



### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Cruise Lines International Association**.

### Dodkin joins APT

#### EXCLUSIVE

**AARON** Dodkin joined APT Travel Group as business development manager at the start of this week, **Cruise Weekly** can reveal.

Dodkin brings extensive industry experience to the role, having held several BDM positions across the industry, including most recently with Norwegian Cruise Line.

He will support trade partners throughout NSW and the ACT, helping drive growth and engagement across APT's product portfolio.

Dodkin has also worked with Back-Roads and On The Go.

## Get ready for this year's Cruise360

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) is backing preparedness among cruise specialists with the announcement of its Cruise360 theme: 'Future Ready. Client Ready. Cruise Ready'.

Aimed at putting delegates on course for success in a new era of cruising, the theme will shape a packed program at the ICC Sydney from 17-18 Sep.

Cruise360 will combine a global industry perspective with practical professional development, helping travel advisors understand major demand, capacity, product, and consumer trends.

A key focus will be how agents can use new tools, including AI, without losing the human judgement, trust, and personal service that remain at the heart of successful travel advice.

Cruise360 will also explore



growth opportunities across different segments, including luxury, expedition, river cruising, responsible travel, and first-time cruise conversion.

The association's executive director Joel Katz said this year's conference would reflect a market in which clients were more informed, more digitally enabled, and more selective.

"This year's theme speaks directly to the role of today's cruise advisor - one who is ready for a changing market, ready for a more informed and digitally connected client, and ready to

convert strong cruise demand into real business growth," commented Katz.

"Cruise360 will focus on the skills, insights and confidence needed to remain trusted, relevant and commercially successful," he added.

Katz said the best-placed travel advisors will be those who are AI-aware, client-focused, commercially confident, and still deeply human.

"An underlying message at Cruise360 this year will be that the best travel advisors will not simply respond to change, they will be equipped to lead clients through it," he noted.

Cruise360 will include a two-day program, an industry cocktail event and an extensive exhibition showcasing CLIA cruise lines, destinations, industry suppliers, and executive partners - see more on the **back page**. *MS*



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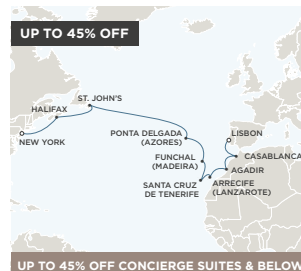
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## You've Scot to love it

**HEBRIDEAN** Island Cruises has launched next year's program for *Hebridean Princess*, one of the world's smallest luxury ships. Sailings feature the Scottish Highlands, the castle-lined waters around the country's coastline, and islands such as the Hebrides, Orkneys, Shetlands, and the Isle of Man. *Hebridean Princess* will also make visits to ports in England and Wales and across the English Channel to France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The 2027 season also boasts an array of themed cruises encompassing nature and wildlife, art and architecture, food and wine, and more.

## Third ship for Four Seasons



**ITALIAN** shipbuilding company Fincantieri has signed a contract with Four Seasons Yachts for the construction of a third ship.

Scheduled for delivery in 2031, the new vessel, ordered by parent company Marc-Henry Cruise Holdings, will build on the successful delivery earlier this year of *Four Seasons I* (pictured).

Fincantieri is also constructing a second ship for the cruise line, which is scheduled to enter service at the beginning of 2028.

The new order furthers the longstanding collaboration between Fincantieri and Four Seasons, and reflects growing demand for this new yacht-style category of cruising.

"This new order marks another significant step in the development of the partnership with Marc-Henry Cruise Holdings that has become a benchmark for innovation in luxury hospitality at sea," Fincantieri chief executive officer & managing director Pierroberto Folgiero said.

"The decision to expand the fleet with a third vessel reflects the strength of a long-term industrial vision and confirms the market's appreciation for a concept that has successfully created a new segment at the intersection of luxury hospitality and advanced shipbuilding.

"Designed and built at our Ancona shipyard, the vessel

further reinforces Ancona's role as Fincantieri's centre of excellence for ultra-luxury shipbuilding, where innovation, craftsmanship, and industrial expertise come together to deliver the highest standards of quality and sophistication."

Four Seasons' third vessel will feature the same all-suite, residential-style concept pioneered by her predecessors and conceived under Fincantieri's Navis Sapiens vision of artificial intelligence-led shipbuilding.

Costing almost US\$450 million to build (approximately A\$650 million), *Four Seasons I* features 95 customisable suites, 11 dining venues, and an almost 1:1 guest-to-staff ratio.

The news follows Four Seasons' recent announcement of a number of private island experiences for its inaugural Caribbean season later this year (CW 01 Jul).

Two signature experiences will be available across sailings during the 2026-27 season, including a private beach day at Prickly Pear Cays in Anguilla and an exclusive 'yacht club escape' at Norman's Cay in the Bahamas.

*Four Seasons I's* inaugural Caribbean itineraries will include voyages through the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, St Barthelemy, Nevis, Antigua, and Anguilla, and can be booked now. MS

## Shackleton speaks

**PONANT** Explorations has announced polar historian and lecturer Jonathan Shackleton, cousin of legendary Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, will return as a guest lecturer, aboard *L'Austral* in Feb.

Shackleton will join guests on a 20-day expedition from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires, which is set to travel through some of the most remote waters of the Southern Ocean.

He will deliver a series of lectures and informal talks throughout the voyage, offering insight into early Antarctic exploration, the heroic age of Antarctic exploration, polar literature, and the region's history.



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**WHILE** a cruise trip usually puts a dent in one's budget, it would be hard to imagine it costing your career.

However that was unfortunately the case with one British school principal, who was permanently banned from teaching after it was revealed she was altering the school calendar to accommodate her love of the high seas.

Joy Ballard, former principal of Ryde Academy on England's Isle of Wight, was banned by a professional misconduct panel appointed by the country's Teaching Regulation Agency after it found she was acting in a dishonest manner.

The panel revealed that, and Ballard admitted to, moving the end of the autumn term and delaying the start of the spring term so the school holidays could match her cruising plans.

It was also revealed that she missed a day of school on 03 Jan 2024 to return from one of her trips, and left work early in Feb 2023, in order to board another cruise.

The panel found Ballard had acted "dishonestly and lacking in integrity", citing that her actions disrupted families, students and other school employees, who had already made plans around the original school calendar.

## Silversea unveils 2028/29



**SILVERSEA** has unveiled its 2028-29 Voyage Collection, highlighted by *Silver Nova's* inaugural Northern Europe season, when she will sail Norway alongside *Silver Spirit*.

Dubbed 'Let the World Surprise You', the upcoming range consists of 278 sailings, 497 destinations in 97 countries, and more than 120 new or re-introduced ports.

New offerings for 2028/29 include fresh Mediterranean itineraries aboard *Silver Wind* spanning the Adriatic, the Greek Isles, and Northern Africa, as well as the 'Grand Mediterranean Voyage 2028' aboard *Silver Dawn* - a 60-day autumn sailing spanning more than 40 destinations across Greece, Croatia, Italy, the Adriatic, and the Iberian Peninsula.

Silversea has also unveiled an enhanced Antarctica fly-cruise program, with the journey beginning in Patagonia at the cruise line's soon-to-open hotel, The Cormorant at 55 South, before guests embark on a private charter flight directly to the destination.

Additionally, the 2028/29 program will mark *Spirit's* maiden season in Canada and New England, with guests able to enjoy extended stays in Quebec City, Halifax, and Boston.

Meanwhile, *Silver Ray* will operate Silversea's dedicated Monaco Grand Prix sailing, giving guests a front-row view of race week, as well as Eastern Mediterranean itineraries through the Adriatic and Greece.

"Our new 2028-2029 Voyage Collection reflects what Silversea does best - taking guests beyond the expected, to destinations and cultural moments that reveal the world in ways they didn't expect," president Bert Hernandez said.

"From Mediterranean expedition voyages to an enhanced Antarctica fly-cruise program and the 60-day 'Grand Mediterranean Voyage' aboard *Silver Dawn*, this collection offers our guests a unique array of destination experiences, delivered in a way that only Silversea can."

General sales for the 2028-29 Voyage Collection open on Fri. *JM*



### Brisbane's cruise boom

AS WE build towards the ACA Conference in Brisbane, it's timely to reflect on the strength of our host city as one of Australia's leading cruise gateways.

The Brisbane International Cruise Terminal has delivered another strong season, reinforcing its position as Australia's second-largest cruise port and an increasingly important homeport for domestic and international cruise operations. From Oct 25-Mar 26, the terminal welcomed 101 cruise calls, including five maiden visits, and facilitated 519,300 passengers.

The terminal also celebrated its 500th cruise call since opening in 2022, highlighting its remarkable growth in less than four years.

Momentum is set to continue, with 152 calls currently scheduled for the 26/27 season, demonstrating ongoing confidence from cruise lines and Brisbane's growing importance within deployment planning.

These figures are more than statistics - each cruise call delivers \$1.05 million in economic benefit to Queensland, supporting tourism businesses, regional ports, transport operators and local communities across the state.

With strong cruise line confidence, continued investment in port infrastructure, and Brisbane firmly established as a turnaround port, the city is well placed to continue building on this success.

It provides an ideal backdrop for the ACA Conference, where industry leaders from across Australia and overseas will come together to discuss how we continue driving value beyond the berth.

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