

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise news, including a photo page from **Windstar Cruises** and a full page from **Disney Cruise Line**.

Farewell to Disney

DISNEY Cruise Line's final sailing in Australia departs today from Sydney, marking the end of the brand's 'Farewell (for Now)' season.

The cruise line's *Disney Wonder* will embark on a two-week transpacific voyage to reposition to Hawaii.

Wonder will stop in New Caledonia, Suva, and Pago Pago, before arriving in Hawaii.

However, this will not be the last Australians see of Mickey Mouse in the wider Asia-Pacific region, with *Disney Adventure* to begin sailing from Singapore in Mar - **p4**.

Hurti to be emission-free by 2030

HURTIGRUTEN'S Sea Zero project to build a ship capable of emission-free propulsion (**CW** Mar) remains on track to debut by 2030, chief executive officer Hedda Felin has confirmed.

Visiting Australia for the first time since 2024, the Hurtigruten head said the next two years will be crucial to the project's on-time realisation, as the line searches for financing for the ship.

"The project is [going] exactly according to plan, so it's all progressing well," she told **CW**.

"The next two years, that's when we need to discuss financing, investment decisions, building, so that remains to be seen," Felin added.

Sea Zero will be built at Vard shipbuilding in Norway, with Felin saying the country's government has been involved with the project for its duration thus far, and that future federal funding



would be a key lever to its on-time completion.

She said Hurtigruten has tested a pilot of the project, which worked better than anticipated.

The project is built in components which have been independently worked on, allowing Hurtigruten to individually plug them into a ship as needed.

Since Hurtigruten's announcement of the project, a

number of other cruise lines have subsequently launched similar concepts, including Ponant (**CW** 09 May) and Viking (**CW** 09 Apr).

Felin said she is pleased Hurtigruten has inspired others to strive for net-zero sailing.

"That's fantastic, I think that's the right thing...it's better if the industry as a whole will move," she added. **MS**

Pictured with Felin is managing director APAC Damian Perry.

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Windstar welcomes Star Seeker

MEET Windstar's newest all-suite yacht, *Star Seeker*, which made a dazzling debut in Miami on 15 Jan. The 500+ guest list brought together travel advisors, charter partners, trade partners and Windstar executives for a firsthand look at how small ship cruising delivers bigger moments.

The christening set the tone for what *Star Seeker* delivers best: intimate, elevated experiences with a real wow-factor. From live entertainment by the ship's band to a spectacular fireworks finale, the evening showcased Windstar's signature blend of relaxed luxury and authentic connection.

With just 112 spacious suites, *Star Seeker* is a compelling choice for clients who want space, privacy and exclusivity without the formality. Nearly every suite features a full private balcony or floor-to-ceiling infinity windows - add in the iconic watersports platform, destination-immersive itineraries and exceptional dining, and you have a product that stands out in a crowded market.

For Australian travel advisors, *Star Seeker* represents a powerful opportunity to attract well-travelled, experience-driven clients looking for something genuinely different.

For more information or product training, contact the Travel the World team on 1300 749 875.



THE fabulous crew welcome guests on board.



WINSTAR CCO Janet Bava with guests on the inaugural *Star Seeker* sailing.



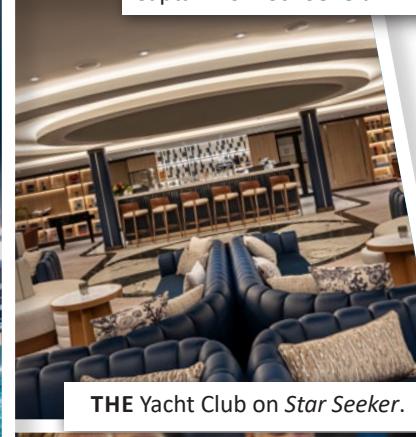
THE *Star Seeker* crew led by Captain Tom Schoefield.



CHRIS Prelog, president of Windstar Cruises, Libby Anschutz, godmother of *Star Seeker*, Pastor Bill White from Christ Journey Church who gave the blessing and Captain Tom Schoefield.



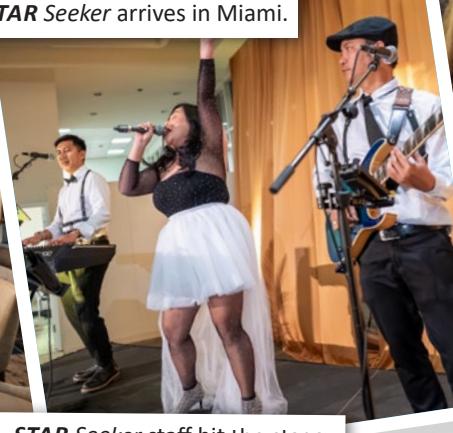
STAR Seeker arrives in Miami.



THE Yacht Club on *Star Seeker*.



AMPHORA restaurant on *Star Seeker*.



STAR Seeker staff hit the stage.



LIBBY Anschutz, godmother of *Star Seeker* and Nancy Anschutz, godmother of *Star Pride*.



MANY cruisers have dreamed of stowing away on a ship, and one passenger on the *Spirit of Tasmania* recently did just that.

A seal was caught riding the ship's bulbous bow as she departed Geelong for Devonport last week.

The animal was seemingly so relaxed on board the ship - a feeling many cruisers know well - that it did not even stir when *Spirit* backed her way out of Geelong to commence her return voyage.

It is unknown whether the seal was detained in Tasmania and made to pay up for their trip south.

CLICK HERE to view a video of the moment.



Atlas changing expeditions

EXCLUSIVE

STARTUP brand Atlas Ocean Voyages has arrived to bring change to the expedition sector - but that does not mean the company is shying away from its DNA as a cruise line, president & chief executive officer James Rodriguez (**pictured**) has insisted.

Atlas, which sails to the polar regions, as well as the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and the Caribbean, is set on offering an expedition-style product in every destination it visits, Rodriguez explained to *Cruise Weekly*.

"The programming aspect of it is extremely important for us, to expand this idea of what an expedition can be...that's how I think we're going to innovate and grow this in the future," the Atlas head said.

"We are a year-round expedition product...every voyage that we have is an expedition, whether it be a polar expedition, an epicurean expedition, or a cultural expedition...we program them in the same manner that we would program an Antarctic or an Arctic voyage," he said.



However, Atlas' commitment to a different take on sailing does not mean it is moving away from its identity as a cruise line.

This is despite many other younger brands, including some hotel companies entering the sector, choosing to distance their products from cruising adjacency, Rodriguez explained.

"We are a cruise company first, we're programmed as that...I like to say we're a cruise company that just happens to have hotel rooms," he said.

"There is a certain aspect of a cruise guest that you can't disrespect...cruisers love the cruise experience, and when hotel brands come in and say, 'we're not a cruise product, we're a hotel product, we just happen to have a ship', it doesn't encourage other cruisers to try their product," he added. *MS*

Wilson is Disney GM

TRACY Wilson has been appointed Disney Cruise Line's new SVP/GM, succeeding Sharon Siskie, who retired at the end of Jan (**CW** 18 Nov).

Wilson brings more than 30 years of experience at The Walt Disney Company to the role, having most recently served as Disney Signature Experiences SVP Finance.

She was described as an "extraordinary leader" by Disney Experiences president Joe Schott.

"As our fleet expands and we bring even more magic to families around the world, Tracy's visionary approach, strategic mindset and genuine care for our cast, crew and guests will continue to elevate the Disney difference at sea," Schott said.



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Thank you for being part of the magic!



After three special seasons of sailings, it's a fond farewell for now to our Aussie and Kiwi friends.

On behalf of the *Disney Cruise Line* team and our crew members onboard *Disney Wonder*, we extend our heartfelt thank you to you, our travel agents and trade partners, for being a key part of the magic. Thanks to you, thousands of Australian and New Zealander families have made memories to last a lifetime, and we are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support.

Magic is still on the horizon – with exciting Disney cruise destinations around the world, full of new discoveries and adventures. *Disney Adventure* will set sail from Singapore on March 10, and we can't wait for all the enchantment she will bring to our growing fleet.

We look forward to welcoming your clients aboard *Disney Cruise Line* real soon!

Disney CRUISE LINE