

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise industry news, plus a full page from **Silversea**.

Let us surprise you

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 North Africa, as well as the 'Grand Mediterranean Voyage 2028' – see the **back page**.

Villa Vie's second ship to be luxury vessel

RESIDENTIAL cruise line Villa Vie Residences will add a second ship, *Legacy*, which is expected to enter service in early 2029.

The new ship has been designed as a premium sister ship to *Odyssey*, Villa Vie's inaugural vessel, with residences that are approximately 50% larger.

Legacy (pictured) will also feature expanded dining venues, larger public spaces, enhanced wellness facilities, and elevated amenities throughout the ship.

Full details of *Legacy* will be unveiled during *Odyssey's* two-year 'Sailiversary' celebration in early Oct, marking 24 months since the ship departed on her global voyage.

Villa Vie's Endless Horizons program - which offers lifetime residency aboard its first ship - will also be extended to *Legacy*.

"When we launched *Odyssey*, we set out to prove that



residential cruising wasn't just possible, it was sustainable," founder Mike Petterson said.

"Two years later, *Legacy* is the natural evolution of everything we've learned from our residents and operations around the world," he enthused.

Villa Vie first set out to compliment *Odyssey's* contemporary offering with a

premium product late last year with Project Lumina (**CW 05 Dec**), which was later officially designated as Avora Residences (**CW 04 Mar**).

This brand runs parallel to Villa Vie and is managed by president Christopher Cox.

Villa Vie's *Odyssey* recently surpassed 85% of available residences sold. **MS**

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Heritage Line shows off new vessel

HERITAGE Line has announced the return of its ship *Anouvong* on 31 Jul, following extensive refurbishments across her exterior and onboard facilities.

The vessel now sports styling inspired by the culture and architecture of Laos, such as maroon and white hues signifying the wats of Luang Prabang.

Inside the ship, new design elements include softer lighting, new wall finishes, and refined suite furnishings.

The former Nam Khan signature suites have been renamed Anouvong, with a redesign that draws inspiration from Wat Sisaket in Vientiane.

Complementing the redesign, Heritage has enhanced its shore excursions for guests aboard *Anouvong*, with new stops in Pak Sith and Ban Baw, replacing the visits to Khok Phou and Huay Phaluang, to highlight the



local communities and spiritual heritage of northern Laos.

"*Anouvong* has always celebrated the beauty of the Upper Mekong, and with this refurbishment we wanted to deepen that connection by drawing even greater inspiration from Laos itself," Heritage director of sales & marketing Andreas Schroetter said.

"From the ship's design to the experiences along the river, every element has been carefully considered to create a stronger

sense of place.

"Our hope is that guests come away not only with memories of a beautiful journey, but with a real appreciation for the culture, heritage, and communities that make the Upper Mekong so distinctive," he added.

Anouvong will be embarking on a series of three-, seven-, and nine-night sailings along the Upper Mekong between now and the end of the year, highlighted by stops in Huay Xai, Luang Prabang, and Vientiane. *JB*

O'Hare hops to cruise

PRINCESS Cruises has welcomed Louise O'Hare as its new state manager for NSW/ACT, bringing with her more than 20 years of experience in the travel industry.

O'Hare joins Princess following a successful career spanning reservations, ticketing, sales support, business development, and account management.

She most recently spent more than a decade with Emirates, where she worked closely with key travel partners across the leisure, corporate, and wholesale sectors.

The cruise line recognised O'Hare for her "positive, people-first approach and passion for the trade".

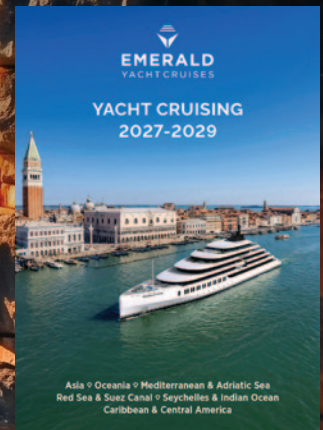
She said: "I'm excited to be joining Princess Cruises and look forward to working alongside our travel partners".



What's New for 2027-2029

- NEW Emerald Raiya
- NEW Emerald Xara
- NEW Asia Cruising
- NEW Australian & South Pacific Cruising
- NEW Yacht & River cruising combinations

NEW Luxury Yacht Cruising 2027-2029 brochure out now



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A MAN travelling through the New Jersey wetlands managed to have a chuckle after hearing a joke from a nine-year-old girl...written 53 years ago.

John Kauterman was conducting a routine clean-up in the state's wetlands when he came across a sealed message in a bottle.

The note was dated 20 Aug 1973, signed by Laurie Blair, describing "that a band of ruthless sponge fishermen are forcing me to dive for them in shark infested waters!"

Kauterman shared the message on social media, eventually finding Blair's sister, Allison Spencer.

According to Spencer, Blair got her to write the note as she was 16 at the time and had better handwriting.

The letter has been mailed to Spencer to be framed, as her sister, the letter's author, passed away in 2019.

Stars to shine on MSC



MSC Cruises is set to welcome 20 of its top-performing travel partners aboard its soon-to-launch ship *MSC World Asia* (pictured) for 'All Stars of the Sea', the line's annual global trade recognition event.

Travel advisors will join more than 1,000 international partners on an exclusive five-night voyage from Le Havre to Barcelona.

Partners will be recognised at a series of awards celebrating standout achievements across categories such as Best Network Agent, Best MSC Yacht Club Producer, and more.

Guests will be among the first to

experience the new *MSC World Asia* while also enjoying exclusive product presentations.

"Bringing our Australian and New Zealand partners to 'All Stars of the Sea' for the very first time is a significant milestone - not just for this market, but for MSC Cruises globally," enthused Katrina McAlpine, managing director Australia & NZ, MSC Group Cruise Division.

"It reflects the strong partnership we've built with the travel trade and our shared commitment to growing the MSC Cruises brand across Australia and New Zealand." MS

A new Heritage

SEVEN new voyages have been announced for Heritage Expeditions' new ship *Heritage Discoverer's* maiden 2027-28 season (CW 26 Feb).

New itineraries include a mix of remote wilderness and wildlife expedition destinations including Svalbard, Iceland, Greenland, South Georgia, the Falkland Islands, the Faroe Islands, the Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, the Channel Islands, and more.

Guests will explore UNESCO World Heritage sites, prehistoric monuments, architectural wonders, cultural capitals, and renowned wine regions along the coasts of Spain, Portugal, and France.

Heritage owners and directors Aaron and Nathan Russ described the cruise line's new vessel and itineraries as a pivotal moment in the company's history, ahead of *Heritage Discoverer* joining the fleet in May.

She currently sails as *Exploris One* for French line Exploris, and was also previously part of Silversea's fleet.



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EDITORIAL

Editor - Myles Stedman
Journalists - Adam Bishop, Janie Medbury, James Bale
Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller
info@cruiseweekly.com.au
Social Editor - Alexandra Lilly

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager
Kara Stanley
advertising@cruiseweekly.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: (AU) +61 2 8007 6760 or (NZ) 0800 799 220
Tel: (Int'l) 1300 799 220



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