



Cruise Weekly today

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

Jenny Piper memorial

A **MEMORIAL** celebrating the life of *Cruise Weekly* founder Jenny Piper will be held next week on 18 Jun at 2pm at St Augustine's at 75 Shellcove Road in Neutral Bay.

Piper sadly passed away this week after a two-year battle fighting a rare form of cancer (*CW* 09 Jun).



MSC ramps up Aussie strategy

MSC Cruises is evolving its strategy in Australia, as the line's new managing director Katrina McAlpine further stamps her imprint on the brand.

The new MSC head said the cruise line is refining the products it markets in Australia as it comes to understand the preferences of local cruisers.

"Northern Europe has been huge for us, so we're doing more in the back-to-back space there," she said.

"When Australians go to Europe, they're not going for seven days, they're going to travel with us on those back-to-backs.

"I think that flexiporting is key for us moving forward, as well as our winter Med [program]...it offers flexibility for trade partners that are packaging."

McAlpine said MSC has also responded to travellers' changing preferences in the broader



geopolitical landscape.

For example, the cruise line was quick to introduce greater flexibility for travellers and lower deposits at the outbreak of the Iran war, which saw fewer guests cancelling their voyage.

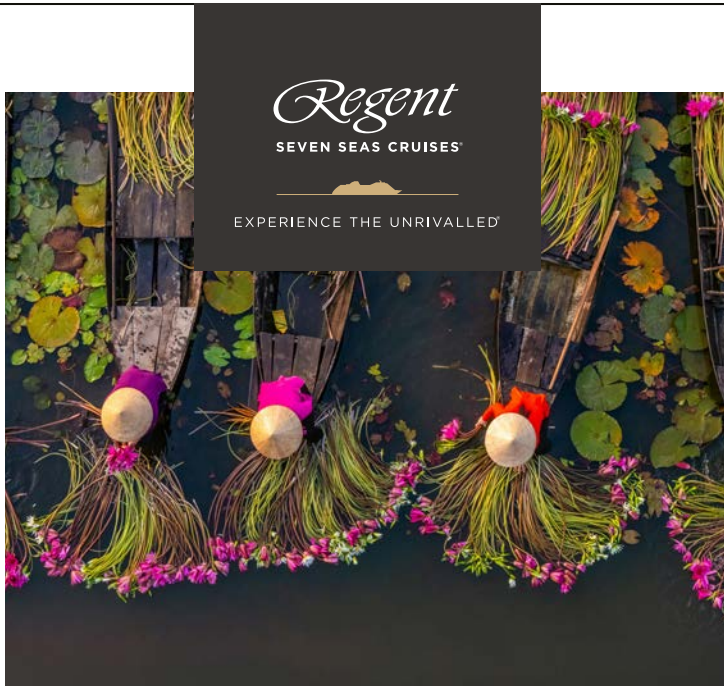
"Most of what we saw come through was really about finding those alternate routes," she said.

As MSC's winter Med program becomes more popular, the

cruise line is also seeing demand for its voyages stretch further throughout the year than typical.

"We are seeing the demand shift away from a concentrated pocket through summer to being more dispersed across the departure year, which is fantastic for us." *MS*

Pictured are Lyndsey Gordon, general manager of MSC's PR agency PEPR, alongside McAlpine.



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Travelmarvel + HAL

TRAVELMARVEL is continuing its partnership with Holland America Line (HAL) to offer guests three new ocean and river cruise itineraries.

The journeys will feature a Travelmarvel tour director and exclusive shore excursions.

One of the key itineraries will be the 25-day 'European Gems, Belgium, and Norwegian Fjords' trip, which combines a 14-night Travelmarvel cruise with a seven-night HAL voyage and three nights on land.

Itineraries will combine HAL's activities on offer with the more relaxed pace of a Travelmarvel itinerary on board a Travelmarvel ship.

Discovering Ponant

PONANT Explorations is set to host its 2026 Discovery Sessions in Jun and Jul across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

The events will provide travel partners and guests with insights into Ponant's 2027-28 voyage collection, showcasing destinations such as the Kimberley, Japan, and the Philippines, as well as countries in the Indian Ocean, including Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar.

Guest speakers will include Kimberley and Indian Ocean specialist and expedition leader, Francesca Coleman, alongside Japan and Southeast Asia specialist and expedition leader, Ryo Ijichi.

Both will share firsthand insights into the destinations, to help guests select the best voyages suited to their travel styles and interests.

Event attendees will also receive exclusive 30% savings on select 2027-28 itineraries plus €300 (A\$493) shipboard credit per person. *JB*

Legend delivered to RCG



ROYAL Caribbean has officially welcomed the handover of its newest Icon-class ship *Legend of the Seas*.

The celebration in Finland comes ahead of *Legend's* European debut next month.

More than 1,200 crew members and partners came together for the 'Legend-ary' ceremony led by Royal Caribbean Group chair & chief executive officer Jason Liberty, the cruise line's president & chief executive officer Michael Bayley, and Meyer Turku chief executive Casimir Lindholm.

"Today's delivery of *Legend of the Seas* marks another important milestone in our ambition to continuously redefine the vacation experience," Liberty said at the event.

"This new ship reflects the strength of the vacation ecosystem we are building - combining industry-leading ships, innovative technology, and exceptional experiences for our guests," he added.

"It is an achievement only possible through the extraordinary partnership and expertise of Meyer Turku and the thousands of talented people whose creativity and commitment continue to help us design the future of vacations."

The delivery is part of the company's long-term agreement with Meyer Turku, securing Royal Caribbean's access to shipbuilding

capacity through 2036.

This will include the order of *Icon 5*, to be delivered in 2028, as well as the sixth and seventh Icon-class ships in 2029 and 2030.

Legend will soon journey from Turku to Cadiz, where Royal Caribbean will add finishing touches before passengers set sail on seven-night Western Mediterranean adventures from Barcelona and Rome.

The ship will then arrive in Fort Lauderdale in Nov to deliver six-night Western Caribbean and eight-night Southern Caribbean vacations, with every trip visiting private island destination, Perfect Day at CocoCay.

Highlights aboard *Legend* include more dining at sea than any other Royal Caribbean ship, with almost 30 different options.

New experiences include Hollywoodland Supper Club, a multi-course elevated diner; Royal Railway - Legend Station, a five-course immersive train dining journey through the Silk Routes; and AquaDome Market, an all-inclusive food hall with five concepts, along with a new juice and smoothie bar. *MS*

Pictured are Michael Bayley; Jason Liberty; Royal Caribbean executive vice president of maritime & newbuilding Harri Kulovaara; Meyer Turku CEO Casimir Lindholm; and Meyer Turku deputy chief executive officer Ville Saksi.

Viking sails Japan

VIKING has launched a new itinerary, the 15-day 'Japan Discovery' itinerary sailing round trip from Tokyo.

The cruise sails around the country, crossing the Sea of Japan to the southeast tip of the Korean Peninsula.

Highlights include three ports new to Viking: Aomori, Niigata, and Hakata, along with overnights in Tokyo and Shimizu, and three days at sea.

Departures commence from 15 Aug 2028, with four on offer: two in Aug 2028 and two in Sep 2028.

The cruise is priced from \$12,995 per person in a Veranda stateroom for the inaugural departure.



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Four Seasons II debut



FOUR Seasons Yachts has announced the upcoming launch of *Four Seasons II*, set to debut in 2028 with a collection of Yacht Residential Suites.

Ranging from two- to four-bedrooms and located on the upper decks, the 79 suites are designed for extended stays, group travel, and multigenerational journeys.

The spaces feature kitchen and dining areas, dedicated entertainment zones, private splash pools, outdoor showers, and wellness-focused amenities.

Guests also have access to a dedicated concierge, and are able to arrange personalised dining, as

well as curated experiences both on board and ashore.

"Following an exceptional launch for this new venture, we are thoughtfully expanding our fleet in a way that continues to elevate the experience," said Ben Trodd, chief executive officer of Marc-Henry Cruise Holdings, joint owner/operator of the cruise line.

"*Four Seasons II* builds on this foundation, introducing new offerings on the water while deepening personalisation and expanding access through the introduction of residential-scale suites," he added.

Bookings are now open for the inaugural sailing season. *JB*

SeaDream 2028-29

SEADREAM Yacht Club has announced new Caribbean voyages for autumn 2028 and New Year's 2029, highlighted by extended stays in St. Barths and more than a dozen trips across the Virgin Islands.

Spanning Nov 2028 through Jan 2029, the new season introduces 13 Caribbean sailings aboard *SeaDream I* and *SeaDream II* visiting the Virgin Islands, St. Barths, Anguilla, Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis, and more.

"Our guests return to the Caribbean with us year after year, and it is easy to understand why," executive vice president Andreas Brynstad said.

"These voyages give them more time in the places they love most, from St. Barths to the Virgin Islands, with the freedom and ease that define SeaDream," he said.



A MISSING dog named Bruce has been rescued from the North Sea, after being blown away in an inflatable kayak.

Poor Bruce's owner had been kayaking with his dog when the tides suddenly changed, catching him offguard.

The owner tried to swim after his dog but after struggling to catch up, he turned around to call for help.

Thankfully, an Aussie called Jimmy Reid was the hero, after he pulled Bruce onto his tour boat, but it was a challenge.

"[Crew member] Aaron lunged forward, grabbing the dog by the scruff of its neck as it disappeared beneath the water," recounted the tour company's blogpost.

"For a few heart-stopping seconds, man, dog and rescuer were all hanging precariously above the sea."

Bruce is now safe and with his owners.

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