



### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **HX**.

### HX's ice-cold prices

**HX IS** currently offering an Antarctica all-inclusive expedition for \$7,635 off - plus an extra 5% savings.

The cruise line's Black Fri promotion is available for those who join its free HX Explorers loyalty program.

This offer is valid on new bookings made between 02 and 31 Oct 2025, on departures between 30 Oct 2025 and 31 Mar 2027.

The discount is combinable with other HX offers, and applies to everyone travelling in the same stateroom.

Head to **page 4** for more information on the sale.

## Azamara unveils 2026 AzAmazing Evenings

**AZAMARA** has announced its new AzAmazing Evenings for next year, with the program to expand with 35 new experiences.

Nearly every cruise of nine nights or longer features one complimentary AzAmazing Evening ashore, bringing guests closer to local culture.

Guests sailing on seven- and eight-night cruises will enjoy a version of this extraordinary evening on board, with exceptions on select transoceanic crossings or charters.

Highlights of the new AzAmazing Evenings for next year will include 'Viva la Costa: Ecuadorean Rhythms Under the Glass Domes' in Guayaquil, which will see passengers enjoy an evening at the city's restored Palacio de Cristal.

The night culminates with a performance by Orquesta de Mates y Bambues Macolla, a



Guayaquil-based ensemble that fuses indigenous craftsmanship and musical heritage using instruments made from mate gourds and bamboo, accompanied by coastal dancers showcasing Ecuador's vibrant rhythms and cultural pride.

Meanwhile, the 'Traditions of Hiroshima: An Evening of Kagura, Myth & Dance' will treat guests to a unique glimpse at the Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima, which begins with a sake barrel opening

ceremony, followed by a show featuring the dramatic Yamata-no-Orochi myth, and the Mihara Yassa Festival Dance.

There is also the 'Faces of Tradition: Dance, Acrobatics & Magic at Shanghai Centre' (**pictured**), an evening that starts with cocktails and a meet-and-greet with performers, followed by a cultural show featuring acrobatics, dance, folk music, and the famous Sichuan Opera face-changing magic. *MS*

## RIVER of REWARDS

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\*Conditions apply

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## Very fare giveaway

**VIRGIN** Voyages will reward 1 million Velocity points to a lucky travel advisor for a reservation made during Oct. Any Australian agent who books one of Virgin's new base, essential, or premium fares from 07 Oct through to the end of the month will go into the draw to win.

Booked fares must be logged via the Virgin sales tracker, with all of the cruise line's product through to 2027 valid as part of the incentive.

A free Velocity membership within Virgin Voyages' sister airline brand Virgin Australia is also required to claim and redeem the points.

Advisors can enter multiple times for more chances to win.

**CLICK HERE** to log your sales, and for more information about the promotion.

## APT's \$100k grant supports kids

**APT'S** OneTomorrow Fund is supporting a new children's centre in Ho Chi Minh City with a \$100,000 contribution.

The funding supports Blue Dragon - a nonprofit organisation dedicated to helping vulnerable children via a new facility.

The new centre now welcomes kids in a safe and vibrant space designed for learning, play, and essential support services.

APT Travel Group has been a long-standing supporter of the Blue Dragon charity for more than a decade.

## A HAL of a year in Alaska



**HOLLAND** America Line (HAL) has wrapped its 2025 Alaska cruise season, completing 117 voyages and contributing more than US\$100,000 to community and conservation partners.

The cruise line teamed up with Paws & Claws Animal Shelter in Skagway to support its mission of providing a caring and compassionate environment for homeless animals until an adoption can be facilitated.

Paws & Claws received a US\$5,000 donation to continue its important work.

Also recognised was Trail Mix in Juneau, which maintains and improves the city's scenic trail systems; the Sitka Fine Arts Camp, inspiring youth through arts education; and Ketchikan's Volunteer Rescue Squad, for its role in emergency response and search-and-rescue operations.

These three organisations also received US\$5,000 donations, while additional contributions were made to more than 10 other

organisations throughout Alaska.

HAL guests also played a key role in supporting Alaska's natural treasures through the line's On Deck for a Cause program.

The 5km walk is held on every Alaska sailing, with participants donating to join the effort.

Proceeds from these walks benefit Alaska Geographic, the nonprofit education partner of Alaska's parks, forests, refuges, and conservation lands. *MS*

## Cabezas to Silversea

**FORMER** Azamara President Carol Cabezas has been named Silversea Senior Vice President Global Sales.

Cabezas will commence her new role on Tue, and bring more than 25 years of experience to oversee Silversea's sales organisation, including trade and consumer sales, call centres, and more.

She will report directly to President Bert Hernandez.

## Bluewater yachts

**BRITISH** bluewater sailing yacht builder Oyster Yachts has launched a new maritime experience designed for adventure travellers eager to experience the luxury style for a minimum of four months.

The company has launched the Oyster Explorers Club Rallies, a series of bluewater yacht sailing adventures fully supported by experienced ocean-going crew.

The rallies form part of the company's newly launched Oyster Explorers Club, which aims to offer extended sailing adventure holidays without committing to a full 16-month global circumnavigation.

Travellers can also engage in a variety of onshore excursions and activities when in port, ranging from guided safaris to hikes and cooking classes with local residents.

Four new rally routes have been launched to support the new series, with guests able to select from the Arctic, North Atlantic, Pacific and even a full year-long rally around South America's Cape Horn.

Rallies are limited to a certain number of yachts and sail as a flotilla, allowing travellers to enjoy the camaraderie of the Oyster life at sea.

Travellers engage in pre-rally training, logistical assistance and technical support through the entire voyage, with the company taking care of all route planning.

The first rally scheduled will be an adventure into the Arctic in May 2027 - **CLICK HERE**.



## WIN AN MSC CRUISE!

Book and deposit a 2026 Med or Northern Europe cruise during Cruise Month for your chance to win! Simply register with your booking number.

**REGISTER**

\*T&Cs apply.





**HX EXPEDITIONS** currently has a very special passenger on board its ship *Spitsbergen*.

As part of its anniversary celebrations, the line is transporting a handcrafted barrel of fortified wine from Austria's renowned Regele Vineyard from pole to pole.

On Mon, the barrel of Fortified Zweigelt was ceremoniously brought on board the vessel in Hamburg, and from there will be passed from ship to ship as it sails to the farthest corners of the globe.

What will no doubt be the world's best-travelled wine will then arrive back in Hamburg on board *Fridtjof Nansen* on 05 May 2027.

Once bottled, the anniversary vintage will "embody the taste of exploration itself - a celebratory fusion of history, heritage, and adventure", with guests able to raise a glass to the cruise line's milestone.

## Oceania's French legacy



**OCEANIA** Cruises recently celebrated the return of its signature French restaurant Jacques on board its newest ship *Oceania Allura* (**CW** 22 Jan).

The milestone was marked on Mon with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the restaurant's namesake, and the line's first-ever executive culinary director Jacques Pepin.

Attended by an intimate group of guests, the celebration took place in Boston, and included a special luncheon.

"Oceania Cruises has built a

legacy of culinary excellence, integrity and creativity, culminating in this new chapter of Jacques we are celebrating today," said Pepin (**pictured**).

The reimagined menu features bold new flavours as well as classics that have been on the menu since Jacques was first introduced to the fleet.

Guests can enjoy duck with a Grand Marnier-infused orange sauce, a veal medallion with a morel sauce, and iconic French desserts such as Crepes Suzette and profiteroles. *JM*

## NCL beverage package change

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has announced its onboard beverage packages will no longer be applicable for drinks on Great Stirrup Cay beginning 01 Mar.

Instead, the cruise line will offer a new beverage package exclusively for the island, which guests can purchase if they wish.

More details on the new offering will be shared in the future, with guests able to purchase the package from next year.

Meanwhile, complimentary beverages including water, iced tea, juices, and more will continue to be readily available on the island.

According to NCL, the decision is part of a wider transformation of guest amenities at Great Stirrup Cay, which will begin to roll out later this year (**CW** 30 Jul).

These upgrades include a new pier, an expansive pool area with complimentary lounges, a splash pad area for kids, and more.

## HIT THE BRAKES

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Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller  
[info@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:info@cruiseweekly.com.au)

### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan  
[advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au](mailto:advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au)

### GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER


Matthew Vince

### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220  
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Offer valid on new bookings made between 2 October 2025 and 31 October 2025 and is valid on departures between 30 October 2025 – 31 March 2027, excluding tour code SBGRE2608 (Solar Eclipse Expedition - Svalbard, Greenland and Iceland) on 3 August 2026. Level 1 members at the time of booking are entitled to a 5% discount during this offer period on HX only. Level 2 members at the time of booking are entitled to a 10% discount during this offer period on HX only. The discount will be automatically applied to the booking if the correct HX Explorers membership details are included. The discount is combinable with other HX offers and applies to everyone in your cabin. Price Promise — Should your booking become cheaper during the HX Black Friday 2025 Event, HX will refund the difference. To obtain this Price Promise the guest must request the relevant reduction directly with HX or their Travel Agent during the period of the HX Black Friday 2025 event. This promotion is not combinable or valid on group bookings or HXWELCOME code. HX has the right to limit, change, or discontinue this offer at any time without notice. All other HX standard Booking Terms and Conditions will apply.

