

### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise news plus a full page from **Imagine Cruising**.

### Imagine more

**PAIR** the biggest global events with an unforgettable cruise with Imagine Cruising.

The wholesaler is currently offering a luxury Iceland & British Isles Cunard Line voyage with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in a 22-night package next year, available from \$10,999pp.

The bundle includes 14 nights on board Cunard's brand-new ship *Queen Anne*.

All flights, taxes, and transfers are covered as part of the package, as is one night's accommodation in Reykjavik.

Travel advisors can also earn a \$100 Prezzy voucher on eligible bookings - see page 5.

## Evolution adds first-ever cruise partner

**EVOLUTION** Travel Collective (ETC) has added its first-ever cruise line to its portfolio, now representing Expedition Experience locally, with the Canadian line to showcase its selection of voyages to Australians for the first time.

Expedition Experience operates a pair of small boutique vessels in destinations such as the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Islands, and eastern Canada, with more set to be unveiled soon.

Passengers are offered shore excursions, Zodiac cruises, kayaking, and more.

"We're thrilled to welcome Expedition Experience into the ETC family," Evolution CEO & co-founder Pete Rawley said.

"Expedition Experience's commitment to delivering authentic, high-quality adventures aligns perfectly with



our mission to offer unique and memorable travel experiences to our clients."

"We understand the growing demand for experiential travel that goes beyond traditional cruising...our collaboration with Expedition Experience allows us to offer our clients exclusive access to some of the

world's most captivating and less-explored regions, all while ensuring a high level of comfort and service."

ETC previously served in a consultancy capacity with Quark Expeditions prior to the American line opening its local office. *MS*

**Pictured:** Expedition Experience's *Klara*.



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## CRUISE WEEKLY

On location on board  
*Carnival Adventure*

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of Carnival Cruise Line, which this week is hosting us on a voyage to Moreton Island in Qld aboard the recently transitioned *Carnival Adventure*.

**TODAY** we can see the beautiful shores of Moreton Island from our cabins, but alas we will not be swimming its azure waters this morning.

Strong wind conditions have persuaded Carnival to err on the side of caution, so instead we will refocus our energy on the array of onboard activities.

The Carnival team has booked us in for a range of alternative fun, including some reflexology in the wellness centre.

After that it will be time to check out Trattoria, which serves up rustic, home-style Italian favourites, before finishing the day with a show and cocktails with our media friends at the stylish Piano Bar.

## Luminara prepares to sail



**THE** Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has revealed new details of its third ship *Luminara*, (pictured) launching in Jul.

*Luminara* will host five dining venues, including Seta su Luminara, which will feature an eight-course tasting menu alongside an a la carte selection of modern Italian cuisine.

Guests can will savour vibrant Middle Eastern and Mediterranean flavours at Beach House, while other culinary highlights include Azur on Luminara, featuring regionally influenced menus centred on seasonal ingredients; and Mistral, which will offer fresh seafood and expertly grilled meats.

Dining will be rounded out with Haesu Bit, a pan-Asian concept incorporating flavours from destinations *Luminara* will visit, such as Japan, Vietnam, Thailand,

Korea, and China.

Guests will also discover seven sophisticated bars on board, notably the new Art Bar, which will offer craft cocktails paired with regional sweet delights, be set against a backdrop of art and sweeping sea views.

*Luminara* will also elevate The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's signature offerings with the Marina Terrace, and Marina Beach, all anchored by a dynamic floating lounge platform with a central pool where guests can swim directly in the sea.

The platform will connect guests to a variety of activities like kayaking, paddleboarding, Seabobs, electric foiling boards, and more.

The ship also recently completed her sea trials, ahead of her maiden voyage from Monte Carlo to Rome. *MS*

## New Norway tax

**NORWAY'S** parliament, the Storting, has lodged draft legislation to introduce a tax targeting cruise lines.

Passengers embarking on cruises within Norwegian waters would be targeted by the tax.

The proposal also includes the potential to expand the existing visitor tax regime for the Svalbard archipelago.

Further details on the proposed cruise tourism tax remain scarce, as official announcements regarding the exact tax rate, the method of collection, and implementation timelines have yet to be disclosed, according to overseas media reports.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) was contacted for comment, but was unable to reply by *Cruise Weekly's* deadline.

The new taxes are the Norwegian govt's latest efforts to target the cruise sector after the country last year announced it is looking to phase in a zero-emission mandate for ships visiting its fjords (*CW* 17 Jan 2024).

The proposal from Norway's National Maritime Authority will require cruise ships using low- and zero-carbon fuels to transition to zero emissions from 2026 to 2035.

CLIA told *CW* at the time it hoped to work closely with the government on the move.

## More Viking shares

**VIKING** has announced the launch of a secondary offering of shares, after the cruise line's healthily subscribed initial public offering 12 months ago (*CW* 03 May 2024).

         

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## Travel advisors enjoy a HAL of a famil

**SEVEN** travel advisors recently experienced the best of northern Europe with Holland America Line (HAL) aboard *Rotterdam*, offering a front-row seat to the beauty of the fjords.

The famil departed from Rotterdam, the ship's namesake port, bringing together the agents and their partners to experience Norway and Denmark.

The group enjoyed a seven-day itinerary showcasing the region's dramatic scenery, including Mandal, Oslo, Oslofjord, Copenhagen, and more.

The guests sampled *Rotterdam's* wide range of onboard dining, and soaked up HAL's acclaimed music venues, including Rolling Stone Rock Room, BB. King's Blues Club, Billboard Onboard, and more.

"It was a pleasure to host such an engaged and enthusiastic group aboard *Rotterdam*," Key



Account Manager Erin King said.

"These famils serve as a valuable way to bring our partners into the heart of the Holland America Line experience, highlighting our History Channel partnership and destination depth through our shore excursions," she added. *MS*

**Pictured** are Hannah Baynes,

HAL; Danielle Horsley, Cruiseco; Blake Horsley (partner); Jayne O'Keeffe, Ignite Travel; Sally Berry, Clean Cruising; Elizabeth Sitcheff (partner); Matthew Green (partner); Amanda Trew (partner); Rachel Green, Flight Centre; Chris Trew, ecruising; Mark O'Keeffe (partner), and Erin King, HAL.

## Galveston growth

**THE** City of Galveston believes it could stand to benefit from major cruise lines eager to expand while ports in Florida are hamstrung by space and development issues.

According to minutes from a recent city Board of Trustees meeting, the Galveston Cruise Port master plan is in the process of being updated in line with interest from brands such as Disney Cruise Line eager to expand in the city.

City officials are opting to wait to see how development at Port Everglades in Florida proceeds, with space highly limited at Port Canaveral and Miami near capacity.

Galverston Port Director Rodger Rees said the port continues to lobby city officials for further funding to expand operations as lines invest in growing Caribbean itineraries.

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APT is rather proud of its Gruner Bar & Dining venue featuring state-of-the-art hydraulics that lift the venue to the upper sundeck for 360-degree vistas aboard *APT Solara* and *APT Ostara*.

However, when Chief Executive Officer David Cox was explaining the concept in detail during a recent interview with **Cruise Weekly**, he noted the lift only takes a short two minutes to complete the raise.

"It's very quick and we trialled it during a recent shakedown cruise, so now we effectively have a roller coaster on board as well," Cox quipped.

"It's certainly an attraction when you pull up next to the other ships, and everybody's looking at that wine bar shift up to the sundeck - so we're claiming that as a world exclusive," he enthused.

## APT's sweet fundraiser



APT Travel Group held a staff bake-off recently, which raised more than \$6,000 for cancer research as part of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

The company exceeded its target by more than double, after initially aiming for \$3,000 raised for the Cancer Council.

The day saw 20 APT staff showcase their culinary talents in a friendly internal competition, complete with prizes for the top three bakers.

A complimentary coffee cart fuelled the festivities, with Chief Operating Officer Lorna Heyward saying APT was thrilled with the incredible generosity shown by its team.

The final amount of \$6,500 included the dollar-for-dollar matching commitment from APT's foundation OneTomorrow.

"What started as a fun way to bring back a beloved tradition has resulted in a significant contribution to cancer research that affects so many Australian

families," Heyward said.

"This success story shows what's possible when businesses engage their teams in charitable giving and have the infrastructure to amplify that impact.

"OneTomorrow's dollar-for-dollar matching ensures every donation from our team goes twice as far in supporting vital causes like cancer research." MS

**Pictured** are APT team members Sam Briggs and Madi McClure.

## Star passes trials

ROYAL Caribbean's second Icon-class ship *Star of the Seas* has completed her sea trials ahead of her debut in Aug.

The ship spent eight days at sea, during which all onboard systems were tested and certified for normal operation.

*Star* has now returned to the Meyer Turku shipyard in Finland for her final fit-out and fine tuning.



## Cruise and aviation partner in Broome

IT WAS a big week for cruise in Broome, as the ACA May Board Meeting coincided with several exciting developments.

A standout moment was the launch of Broome International Airport's new dedicated cruise lounge - a first for Australia.

This beautifully curated space offers disembarking expedition guests a true taste of the Kimberley, featuring local produce, regional wines, and spirits with native botanicals.

*Seabourn Pursuit* was also in port, and we were treated to an exclusive tour of the ship, including a behind-the-scenes visit to the galley, hosted by the head chef with 30 years of experience at sea.

The culinary program highlights locally sourced ingredients - from scampi caviar from Darwin to premium Australian wines - with all meat, bread, and pastries prepared in-house.

The galley also features innovative energy-saving systems, such as automated fans that respond to temperature.

It was fantastic to also present on the cruise opportunity at a Cruise Ready Workshop for 40 local operators, and meet with several federal agencies to further progress Broome's first point of entry status.

With cruise injecting over \$70 million annually into Broome's economy, this strengthened cruise-airport connection marks an exciting evolution in the region's visitor experience.

## Year-round Opera

MSC Cruises will deploy a ship in the southern Caribbean year-round for the first time.

Based in the region for the 2026/27 northern winter will be *MSC Opera*, remaining there for the 2027 summer alongside by *MSC Seaview*.

*Opera* will offer alternating seven-night itineraries visiting ports including the Dominican Republic, Martinique, Antigua, Guadeloupe and more.



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