

Cruise Weekly today

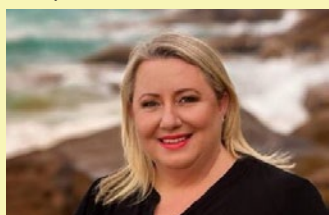
CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Gildon to Uniworld

FRAN Gildon has returned to Uniworld Boutique River Cruises as a business development manager, recently commencing her second stint at the company.

Gildon previously worked for Uniworld from 2022-2025, before heading to Azamara as a BDM for just over a year.

She has also worked in other roles around the travel industry, including four-and-a-half years with Collette.



Oceania Sonata floats out in Italy

OCEANIA Cruises has floated out its newest ship, *Oceania Sonata*, at the Fincantieri shipyard in Italy (**pictured**).

The vessel now moves from dry dock to the fitting-out berth, where work will continue on her interiors ahead of her highly anticipated debut in Aug 2027.

Representing Oceania at the ceremony was Paolo Novarino, senior director & project owner, who joined Fincantieri team members to celebrate the landmark moment and partnership between the two companies, which have previously built four vessels together.

Sonata will be nearly 30% larger than *Oceania Allura*, yet will feature only 90 additional guest accommodations, as the cruise line aims to create more space and comfort throughout its ships.

The first vessel in the cruise line's new Sonata-class, *Sonata*



will introduce suite categories, expanded public spaces and new dining concepts.

The ship will offer a serene adults-only environment, with expansive public spaces, including bars and lounges, plus thoughtfully designed guest suites and rooms.

Sonata is the first of five planned ships in her class,

and will be followed by her sister, *Oceania Arietta*, in 2029, with three additional vessels scheduled for delivery in 2032, 2035 and 2037.

The Sonata-class represents the next generation of Oceania's small-ship luxury philosophy, combining more space, elevated suites, enhanced culinary experiences and more. *MS*



VOYAGER OF THE SEAS

SAILING FROM BRISBANE, SYDNEY,
SINGAPORE & HONG KONG
2027-2028

ON SALE NOW



ROYAL CARIBBEAN



Viking opens new river & ocean combos

VIKING has opened new river and ocean combination departures for 2027-28, following strong interest in the program when it was first released.

Twelve new departures of Viking's 17-day 'Iberian Odyssey' voyage have been released between Q4 2027 and Q3 2028.

Sailing between Barcelona and Porto, 'Iberian Odyssey' connects Mediterranean ocean cruising with a journey along Portugal's Douro, bringing together two styles of travel in one itinerary.

The voyage showcases the best of the Iberian Peninsula, from the architectural treasures of Barcelona and the maritime heritage of Lisbon (**pictured**) to the vineyard-covered landscapes of the UNESCO-listed Douro Valley, birthplace of port wine.

Viking has also released two new departures of its 15-day 'Rhine & Viking Shores & Fjords'



itinerary, which pairs a journey along the legendary Rhine with coastal exploration through Denmark and Norway.

MEANWHILE, more than 100 travel advisors attended Viking's latest Vor Night on the Gold Coast last week (**CW** 27 Aug).

Held at The Glasshouse at The Island Gold Coast hotel, Vor

Nights are designed to educate and engage travel advisors in a relaxed and interactive setting.

Agents learned more about Viking's river, ocean, and expedition voyages while connecting with the local sales team, with the evening geared towards those who are new to the cruise line. **MS**

RINA's new concept

MARINE classification company RINA has unveiled 'Mermaid', a future-ready ship concept planned to help shipowners reduce fuel consumption, lower emissions, improve operational resilience, and protect asset value.

'Mermaid' expands the role of a vessel's two-stroke main engine beyond propulsion, enabling it to become the primary source of onboard power while reducing reliance on other less-efficient engines.

The concept involves a ship's propeller being disconnected when she arrives in port, while the main engine continues generating electrical power.

It combines a range of ship propulsion concepts in a new propulsion architecture that improves efficiency without committing shipowners to one particular fuel pathway.



HURTIGRUTEN

Live the legend of Norway

SAVE UP TO
30%
on selected voyages*



NORWAY. NO OFF-SEASON.

For more than 133 years, Hurtigruten has been bringing travellers closer to Norway's spectacular coastline, Arctic landscapes, coastal communities and authentic local life. Discover the *majestetisk* beauty of Norway year-round, because in Norway, there's no off-season! Enjoy savings of **UP TO 30%** on selected Original voyages, plus **exclusive tour package offers** when your clients book before **31 August 2026**.*

FINAL WEEK. BOOK WITH A \$250PP DEPOSIT

Call our local Coastal Specialists on 1300 145 329 or visit [Agent Portal](#)

*T&Cs apply. Book by 31/08/26. Selected Original voyages up to 30% off. Save up to \$500pp, plus receive \$500pp onboard credit for selected tours. See website for full terms and conditions.






THE company with the exclusive salvage rights over artefacts from the *Titanic* shipwreck has hit an iceberg of its own, after an American court blocked it from selling items retrieved from the ship.

Based in Atlanta, RMS Titanic Inc. has retrieved more than 5,500 objects across seven expeditions, beginning back in the 1980s.

The company had plans to auction off 100 items, including a bronze cherub statue from the vessel's grand staircase and a bell from her crow's nest.

Both the American and French governments have registered their opposition to the sale, as both nations have dedicated artefact collections.

Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of the US District Court in Virginia said that the sale would threaten "the integrity of both the American and French collections".

CLIA bears west to Dubbo



CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) was on deck in Dubbo at the Australian Bush Summit this week, promoting its Paddock to Port Alliance.

Speaking in front of political and business leaders from across the country, CLIA executive director Joel Katz (**pictured** with Tourism Australia chair Penny Fowler) expressed the economic benefits that cruising provides farmers, suppliers, tourism operators, travel advisors, and other small

businesses nationwide.

Katz also called for a more refined regulatory environment to support cruise operations in Australia and protect the sector's economic potential.

Launched earlier this month (**CW** 04 Aug 2026), the Australian Paddock to Port Alliance is a collaboration between CLIA and regional businesses, promoting the value of cruising to the local economy, contributing \$7.3 billion to the country annually. *JB*

Magic coming to NY

DISNEY Cruise Line has announced the line-up of autumn 2027 and spring 2028 itineraries, highlighted by its return to New York City.

This will be the first time the cruise line has sailed from the Big Apple since 2023, with *Disney Wish* arriving in late Sep 2027, following her inaugural season in Europe.

Wish will embark on multiple four- to seven-night sailings from NYC, with ports of call including Bermuda, San Juan and Puerto Rico.

In addition, the vessel will also sail to New England and Atlantic Canada, marking Disney's return to the region after nearly four years.

She is set to make calls in Boston, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, where guests will enjoy the autumn colours.

The season will also include Southern Caribbean sailings with *Disney Destiny*, embarking from Puerto Rico and disembarking in Fort Lauderdale, with calls such as Curacao, Barbados, and more throughout the region.



ELEVATED EXPERIENCES

APT Travel Group CEO **David Cox** on catering to discerning travellers.

READ THE CRUISE GUIDE



cruiseweekly.com.au
cruiseweekly.co.nz

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

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

EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Travel Daily Editor & Acting Editorial Director - Adam Bishop
Journalists - Janie Medbury, James Bale
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au

Social Editor - Alexandra Lilly

Cruise Weekly is a publication of Cruise Weekly Pty Ltd ABN 73 123 041 485. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager
Kara Stanley
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

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
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220

