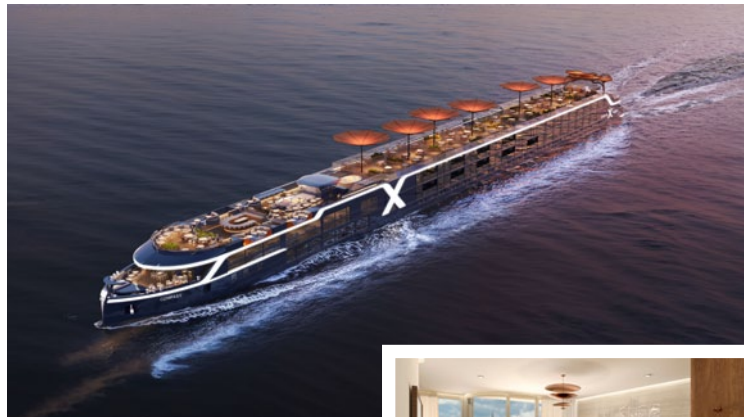


Celebrity opens doors to its river ships



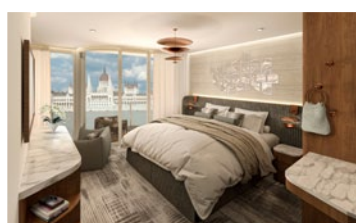
CELEBRITY Cruises has pulled back the curtain to offer a look at its forthcoming river ships, which it says will feature “game-changing” open decks, an infinity-edge plunge pool, and more.

The cruise line’s 33 new Rhine and Danube cruises for 2027 opened to priority-access bookers overnight, with the allocation selling out in under 10 minutes.

The newly named *Celebrity Compass* (pictured) and *Celebrity Seeker* will feature more usable outdoor space than any river vessel, the cruise line said, with both ships to offer guests the option to dine floating above the river on the ‘Magic Edge’, inspired by the ocean-going Edge-class ships’ Magic Carpet.

The Magic Edge will offer the first-ever cantilevered dining pods on a river cruise ship, as guests enjoy regional, destination-driven culinary offerings.

Celebrity’s open decks will also feature “transformative” shade



structures, and a top-deck bar and grille, maximising guests’ time on deck, while offering zones for a variety of moods.

The flexible public spaces aim to ensure pax enjoy more of their time outside, both in destination and on board the ship.

The vessels’ stateroom design delivers king-sized beds in every stateroom and spacious balconies to make guests feel at home on the river (inset).

All guests can enjoy complimentary stocked mini bars and destination-inspired amenities, while suite pax also have access to a dedicated, on-demand butler; complimentary exclusive dining; room service and happy hour experiences; complimentary laundry once each sailing; and priority booking for

shore excursions.

A first across the entire fleet will be the new skylight infinite balcony suites, which feature a separate living area and a skylight for a more open feel.

Guests can dine at eight onboard restaurants and bars, including Celebrity-favourite venues Martini Bar, Sunset Bar, and Cafe Al Bacio.

“Celebrity River Cruises ships will be the most innovative on the river, with a patent-pending industry-leading design that offers more space to vacation while bringing guests even closer to destinations,” President Laura Hodges Bethge said.

“With about half of our guests having experienced or intending to take a river cruise, we know guests are going to love sailing Europe’s Rhine and Danube rivers ‘The Celebrity Way’ on our fleet of elevated, cutting-edge ships,” she added. *MS*

Cruise Weekly today

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

Cool new HX deal

TRAVELLERS can enjoy up to \$8,000 off an Antarctic expedition with HX, plus a further \$900 booking bonus if securing their spot by 30 Sep. For more info, see **page four**.

River inspections

NINE river cruise brands will have ships open for inspection at CLIA’s 2026 RiverView conference, which will be held in Amsterdam from 08-10 Mar.

The event is dedicated to river cruising and will feature a range of masterclasses, hosted events and business sessions.

Registration for the event will open on 15 Sep.

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On location in
Fremantle

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of the Australian Cruise Association, which is this week hosting its annual conference.

TODAY is the plenary day of this year's Australian Cruise Association conference, hosted at the Esplanade Hotel.

International speakers this year will include Holland America Line's Robert de Bruin, Princess Cruises' Debbie Holbrook, and Christine Manjencic from NCLH.

Later tonight, attendees will head to Freo Social, where they are in for a tribute to some of the port city's most famous musical acts, such as Bon Scott and Eskimo Joe.

Ama leans into history

RENOWNED battlefield historian Mat McLachlan (pictured) has joined forces with AmaWaterways to launch a new series of history themed river cruises in 2027.

The series features four itineraries, each focusing on some of wartime history's most significant periods and will cover everything from the battlefields of Europe to ancient civilisations and modern conflicts in Asia.

Known as 'Mat McLachlan History Cruises', travellers will be able to sail Holland and Belgium waterways during peak tulip season in Apr on an itinerary which coincides with Anzac Day.

Additionally, commemorations of the D-Day landing can be undertaken on a Seine River sailing in Jun, while examinations of the Vietnam War can be done on a Mekong River sailing from Cambodia to Ho Chi Minh City in



Vietnam in Aug.

The Mat McLachlan 2027 Signature Cruise will be an eight-day round-trip sailing from Amsterdam, hosted personally by McLachlan, which will explore the battles of Waterloo, WWI and the Band of Brothers campaign.

McLachlan said he was thrilled to be partnering with AmaWaterways on the series.

"The river cruise experience AmaWaterways provides is second to none, and the rivers it sails are at the heart of history."

Guests will also be able to enjoy presentations from other historians on each voyage. *ML*

Coral expands WA

WESTERN Australia will see a greater presence from Coral Expeditions in 2026 and 2027 after the state was designated a 'high demand expedition destination' by the line.

Growing interest for close-to-home adventures has seen Coral significantly expand its deployment, with 54 departures confirmed for 2026 and 56 for the following year.

The 15% capacity boost now sees the state account for more than half of Coral's annual schedule.

New planning chief

EXPLORA Journeys has appointed Justin Poulson as its new Head of Itinerary Planning, Destination Experiences and Ground Handling.

Based in Geneva, Poulson brings two decades in cruise planning to his new role.



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INVESTIGATIONS are underway after a brand-new \$1.4 million dollar luxury yacht capsized and sank 15 minutes after being launched into the water for the first time.

Video footage circulating on social media from earlier this week shows the *Dolce Vento* yacht launched and beginning to list before tipping onto its side, forcing the owner and several others onboard to jump overboard and swim to shore.

The incident happened around 200 metres off the coast of Zonguldak in northern Türkiye, with the man believed to be the owner seen standing on the side of the vessel moments before it capsized.

Thankfully no injuries were reported, however the Coast Guard and local port teams were mobilised and established a secure perimeter.

The vessel had been completed after a five-month build at the Med Yilmaz shipyard, with rescue teams now on site for recovery.

Experts have since noted that errors in central height calculations were among the key reasons that can cause vessels to sink or capsize.

A detailed investigation has now begun to determine the cause of the sinking along with whether the yacht will be replaced or the owner refunded for the loss.

ACA conference opens in Freo



THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) is "very confident" much of the forces working against the local cruise market are settling, the organisation's Deputy Chair Brendan Connell has said.

Opening this year's annual ACA conference in Fremantle last night, the Port of Brisbane Executive General Manager Sustainability & Corporate Relations observed that deployment to Australia has contracted over the past 24 months - in many cases, to the more familiar climes and stable yields of the US and Caribbean.

However, Connell said he believed factors such as slow post-pandemic recovery, poor foreign exchange, and high international airfares - are improving.

"With strong collaboration amongst ACA members, governments, stakeholders, and the cruise lines, we can turn this around and be celebrating growth again very soon," he said.

Connell noted another strong

turnout for the conference, which is welcoming around 160 attendees from around Australia, and other regions such as the US, Europe, Vanuatu, Fiji, and NZ.

MS Connell is pictured above right with Western Australia's new Director-General of Tourism, Chad Anderson; ACA Chief Executive Officer Jill Abel; Cruise Lines International Association Managing Director, Joel Katz.

Big Latin season

WINDSTAR Cruises will base four ships in the Caribbean and Latin America for the 2026/27 winter, which will be led by the debut of the line's newest ship, *Star Seeker*.

In what will be Windstar's largest deployment to the region, the season will see 35 departures of 10 itineraries, with highlights including daylight transits of the Panama Canal and new shore excursions to Machu Picchu.

Star sails into 27

LUXURY tall ship cruise line Star Clippers has launched its 2026-27 Collection season, which will see the entire fleet of three ships spend time sailing the Mediterranean.

Seven new ports of call have been added to the network, including Crotona, Monopoli, Barletta and Pesaro.

Highlights of the Med season feature a visit to the Monaco Grand Prix and sailing the Grand Canal in Venice.

Star Clippers will also visit the Caribbean during the season with a range of 7-14-night sailings, with selected itineraries also enjoying a transit of the Panama Canal.

Toscana stays put

COSTA Cruises has unveiled two new Mediterranean itineraries to be operated by *Costa Toscana* in place of its abandoned Middle East deployment (**CW** 29 Jul), basing the ship in Savona.

In its place, the ship will offer a new 12-day cruise which will take travellers to Andalusia, Tunisia and Morocco, and include a crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar.

Separately, the ship will debut a new seven-day 'Gulfs of Italy' itinerary, which will visit Marseille, Provence, Barcelona, Naples, Rome and La Spezia.

The cruise line made the decision to keep the ship in Europe rather than reposition to Dubai for the winter, where it was due to operate week-long Middle East sailings.

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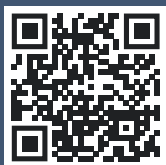
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Expedition Report 2025