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Cruise Weekly today

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

Uniworld new brox

A NEW brochure featuring both Uniworld Boutique River Cruises and Luxury Gold is available now, including all the latest combination voyages between the two brands (**CW 03 Feb**).

The brochure features 135 pages of Uniworld content and 34 pages of Luxury Gold, and is being distributed now.

There is also an online version of the brochure, which can be found [HERE](#).

Featuring six brand new itineraries for next year, the brochure will also provide details and deck plans of Uniworld's newest ships: *Emilie*, *Audrey*, *Marlene*, and *Sao Rafael*.

CCL heating up with two new restaurants

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) is cooking up new dining offerings on board *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Encounter*, with guest favourites Fahrenheit 555 and Bonsai Sushi Express launching aboard the two ships.

Both restaurants will be rolled out aboard the vessels by May, which will mean guests on all four Australian home ported ships will be able to enjoy Carnival's premium steakhouse.

Once a fixture on the now-retired P&O Cruises Australia brand (**CW 23 May 2022**), Luke's Bar & Grill on both ships will be replaced by Fahrenheit 555.

A new specialty burger venue, Carnival Topsides Grill, is also set to replace Luke's Burgers on *Adventure* and *Encounter*, with more details to follow.

Guests can make reservations for Fahrenheit 555 through 'Manage My Booking' at carnival.com.au.



carnival.com.au, or once on board using the Hub App.

Bonsai Sushi Express, which serves a menu of made-to-order sushi, sashimi, and more, has already opened on both ships.

The restaurant has long been a hit on *Carnival Luminosa*, and

is now available on sailings from both Sydney and Brisbane on *Adventure* and *Encounter*.

Assistant VP sales & marketing Anton Loeb said Carnival is "delighted" to be bringing Fahrenheit 555 to all of the cruise line's Australia-based ships. *MS*



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"Removing non-commissionable fares is a fantastic initiative and really demonstrates NCL's strong commitment to supporting agents and valuing the work we do."

**LES FARRAR, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
YOUR TRAVEL & CRUISE PTY LTD/
CRUISE HOLIDAYS**

"No NCFs is absolutely beneficial, especially for those of us who are commission based! So definitely a big selling point!"

**KELSEY MCCOLL, TEAM LEADER,
CRUISEABOUT CARINDALE**

"Norwegian Cruise Line's decision to permanently eliminate all non-commissionable fares (NCFs) is a welcome and positive initiative for the trade. It delivers greater transparency, stronger earning potential, and reflects a genuine commitment to long-term partnerships. Actions like this make it easier for our PTMs to sell with confidence and reinforce why NCL continues to be such a valued partner."

**MICHAEL GAZAL, EXECUTIVE GENERAL
MANAGER, TRAVELMANAGERS
AUSTRALIA**



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Viking adds two new Mississippi cruises

VIKING has announced new Mississippi and Ohio River voyages for next year, which are now open for booking.

The two new itineraries travel aboard *Viking Mississippi*, expanding the cruise line's ports of call in the US, with the new 15-day 'Bayous, Blues & Bluegrass' itinerary operating between New Orleans and Louisville.

Travellers will explore the rich heritage of the Southern United States, birthplace of some of the country's most beloved culinary and musical traditions.

Passengers will step into Civil War history at Vicksburg, enjoy the blues music scene in Greenville, sample smoky barbecue in Tennessee, and discover Kentucky's legacy of craftsmanship, from baseball bats to bourbon.

Meanwhile, the eight-day 'Mississippi & Ohio River



Explorer' itinerary journeys between Memphis and Louisville.

The cruise will sail on its two namesake rivers, winding past scenic wetlands, quaint towns, and storied cities.

Guests will discover the legacies

of icons such as BB King and Elvis Presley in Memphis, and uncover Kentucky's culture.

The two new cruises will join Viking's four other American river voyages, which range between eight and 22 days. *MS*

Elliott critiques

ELLIOTT Investment

Management has called for a change to Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings' (NCLH) board, and a new business plan, following its acquisition of more than 10% of the company (**CW** yesterday).

A letter from the activism fund argued NCLH is undervalued and has "substantial untapped potential", while criticising it for slipping behind its peers.

"The company has fallen from a best-in-class cruise operator at the time of its initial public offering to a clear industry laggard, suffering from inconsistent strategy, weak execution, inaccurate guidance," Elliott said.

NCLH said it regularly meets with shareholders to discuss its strategy, and that it had not heard from Elliott before.



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LET'S hope none of those greedy, private island-hogging cruise lines are aware of Sweden's new offering.

Members of the public now have the chance to adopt one of Sweden's many islands.

One of five untouched islands is up for grabs, as part of a promotion running in Great Britain, although they are not available for purchase.

Rather, an island can be adopted, with Brits offered a one-year right to use one of the five selected islands, a diploma certifying the winner as official island custodian, a trip to Sweden, and a contract outlining basic responsibilities.

Each location is secluded, yet close enough to a local community for essentials.

Don't worry if you don't win one though - Sweden has more than 250,000 islands spread along its coast, more than any other country, and about



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NCL tightens dress code



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has tightened its dress code for its specialty dining restaurants, introducing a more formal atmosphere at some of the more elevated venues on its ships.

Certain casual wear will no longer be permitted in some of NCL's restaurants, with signs now enforcing restrictions on some of its ships.

Flip flops and shorts are no longer permitted for dinner at Palomar (**pictured**), Onda by Scarpetta, Cagney's Steakhouse, Le Bistro, and The Haven.

The only restaurant with a specific dress code in the past was Le Bistro.

Reaction has been mixed online,

with one social media commenter observing NCL's new 'It's different out here' campaign reinforced its status as the first cruise line to abandon dress codes for dinner (**CW** 13 Jan).

These changes come at a time when other lines, many of them in the luxury space, work to make their onboard spaces less formal.

NCL's sister line Regent Seven Seas Cruises recently introduced a new casual evening dining option at its Pool Grill.

The ultra-luxury cruise line also recently relaxed its 'elegant casual' evening dress code, allowing "refined denim" and "dress sneakers" in all public areas after 6pm (**CW** 04 Aug).

Work on *Encounter*

CARNIVAL Cruise Line's Queensland-based ship *Carnival Encounter* is in Singapore this month for a dry dock makeover.

Carnival's red, white and blue livery will be rolled out across the ship, as will multiple updated features, such as an all-new spa experience, featuring saunas, steam baths, and heated thermal lounges.

Guests will be able to book access to the new thermal suites online ahead of time, or on board through the Cloud 9 Spa, with options for a day pass or full cruise pass.

All five pools will also be revitalised, and all seven Jacuzzi tubs replaced, complete with newly refreshed surrounds for an elevated experience in one of *Encounter*'s most-loved hangout spots.

The onboard basketball court is also being refreshed with all-new hoops and netting, while the ship's Twin Racer slides will be polished up.

Encounter will return to Brisbane on 20 Mar.

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