CRUISE WEEKLY
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Monday 2nd Nov 2026

Cruise Weekly today

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

Double the *Spirit*

SPIRIT of Tasmania's new ships set sail on their first voyages over the weekend, with *Spirit of Tasmania IV* departing Geelong and *Spirit of Tasmania V* setting off from Devonport at the same time.

CruiseHQ's agent rewards

EXCLUSIVE



FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) cruise wholesale division CruiseHQ has introduced its new advisor rewards program Top Sails Rewards, ***Cruise Weekly*** can exclusively reveal.

Launching today, Top Sails Rewards is designed to recognise and reward advisor performance across CruiseHQ's product portfolio, providing members of the travel seller community with more opportunities to be recognised for their contribution.

The program will cover sales incentives, exclusive experiences, rewards and advisor recognition, CruiseHQ general manager Caroline Hitchen said.

"Top Sails Rewards is about creating something that genuinely recognises the role that travel advisors play in our business," she said.

"We wanted to build a program that goes beyond a single incentive and gives us a platform to recognise our advisors through experiences, rewards and opportunities across the year."

The first major initiative to launch under the program is an Oceania Cruises incentive for next year, which will reward advisors for achieving targeted sales milestones during the campaign period - starting from today until the end of Apr.

Top-performing advisors will earn an exclusive opportunity to experience a cruise aboard *Oceania Allura*, sailing the 'Ionian Exploration' voyage from Athens to Rome, 15-22 Oct 2027.

"We are delighted to partner with CruiseHQ on the launch of Top Sails Rewards and help recognise the outstanding contribution travel advisors make to the cruise industry," Oceania Cruises' director of sales James Sitters said.

"Travel advisors are integral to our success, making this partnership a natural fit...we are proud to support an initiative that invests in advisor development and rewards exceptional performance," he added.

"With approximately two staff members for every three guests, personalised service is a cornerstone of the Oceania Cruises experience, and we look forward to welcoming the winning advisors on board to experience firsthand what sets our brand apart."

The introduction of Top Sails Rewards expands on previous initiatives by the FCTG division, such as the 'Iconic Match' incentive the wholesaler ran with Royal Caribbean last year (***CW*** 03 Jun 2025). *MS*

Pictured are Sitters and Hitchen.

Tauck gets well

TAUCK has introduced two wellness-focused river cruise departures for 2027 and 2028, adding optional fitness, nutrition and mindfulness experiences to its 10-day Paris and Normandy itinerary.

The inaugural wellness voyages will operate on 28 Jul and 11 Oct 2027 aboard *ms Serene*, hosted by fitness entrepreneur Nikki Polos.







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On location on board
Celebrity Solstice

***Cruise Weekly* is today coming to you from on board Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Solstice*, which is this week sailing on a 'Australia Wine & Tasmania Cruise'.**

CRUISE Weekly boarded *Celebrity Solstice* over the weekend for its 10-night 'Australia Wine & Tasmania Cruise', which is sailing from Sydney to Melbourne.

The itinerary will visit some of Southern Australia's most popular destinations, including Hobart, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide and Melbourne, plus a final stop in Eden.

Stay tuned to ***Cruise Weekly*** this week for all the updates.

A *Royal* upgrade

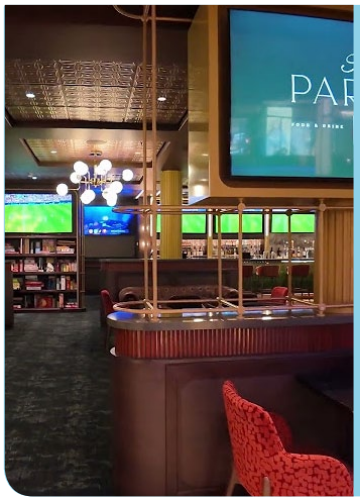
PRINCESS Cruises' *Royal Princess* has become the first of the cruise line's ships to emerge from her dry dock sporting the new Sanctuary Collection (***CW*** 23 Oct).

The premium ship-within-a-ship stateroom tier is being rolled out to five of Princess' Royal-class ships, offering access to the Sanctuary Club, elevated amenities and personalised service.

Newly built ocean-view staterooms have been added to *Royal*, providing Sanctuary Club access along with suites, mini-suites, deluxe balcony and balcony staterooms.

The Sanctuary Restaurant is also open on deck 6, adjacent to the Concerto Dining Room.

Other enhanced guest spaces include O'Malley's Irish Pub, expanded venues in the Piazza and a refreshed casino.



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On Board: *Celebrity Solstice*

The Parlor

Celebrity Solstice's new venue The Parlor is moody in the best way possible. The games and sports bar replaces the former nightclub, and features board games, arcade machines, skee-ball, darts, foosball, pool, shuffleboard and multiple screens broadcasting live sports. The windowless, atmospheric venue is one of four new-to-Celebrity spaces introduced to *Solstice*, with the cruise line ensuring its older ships are kept as up-to-date as its newest.

Lindblad's final touches



NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions has announced the final set of voyages to round off its 2028/29 deployment, highlighted by destinations such as the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Egypt and more.

The additions include eight new itineraries in the Galapagos, ranging from seven to 17 days across four ships, as well as the 'Peru and Galapagos Escape' voyage, which explores Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu before continuing to the Galapagos for wildlife encounters and snorkelling.

There is also a new 15-day itinerary connecting the wilderness of Costa Rica and the Guanacaste highlands with Panama's rainforests, Pearl Islands and the Panama Canal.

The brand's new collection has also introduced the 'Passage Through Egypt' voyage aboard *Oberoi Philae*, connecting Cairo to Abu Simbel and offering a deep dive into Egyptian history.

"Every destination has its own rhythm and our job is to design the voyage in concert with it," commented chief expedition officer Trey Byus.

"We are constantly looking for ways to give guests more depth, more access and more opportunities to explore actively.

"The 2028/29 deployment reflects that approach, with new combinations, extended itineraries and intimate vessels that allow guests to experience these places in ways larger ships simply cannot."

Lindblad released a selection of voyages earlier in the season, which included departures in Antarctica, longer Arctic expeditions, a return to French Polynesia and river voyages through Europe (***CW*** 11 Aug). *JB*



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PORTHOLE

TRAVELLERS will soon be able to visit a beach in Spain without needing to go anywhere near the coast.

Yes, you read that correctly - the country has unveiled a €29 million (A$46 million) project that will see a massive beach constructed just 30 minutes from Madrid, which is expected to welcome 350,000 visitors annually.

The complex will feature a 5.2-acre lagoon surrounded by 16,000m^2 of white sand, as well as a water park with slides and kids pools.

There will also be a water sports school offering kayaking and paddleboarding, dining services and a beach club.

The park is expected to have a €10 (A$15.90) entry fee and will be open year-round.

While no opening date has been set, construction is due to finish in Mar 2028.

The firm chosen to build the artificial beach, Crystal Lagoons, has already broken the Guinness World Record for the world's largest man-made lagoon twice - first in 2007 with the 19-acre lagoon at San Alfonso de Mar in Chile, and again in 2015 with a 30-acre lagoon in Egypt.



Ritz-Carlton rewards the best



THE Best of the Best (BOTB) alliance's ultimate fam trip concluded recently, showcasing some of the world's leading luxury travel experiences.

The itinerary included five-star hotels, curated destination experiences and ultra-luxury superyachting with The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection.

Guests joined the famil in London, with stays at Taj 51 Buckingham Gate Suites & Residences, London and COMO Metropolitan London, before continuing to Rome, where the group experienced stays at Villa Agrippina Gran Melia - The Leading Hotels of the World and Baglioni Hotel Regina - Rome.

The journey continued aboard Ritz-Carlton's second ultra-luxury superyacht *Ilma*, sailing toward Monte-Carlo, with curated shore experiences including truffle hunting in Tuscany and a visit to Lucca, one of Italy's 'Cities of Art'.

In Monte Carlo, the group was hosted by SBM, staying at Hotel Hermitage Monte Carlo and enjoying a vintage car tour.

The trip concluded with a private helicopter transfer to Nice Airport with Blade Helicopters, taking in spectacular views of the French Riviera.

"The BOTB ultimate fam gave travel advisors the opportunity to experience firsthand the products and experiences they sell, deepen their knowledge of our BOTB partners and confidently recommend them to their clients," said Anastasia Kotanidis, Ritz-Carlton's director of travel partnerships, and one of the collective's spokespeople.

BOTB is an alliance of premium luxury travel suppliers targeting the Australian travel trade. *MS*

An Atlas adventure

CRUISE Traveller is offering Australians the chance to be among the first to sail aboard the world's first luxury expedition sailing yacht, *Atlas Adventurer*, which will be launched in Asia for Atlas Ocean Voyages in Nov 2028.

Travellers who book by 05 Jan 2027 will receive up to US$6,000 air credit per twin suite - more details **HERE**.

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Travel Daily Editor & Acting Editorial Director - Adam Bishop
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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
info@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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