black market - for lack of a better term - with former pax selling coloured wristbands they say will grant the bearer access to the exclusive Havana pool area on selected ships.

Wearers can also avail perks such as special branded towels and bathrobes.

The line's eager watchman and brand ambassador John Heald has shined a light on the practice and listings on eBay and other auction platforms.

The Havana wristbands are valid on *Carnival Vista*, *Carnival Horizon*, *Carnival Panorama*, *Mardi Gras*, *Carnival Jubilee*, *Carnival Celebration*, *Carnival Venezia*, and *Carnival Firenze*.

To the credit of those trying to get away with it, the cruise line used to have two alternating colours for the wristbands, effectively giving travellers a 50% chance of the scheme working.

Carnival of course had a quick solution to that, and introduced a spectrum of colours, of which any one could be valid for a voyage.

Commenters on Heald's post however were quick to point out people could just buy one or two of each colour and take them all onboard, so **CW** anticipates the cruise line to invest in some technology to stamp out the market for good.

Pearl pulls up in Darwin



THE newly renovated and upgraded *Paspaley Pearl* has arrived back in Australian waters after her final upgrade project in Singapore (**CW** 14 May).

Pearl Expeditions' 30-passenger vessel will now undergo further fitout in the NT capital and complete final checks before the first paying passengers embark for the line's maiden Kimberley adventure on 31 Jul.

After a short season exploring the Top End, *Paspaley Pearl* (pictured) will spend her first season - which runs through to Mar - exploring remote parts of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia,

Raja Ampat, and Borneo.

The company also recently released its maiden e-brochure, which can be downloaded **HERE**.

The digital guide features a full deck plan, pricing and details on itineraries and destinations for the ship's maiden season. **ML**

Architecture cruise

A NEW voyage with Victory Cruise Lines is partnering with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation to explore some of the works of the legendary American architect.

The program will be offered on all of Victory's all-inclusive small-ship sailings in the Great Lakes and Canada this year.

Guests will have the opportunity to visit some of Wright's famous landmarks and homes in destinations such as Chicago, Detroit, and Grand Rapids, including one not open to the public.

They will sail later this year aboard the cruise line's *Victory I* and *Victory II*.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's Taliesin Foundation will also host lectures on board.

Free flights to WA

CRUISERS can score free flights on a Coral Expeditions adventure in the Kimberley, when booking an exclusive Cruise Traveller package by the end of next month.

Free return flights are on offer with 17 different packages departing between Mar and Aug - **CLICK HERE**.



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