



Cruise Weekly today

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

Libra launched

THE world's first hydrogen-powered ship, *Viking Libra*, was launched overnight at Fincantieri's Ancona shipyard in Italy and is scheduled for delivery at the end of the year.

The 14th ocean-going newbuild for Viking, the pioneering *Libra* will feature a propulsion system based partially on liquefied hydrogen and fuel cells.

This will allow her to operate on zero emissions and explore some of the most environmentally-sensitive destinations in the world.

Ancona shipyard's director Gilberto Tobaldi and Viking team members attended the ceremony. *JHM*

Two Queens take a bow in Australia

CUNARD Line has concluded its brief Australian season, with its newest ship *Queen Anne* leaving the country earlier this week.

This season saw travel advisors enjoy the rare opportunity to visit Cunard's first new Queen in 14 years (*CW* 09 Feb 2022).

Queen Mary 2 also made a visit to Australia this month (*CW* 05 Mar), with almost 600 travel advisors visiting the two ships.

The 2002-built ocean liner docked overnight in Sydney on 04 Mar, while *Queen Anne* followed suit on 17 Mar, both travelling on a world voyage.

Each ship was brought to life in a different way, with a specially arranged 3D cinema on board *Queen Mary 2*, and advisors treated to smoothie shots at the Wellness Cafe on *Queen Anne*, as well as canapes from the vessel's signature wellness menu.

Guests on both ships also



enjoyed lunch in Britannia Restaurant, and visits to Cunard's Grill suites - the most luxurious staterooms on each ship.

Cunard will return to Australian waters in 2027, with *Queen Victoria* due to visit, and *Queen*

Elizabeth and *Queen Anne* to make further royal arrivals the following year.

Queen Anne is now heading toward the South Pacific, while *Queen Mary 2* is in the South China Sea. *MS*

Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES®
EXPERIENCE THE UNRIVALLED®

the
EXOTICS EDITION
with UP TO 40% OFF SELECT SAILINGS*

*For applicable sailings and full terms and conditions, visit [RSSC.COM/EXOTICS-EDITION](https://www.rssc.com/exotics-edition)

EXQUISITE EXOTIC ESCAPES

WITH UP TO 40% OFF

Incredible destinations deserve an exceptional way to travel. Let your clients step aboard The World's Most Luxurious Fleet® for a soul-stirring journey to distant shores.

A lavish getaway awaits with **UP TO 40% OFF*** select Exotic escapes.

[DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT](#)

FEATURED VOYAGE



UP TO 25% OFF

SCENIC COASTS & OLD QUEBEC

Seven Seas Splendor®

NEW YORK TO MONTRÉAL

20 OCT 2026 | 10 NIGHTS | UP TO 57 INCLUDED

ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE FARE WAS NOW
DELUXE VERANDA from.....AU\$16,630ppp **AU\$12,473pp***

HAL's delicious farewell



HOLLAND America Line (HAL) recently celebrated the end of its Australia and New Zealand cruise season with an exclusive culinary experience called 'Savour the Journey - Destination Dining'.

During the event, key travel agents and trade media enjoyed a five-course tasting menu inspired by flavours from around the globe, including Alaska, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and HAL's Dutch heritage.

While guests dined on Alaskan crab cakes with cucumber and sweet chilli mustard and fresh Australian barramundi with macadamia puree and miso butter sauce, HAL's executive chef shared insights into the stories behind the dishes on the menu.

Attendees also had the opportunity to experience the line's Global Fresh Fish program through its port-to-plate offering,

pairing authentic regional dishes and local ingredients with culinary expertise.

"Travel is about more than just reaching a destination, it's about the experiences along the way," explained Rob Coleman, vice president of sales at Holland America Line.

"At Holland America Line, we design our voyages so travellers can truly savour the journey, discover regional flavours, and immerse themselves in new cultures," he added.

Noordam has since departed Sydney to begin her Alaska season. *JHM*

Vanuatu lauds Royal

THE Vanuatu Tourism Office has hailed Royal Caribbean's on-sale announcement for its Royal Beach Club Lelepa, which will be located on an island in the country's southwest (*CW* yesterday).

Lelepa will be the region's first cruise destination. "Royal Caribbean's decision to develop its private island experience on Lelepa in Vanuatu is a powerful endorsement of our country and what we offer the Pacific," chief executive officer Adela Issachar Aru said.

"Vanuatu is home to some of the region's most spectacular beaches and warm, welcoming communities and Lelepa Island embodies these qualities," she added. *MS*

Scott departs P&O

P&O Cruises UK vice president brand & marketing strategy Rob Scott has stepped down from his role after 10 years with the company.

Scott only began his current position around nine months ago, before which he served as vice president sales, marketing & brand for P&O.

He served in a number of other senior positions during his time at the line, including vice president brand & product development, and director brand development. *MS*

YOUR CHANCE FOR A REAL LOOK INSIDE *NORWEGIAN SPIRIT* ON CHANNEL 7 THIS WEEKEND

NCL is offering the easiest "virtual ship inspection" this weekend. On Friday and Sunday, *Norwegian Spirit*® will appear on national TV, giving Australians - and travel agents - a genuine, beautifully shot look at what modern, grown-up, crowd-free cruising really feels like. For travel partners and clients who default to more familiar domestic brands, these episodes are the closest thing to stepping onboard yourselves.

WHEN TO TUNE IN ON CHANNEL 7

- *Better Homes & Gardens* - Friday 20 March, 7:00pm
- *Sydney Weekender* - Sunday 22 March, 5:30pm

WATCH TEASERS BELOW:

- *Better Homes & Gardens* - [Instagram](#)
- *Sydney Weekender* - [Instagram](#)

WHAT THE EPISODES SHOWCASE

On *Better Homes & Gardens*, Graham Ross, the program's much-loved gardening expert, continues his New Zealand journey, pairing immersive shoreside exploration with *Norwegian Spirit*'s adult-friendly onboard atmosphere.

On *Sydney Weekender*, Sophie Falkiner explores the ship's calm, wellness focused spaces and upscale dining- ideal for clients who are seeking an elevated escape and room to breathe.

If you missed last weekend's stories, they're available online - but with new segments airing again, this is the ideal time to watch and share.



WATCH *Better Homes & Gardens* [HERE](#)
WATCH *Sydney Weekender* [HERE](#)



WHY THIS MATTERS

This series of episodes give you - and your clients - a true sense of *Spirit*'s redesigned contemporary staterooms, elevated dining and lounges, dedicated adults-only spaces and premium small ship feel.

With more Australians seeking close to home holidays and NCL's new four-night 'Tassie Tasters' through to extended 8-14 night summer sailings across Australia and New Zealand, now is the perfect time for cruisers to try something different on board *Norwegian Spirit*.

#NorwegianSpirit
#WhereGrownUpGetawaysBegin



Top: Sophie Falkiner onboard *Norwegian Spirit*
Middle: Sophie Falkiner with the Teppanyaki Chef onboard
Bottom: Graham Ross embarking *Norwegian Spirit* in Auckland

FAMIL IN FOCUS is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils or events. If you want your famil or event to be featured, email: advertising@traveldaily.com.au



Stay Updated

on the latest cruise news

Follow Cruise Weekly on social media to get your cruise news first






AN AUSTRALIAN woman got quite the shock when she unwittingly dropped over \$700 on a spa treatment for her and her sister during a cruise.

Natalie Sinead, 25, was sailing on Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* from Brisbane to Airlie Beach when she decided to book two one-hour full body massages.

It turned out that the \$199 price tag per treatment was in USD, which meant it cost more than A\$700 altogether.

"We would never pay that, I felt sick...from my understanding it was all in AUD," Sinead told *news.com.au*.

When she queried the transaction, she was told that all prices are in USD as it is a US cruise line.

"That is wild to me - you don't go to McDonald's thinking you'll pay in USD even though it's an American franchise," Sinead said. *JM*

Quantum making waves

ROYAL Caribbean is bringing back *Quantum of the Seas* to Singapore with new Asian getaways in 2027-28.

Guests can choose from a lineup of three- to 10-night adventures across the region from Oct 2027 to Mar 2028.

Quantum will offer short escapes sailing over three and four nights to Asian destinations such as Penang and Phuket.

There will also be four- and five-night adventures to Phuket, or 10-night journeys that venture further to Bangkok.

Furthermore, the season will offer bucket-list journeys of up to 10 nights to destinations like Ho Chi Minh City and Hong Kong, alongside Japanese ports including Tokyo and Nagoya.

"*Quantum of the Seas* has become a familiar and much-loved ship for guests across Asia, and we're excited to bring these thrilling adventures back to Singapore," vice president and MD Chad Grospe said.

"With these 2027-28 holidays, we're building on strong demand we've seen over past seasons - from three- and four-night



getaways to longer adventures that connect vacationers to spectacular landscapes, cuisines, and cultural wonders around Asia," he said.

Onboard *Quantum*, guests can skydive at sea with Ripcord by iFly, take in 360-degree views from the North Star, or catch waves on the FlowRider surf simulator (**pictured**).

Culinary highlights include fine dining at Chef's Table, family favourites such as Jamie's Italian, and fresh sushi at Izumi. *MS*

A Douro debut

AMADEUS is set to debut its first ship on Portugal's Douro River in 2028, sailing between Mar and Nov.

"We are delighted to bring the Amadeus experience to the Douro, one of Europe's most beautiful and culturally rich regions," said head of sales, Corina Lueftner.

"The Douro Valley has become an increasingly popular destination, and with *Amadeus Douro* we are excited to offer our partners and guests a truly immersive way to explore its extraordinary scenery, wine heritage and historic towns."

Amadeus Douro will have capacity for 111 guests and feature 54 staterooms and two suites, most with either drop-down panoramic windows or private balconies.

She will also offer spacious public areas, an open sun deck with a pool, and a lounge area and bar.

Douro is being constructed with sustainability in mind, featuring hybrid propulsion technology. *JHM*



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Australian Cruise Association CEO **Jill Abel** on the opportunities for cruise in 2026.

» CLICK HERE TO READ

TravelDaily