

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise news, plus a full page from **Aurora Expeditions**.

Chasing wonder

AURORA Expeditions is celebrating 35 years of "chasing wonder" by offering its travellers up to 30% off select Antarctic, Arctic, and voyages around the globe.

Cruisers can also get up to \$5,000 per person in air credit, as Aurora looks to provide exceptional value to experience some of the world's best destinations.

There is limited availability for the offer, so book now - read more on the **back page**.

C360's international flavour



EXCLUSIVE

A NUMBER of international leaders will headline Cruise360 this Sep for the opening session of the conference.

Cruise Weekly can reveal Helen Beck, Windstar MD global commercial; Mario Bounas, Swan Hellenic CCO; Sam Seward, Quark Expeditions president; and David Siewers, Azamara chief int'l sales officer, will bring a global perspective to the stage, kicking off the year's largest annual cruise conference.

Cruise specialist travel advisors will have the chance to gain global insights from key industry leaders, who will help Australian advisors grow their business in a rapidly evolving industry.

The panel will provide an executive view of where cruise demand and product development are heading; what international brands are seeing in consumer behaviour; how advisors can use global context to build confidence and commercial focus locally; and the opportunities likely to shape the next 12 to 24 months.

It will replace the traditional 'State of the Industry' panel,

which last year included Royal Caribbean's Gavin Smith, Carnival Corporation's Peter Little, Norwegian Cruise Line's Ben Angell, Ponant Explorations Group's Deb Corbett, and Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Lisa Pile.

Joel Katz, executive director of conference convener Cruise Lines International Association, said each leader will apply a global lens to the current cruise landscape, setting the scene for Cruise360's wider theme, which is: "Future Ready. Client Ready. Cruise Ready."

"Together our international panellists represent an incredible amount of experience from different areas of the cruise spectrum, which will give us a fantastic snapshot of the world cruising environment and the opportunities available for travel advisors," Katz explained.

"This session will kick off Cruise360 with a highly relevant conversation, covering areas like product evolution, consumer trends, international deployment, and what advisors in Australia and New Zealand need to consider as they pursue commercial success," he said. *MS*

Marvel at 2028

TRAVELMARVEL has unveiled its early release of Europe 2028 cruises, following on from its luxury sister brand APT last week (**CW** 10 Jul).

The cruise line's best-selling tours will return for 2028, including the 15-day European Gems itinerary, which will journey along the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers, showcasing the region's towns and cities.

Another highlight of the program is the eight-day Rhine and Moselle River cruise, sailing between Amsterdam and Basel.

Highlights of the cruise include a guided culinary tour of Strasbourg and a visit to Reichsburg Cochem.

More than a passport stamp.

A promise to protect paradise.



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SPOTLIGHT: IN CONVERSATION WITH PALAU

MONDAY 20 JULY

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

THE ROOM RESIDENCE, SYDNEY

REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST TODAY →

TRAVELDAILY

Palau Paradise

Room-Res.com
by WINNING AGENTS

More than a passport stamp.

A promise to protect paradise.



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SPOTLIGHT: IN CONVERSATION WITH PALAU

MONDAY 20 JULY

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

THE ROOM RESIDENCE, SYDNEY

REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST TODAY →

TRAVELDAILY

Palau Paradise

Room-Res.com
by WINNING AGENTS



Seabourn unveils Ruby Collection

SEABOURN Cruise Line has unveiled details of 'The Ruby Collection', including more than 50 voyages across ocean and expedition itineraries for the brand's 40th anniversary in 2028.

Voyages span the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, Japan, Alaska, Northern Europe, the Arctic, and Antarctica.

Highlights include a 'Yachtsman Collection' of Caribbean and Mediterranean voyages, which will return to the intimate destinations that inspired Seabourn's founding.

There will also be a 120-day 'Cape to Cape' world cruise and a 96-day 'Grand Expedition: Pole to Pole' voyage from the High Arctic to Antarctica.

New ports include Taichung, Tainan, Petersburg, Valdez, and the Chiswell Islands.

The season will also see Seabourn make maiden



expedition calls at Tvoroyri and Cape Clear Island.

New and distinctive experiences include Taiwan's Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival, an eight-day pre-cruise Denali experience in Alaska, and Seabourn's return to Red Bay.

The season will also see the cruise line debut a collaboration with *The Atlantic* magazine, which will bring thinkers and cultural voices on board for a 12-day sailing from Montreal to Boston.

All Ruby Collection voyages are now open for booking. *MS*

Hate the Drake

ATLAS Ocean Voyages is providing travellers more options for bypassing the Drake Passage during the 2027/28 Antarctica season.

The cruise line will offer four of its 'The Drake Express Expedition' departures between Nov 2027 and Feb 2028, featuring return charter flights from Chile to King George Island, as well as seven-night round-trip from King George Island to Antarctica, skipping the two-day crossing of the passage.

Additionally, Atlas has a further two departures on its 'The Drake Fly & Sail Expedition' in Nov 2027 and Feb 2028 respectively, offering a trip across the Drake Passage by sea one way and returning via private charter flight from King George Island to Chile.

Prices start from US\$17,999.



Explore More

ARCTIC & ANTARCTIC 2028/2029

Polar is all we do. With the launch of our new seasons, you can explore more of the far reaches of the world with the best expedition team, who will get you off-ship and exploring more.

[QuarkExpeditions.com](https://www.QuarkExpeditions.com)

 **Quark Expeditions®**
Polar-Obsessed Since 1991



CHOCOLATE-LOVERS are in for a treat aboard MSC Cruises' new ship *MSC World Asia*, which will debut the largest Venchi chocolate experience at sea.

The 300m² venue will be home to a chocolate boutique, a cafe, and an artisanal gelateria, with the cocoa provided by the renowned Italian chocolatier.

Guests will be able to create bespoke chocolates, enjoy premium Italian gelato, and discover a range of other exclusive Venchi experiences.

The pair are also set to celebrate their new *World Asia* partnership with the launch of a limited-edition gelato flavour, 'crunchy waves', which will be available in select Venchi stores and on board.

These two iconic Italian brands have partnered since 2017 for the launch of the *MSC Seaside*, collaborating to bring dedicated Venchi gelato stations, chocolate bars, and custom boutiques to the cruise line's ships.



Grace's family spaces



CRYSTAL has unveiled new family and outdoor spaces aboard *Crystal Grace*, with open-air sanctuaries set to debut aboard the cruise line's newest ship when she is introduced in 2028.

Grace's dedicated youth area will be located on deck 11, and has been designed as a vibrant gathering place where junior guests can enjoy the freedom of open-air play while surrounded by the sea.

The space will feature a shallow pool, outdoor recreational games, and comfortable areas for families to spend time together in a welcoming environment.

Designed to encourage active play and social interaction, Crystal said the new concept reflects its commitment to creating meaningful experiences for younger guests while maintaining the sophisticated aesthetic that defines the brand.

Meanwhile, the all-new Waves Teen Center, also located on deck 11, has been significantly expanded, offering the largest

space of its kind in Crystal's fleet.

The venue will cater exclusively to guests aged 13 to 18, and features a larger entertainment lounge complete with an oversized screen for gaming, movies and group activities, card and board game areas, and a dance floor with a sound system.

Grace's teen program will operate daily with dedicated programming and activities during peak family travel periods such as the holiday season.

Younger guests will enjoy a refreshed Fantasia Children's Playroom, designed specifically for children aged three to 12.

The concept includes drop-off programming for younger children and supervised activities for older kids.

Crystal will also continue to offer in-room babysitting services for children who are 12 months of age or older.

Grace's inaugural voyage will embark on 11 Jun 2028 on an eight-night sailing from Civitavecchia to Venice. *MS*



From farm to sea

SEVEN News told an important story on the weekend, highlighting the enormous economic benefit that cruising brings to communities around Australia.

In the farmlands of Werribee outside Melbourne, third-generation farmer Paul Temuskos explained how cruise line orders make up at least 40% of his business.

The fresh produce that Paul provides to Carnival Cruise Line is part of a supply chain worth billions of dollars to the Australian economy.

Like travel advisors, Australian farmers are a vital part of the cruise economy, keeping dozens of ships supplied with quality food and wine throughout the year, especially during our summer peak.

But Australia is becoming a difficult environment for cruise operations, and our declining competitiveness as a destination means we risk losing cruise tourism to other countries.

Seven's story highlights the message that CLIA and our cruise lines are sending to political leaders in Canberra and around the country: that Australia needs to take action to restore its competitiveness, attract more cruise ships, and safeguard more than 20,000 Australian jobs that rely on tourism brought by the cruise sector.

We'll continue to speak up for our Australian cruise community in all our advocacy efforts – including our travel advisor membership.

You can view *Seven's* story on YouTube [HERE](#).





35 Years Chasing Wonder. That deserves a celebration.

To mark the milestone, Aurora Expeditions is offering travellers up to 30% off select Antarctic, Arctic and global voyages, plus up to AU\$5,000 per person in air credit.*

It's exceptional value to experience some of the world's most extraordinary destinations — but with limited availability, now's the time to book.



*T&Cs Apply.