



### Cruise Weekly today

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

### A Legend is here

**ROYAL** Caribbean's new *Legend of the Seas* has launched, departing on her inaugural sailing from Malaga to Rome.

*Legend* was introduced to the fleet on Mon, with celebrations including pool parties on the ship's upper decks and a fireworks display at night.

The line's newest Icon-class ship is now sailing on her inaugural four-night cruise before she begins her first season of European itineraries.

*Legend* is named after a ship which sailed with Royal Caribbean from 1995-2017, and now sails as *Marella Discovery 2*.

## GFOB appoints Leigh as new MD

**GLOBUS** family of brands (GFOB) has appointed a new managing director, Christopher Leigh (pictured), who will start with the firm later this month.

Leigh steps into the role as outgoing managing director Chris Hall moves into the newly created chair & strategic advisor role (*CW* 12 May).

He joins GFOB from luxury watchmaker Breitling, which he ran for seven years.

President & chief executive officer Scott Nisbet said while excellent candidates with deep travel industry experience applied for the role, the company has appointed an experienced managing director with a strong vision for its brands.

"Christopher's success in growing a premium luxury brand through trade channel development and strategic partnerships is highly relevant to



our sector," Nisbet said.

"Whether you're selling a luxury watch or a high-value holiday, the mindset and buyer behaviour is similar, and we are excited to enlist his experience and fresh perspective as we grow our touring and river cruise brands.

"The market is evolving quickly and Christopher's experience simultaneously growing trade channels and curating a sought-after consumer brand will allow us to cut through in a competitive

market," Nisbet said.

Leigh said he was looking forward to meeting and working with GFOB's range of partners.

"Globus family of brands has looked closely at its strategy over the past year and I'm excited to build on that momentum, enhancing the approach to ensure the company's financial success and growth over the long-term," he said.

"The brands have strong partnerships with industry and a strong base from which to grow.

"The challenge of building brand preference in both trade and consumer distribution channels, in a highly competitive environment, is one I'm familiar with, and I relish the opportunity to tackle this at GFOB."

Hall will officially transition to his new role from 15 Jul, after which Leigh will take up his role on 27 Jul. *MS*

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## Expanding in APAC

**SWAN** Hellenic has announced an expansion of its 2027 Asia-Pacific Cultural Expedition voyages, now offering 10 itineraries from 08 Mar through to 12 Oct 2027.

The expanded season aboard *Minerva* is highlighted by the addition of two New Zealand voyages, with the first one being the 13-night 'New Zealand in Depth' itinerary departing 08 Mar 2027, as well as the 'Cruising the Pacific Islands: New Caledonia, Vanuatu & Solomon Islands' trip, also 13 nights, departing Auckland on 21 Mar 2027.

Later on in the season, Swan Hellenic has added three East Asia voyages: the 10-night 'Pearls of the Pacific: Exploring the Philippines and Japan' trip, departing 09 Jun 2027; the 11-night 'Japan and Korea Cruise: Cultural Shores & Northern Landscapes' itinerary, departing 19 Jun 2027; as well as the 10-night 'East Asia Expedition: From the Wild North to Hiroshima's Heritage' voyage, departing 02 Oct 2027, which will also round off the season.

Other highlights include Indonesia and Raja Ampat.

In addition, Swan Hellenic has revealed its Asia Unlocked offer, giving guests a free balcony stateroom upgrade and gold wi-fi on every new booking made before 09 Nov.

## A Royale lunch with LTC



**THE** Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) has hosted an exclusive luncheon in Singapore, in partnership with Regent Seven Seas Cruises at ILTM this week.

Visit Monaco and one of the destination's key hospitality partners, Monte-Carlo Societe des Bains de Mer, also partnered with LTC on the 'Riviera Royale' lunch, which took place on the eve of the luxury travel event.

It is the second consecutive year LTC has brought members together ahead of ILTM to celebrate relationships, shared expertise, and foster global connections shaping luxury travel's future.

The luncheon featured insights from senior leaders across Regent Seven Seas, including global ambassador Steve Odell, who has recently returned to Australia following two years in Miami (**CW** 09 Mar).

Odell spoke about the remarkable momentum of the cruise sector, noting that by 2028, an estimated 42 million people globally will take a cruise, with 87 new ships currently on order.

Attendees also heard from Regent Seven Seas vice president sales & general manager Lisa Pile, who reflected on the enduring value of partnership.

LTC general manager Nikki Glading said: "Bringing our members together in Singapore, as the global luxury travel industry gathers for ILTM Asia Pacific, says something very powerful about who our community is and the level at which they operate."

"This is not just about proximity to great brands, it is about the relationships our members build, the conversations they have, and the influence they carry with them wherever they go." **MS**

## Celestyal CCO out

**LEE** Haslett (pictured), Celestyal Cruises chief commercial officer, is leaving the line to take up a role outside the travel industry, the company has announced.

Haslett joined Celestyal three years ago, after almost 15 years with Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Vacations.

He played a key role in Celestyal's commercial transformation, leading the global business strategy across revenue management, sales, marketing, partnerships, distribution, and more.

"It has been an incredible privilege to be part of Celestyal's journey over the past three and a half years," Haslett said.

"I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and grateful to [CEO] Chris Theophilides, the leadership team and all of my colleagues for their support, friendship and ambition."

Haslett will remain with Celestyal until Oct to support a smooth transition to his successor, with a search currently under way.



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## PORTHOLE

**LAST** year former teacher Sharon Lane ditched her land-loving lifestyle to live life on the high seas (**CW** 14 Jul 2025).

Fast-forward to the present day and Lane said she wouldn't have it any other way.

Lane described her experience living aboard the *Villa Vie Odyssey* as "heaven", claiming that the extra fees associated with life at sea are still cheaper than what she had to pay back when she was living in California.

She also loves the social side of living aboard the ship, sharing meals with other pax.

However, she steers clear of organised events the vessel puts on, as it isn't "really her cup of tea."

*Villa Via Odyssey* makes regular ports of call around the world, however, Lane told *CNN* that she doesn't get off the ship, as it takes away from the high-seas experience.

## Prestige to get sporty



**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is introducing an all-new Solara Sports Deck (**pictured**) aboard *Seven Seas Prestige*, ahead of her debut in Dec.

The Sports Deck is RSSC's first-ever dedicated space of its kind, and will be located on deck 14, at the top of the vessel.

It will introduce a premium sports court, a dedicated yoga area, and RSSC's first-ever digital gaming experience.

Guests can look forward to a competition-sized padel and pickleball court, positioned to frame ocean views, as well as an expansive 18-hole putting green.

The space also introduces two firsts for RSSC: a sunrise and sunset yoga area, and a sheltered

social pavilion featuring digital gaming system with side-by-side Conductr Supercharged Shuffleboard units - a tech version of the classic cruise ship deck game.

*Prestige's* Solara Sports Deck will be decorated with wood framing, integrated planters, and relaxation areas, as well as LED perimeter lighting at night.

RSSC has also revealed details of its highly anticipated Solara Pool Deck, which will be located on deck 12.

The space features a two-tiered sunbed concept inspired by the successful design on RSSC's Explorer-class ships, as well as a 129m<sup>2</sup> pool and two accompanying whirlpool spas. *MS*

## Bye bye, Charleston

**CHARLESTON** is bidding bon voyage to large cruise ships (**CW** 01 Jun 2022), with the last vessel of her kind, Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Jewel*, leaving South Carolina's most populous city on Tue.

The primary driver behind the shutdown is Charleston's push to balance booming tourism with the quality of life of residents, as well as efforts to reduce traffic and reimagine the waterfront.

Union Pier terminal is now set to be redeveloped into residential housing, parks, and retail spaces.

Charleston had been a key home port for Carnival Cruise Line, which sailed from the port to The Bahamas between 2010 and 2024, when the city declined to renew.

*Carnival Sunshine*, the cruise line's last ship to call Charleston home, departed for the last time in Jan 2025.

The cruise sector has been divisive in Charleston for years, with a lawsuit stopping the construction of a new terminal in 2012.



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