



Cruise Weekly today

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

Strong CCL results

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) delivered stronger-than-expected quarterly results, reporting net income of US\$275m, (A\$401m), more than 55% higher than the previous year and exceeding Dec guidance by \$US40m (A\$58.4m).

CEO Josh Bernstein explained this was driven by higher ticket prices, higher onboard spending and "our highest level of bookings ever on strong demand that extended well into 2028 sailings".

"We delivered a strong start to the year, with record first-quarter operating results that exceeded our guidance, driven by healthy fundamentals and solid execution across the business," Weinstein said.

Meanwhile, Bernstein also introduced the 'Propel' framework, with 2029 targets including return on invested capital above 16%, and distribution of more than 40% of cash from operations to shareholders.

The framework will be led by investing in refurbishment programs and its exclusive destinations, while leveraging tech to enhance revenue. *JHM*

NCLH's board shake-up



FOUR Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) directors have agreed to resign and have been replaced by new independent members, following pressure from activist shareholder Elliott Investment, with CEO John Chidsey as chairman.

Former chairperson Stella David, plus board members David Abrams, Harry Curtis and Mary Landry have all stepped down, with a slew of execs taking their places, including former British Airways CEO Alex Cruz, who will serve as lead independent director; former Disney Experiences CFO Kevin Lansberry; former managing partner of Bain Steve Pagliuca; and Hepco Capital Management LLC founder, CEO and president, Jonathon Cohen.

Elliott unveiled its more than 10% stake in the cruise line last month, and called for a board

overhaul after the company reported underperforming profits and poor outlook for 2026 (**CW 19 Feb**).

The major cruise line has a market value of roughly \$US 8.6 billion (A\$12.5 billion) and its stock price has fallen nearly 30% in the last five years, while competitor Royal Caribbean Cruises' stock price has surged 211% in the same period.

"We are moving with urgency to strengthen the business and enhance execution," said Chidsey, who was appointed president of the line in Feb.

"There are significant opportunities to deliver stronger performance and sustainable value for our shareholders." *JHM*

Pictured: *Norwegian Luna* was christened in Miami last week, the latest ship to join the line's Prima-class fleet.



On location on board
Avalon Envision

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Avalon Waterways, which is hosting us aboard *Avalon Envision* for her training charter.

AVALON Waterways' training charter has today arrived in its last port of call, Amsterdam, where *Avalon Envision* will make an overnight call.

There are a range of excursions to choose from, such as discovering Amsterdam's Jordaan district on a foodie walking tour, or enjoying a guided canal tour through the city's waterways.

Some advisors will even head further afield for a guided bike tour through the countryside.

Tomorrow, the fam will come to an end, as advisors disembark and head home.

Luxury report

CRUISE Weekly sister title *Travel Daily* has released its new *Luxury on the move* special report, revealing the hottest trends defining a new era for the travel sector and featuring commentary from a range of cruise leaders - click **HERE** to read more.

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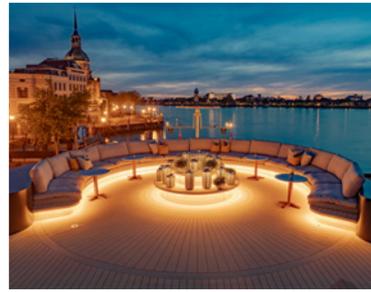
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Avalon celebrates the small wins

AVALON Waterways is continuing to compete in an increasingly tight river cruise market by making marginal gains in areas such as onboard environment and ship design, the line's president Pam Hoffee revealed to *Cruise Weekly*.

Since introducing its current generation of 'Suite Ships' in 2011, Avalon has chosen to tweak its design rather than innovate wholesale, Hoffee explained.

One of these changes - removing the pianist from their ships' lounges - was brought about by the Australian office, in an effort to reinvigorate the demographic on board.

"They said 'they kind of drive people out of the lounge more than bring them in', and that it was a very old-fashioned type of environment to have," the Avalon head explained.



"We made the decision to be bold - let's not have something that every other river cruise line has," Hoffee said.

This has been swapped out for once-per-week entertainment brought in from one of the ports the ship has visited.

Avalon's Suite Ship also introduced the open-air balcony concept: a wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling window that slides open

to turn the entire stateroom into a balcony.

"Not having an exterior balcony is another example of a bold decision that was a concern when we did it," Hoffee explained.

"It's a compromise to have that extra balcony, you're taking interior space from the room, so we came up with this other design that allows you to create a balcony when you want it." *MS*

New Auckland port

PORT of Auckland has unveiled plans for a new international cruise terminal at Bledisloe, set to open in 2027.

The new Te Waharoa terminal is part of a broader \$NZ200m (\$A167.2m) investment and will feature a fresh wharf at Bledisloe North.

"Te Waharoa international cruise terminal is a major step in building a thriving, globally connected city," Port of Auckland CEO Roger Gray said.

"More than 300,000 cruise passengers currently pass through the port each year, and Te Waharoa - designed to handle up to 1,500 people an hour - will help attract more ship calls while ensuring the efficient movement of visitors and a high-quality first impression of Auckland as they arrive in the heart of the city," he added. *JHM*



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PORTHOLE

THE opportunity to live on a private island is closer than it may seem, with several island properties across Australia on sale, starting from \$750,000.

South Australia's Thistle Island in the Port Lincoln area is currently \$795,000 with almost zero inhabitants, clear blue water and white beaches with access via boat or plane, courtesy of the island's airstrip.

Just two hours north of Sydney sits Boogie Boogie Island, which has been owned by the same family for decades and is now selling for \$1m.

Set on the Karuah River, the beautiful property includes 165 acres of mangroves and wildlife such as dolphins and koalas.

For a more tropical escape, Zuna Island (also known as Entrance Island) located in the Torres Strait features a property with a private beach on offer for \$1.495 million, with minimal neighbours.

Casablanca triple call

GLOBAL Ports Holding's Casablanca Cruise Port marked its first-ever triple ship call last week, a milestone which the parent company said reinforces its "position as a key gateway to Morocco and a growing hub within the global cruise network".

Seven Seas Voyager, Azamara Journey, and La Belle des Océans all sailed into the North African port, with approximately 100 buses and 20 minibuses deployed to facilitate shore excursions to destinations such as Rabat, Casablanca and El Jadida.

"Hosting our first triple ship

call is a significant milestone for Casablanca Cruise Port and a clear demonstration of our operational capability," said Casablanca Cruise Port GM, Ouadii Bouchana.

"As part of the Global Ports Holding network, we remain focused on delivering high-quality experiences while positioning Casablanca as a key regional gateway," he added.

Casablanca Cruise Port also recently welcomed several other ships including *Viking Vesta, Viking Jupiter, Corinthian, Silver Ray*, and others. *JHM*




Avalon Envision

Club Lounge

Designed as a 24/7 living room-style space at the back of the ship, this space serves as an intimate alternative to the Panorama Lounge. The Club Lounge offers the same spectacular views as the larger venue at the front of the ship, while offering space for reading, playing games, or enjoying a wide range of snacks.

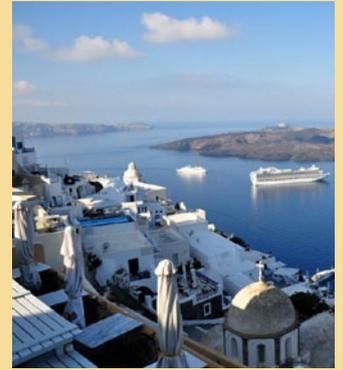
Growth in Greece

GREECE welcomed 6,129 cruise calls in 2025, reflecting strong growth in its cruise sector, according to the Hellenic Ports Association.

The increase represented an 11.6% year-on-year rise, as well as a 6.2% increase in passenger traffic compared to the previous year.

While key hubs included Piraeus, Santorini, Mykonos, Corfu, Heraklion, and Rhodes, traffic also increased at other ports such as Katakolo, Chania, Lavrio and Agios Nikolaos.

Meanwhile, Kythira, Lixouri and Patra are entering the market and Thessaloniki could be a potential home port in the future.



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