CRUISE WEEKLY
delivered daily!
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Tuesday 3rd Nov 2026

Cruise Weekly today

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

Cruise360 tix out

TICKETS are now on sale for the 2027 Cruise360 Australasia conference, which will be held in Brisbane on 01-02 Sep.

Super earlybird rates are available for a limited time exclusively to Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) agent members for $380 for the two-day event.

Additionally, CLIA memberships for 2027 are now open.

Agents can expand their destination knowledge and build their confidence with CLIA's specialist training and resources - see the **back page** for more.

Solstice is Tassie's first ship of the season

THE Tasmanian cruise season commenced this week, with the first ship, Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Solstice*, arriving in Hobart yesterday morning (see **page two**).

Tasmanian Minister for Transport Kerry Vincent was on hand yesterday to welcome *Solstice's* 3,000 passengers to Hobart, where they embarked for the day on a variety of shore excursions around the city and Southern Tasmania.

Almost 250,000 passengers and crew members are expected to visit Tasmania from now until May 2027.

The state's ports will host more than 80 cruise ship visits during the 2026/27 season, with almost 60 of those dispersed between Hobart and Port Arthur.

Burnie in North West Tasmania will also welcome a variety of ships across the season, receiving



calls in Dec and Jan.

Vincent said cruise passengers get just a small taste of Tasmania, often returning to the destination for subsequent visits.

"We want cruise tourism to deliver more value for Tasmania and deliver economic value across the state, minimise environmental impacts, maintain community support and connect passengers with authentic Tasmanian experiences," he said.

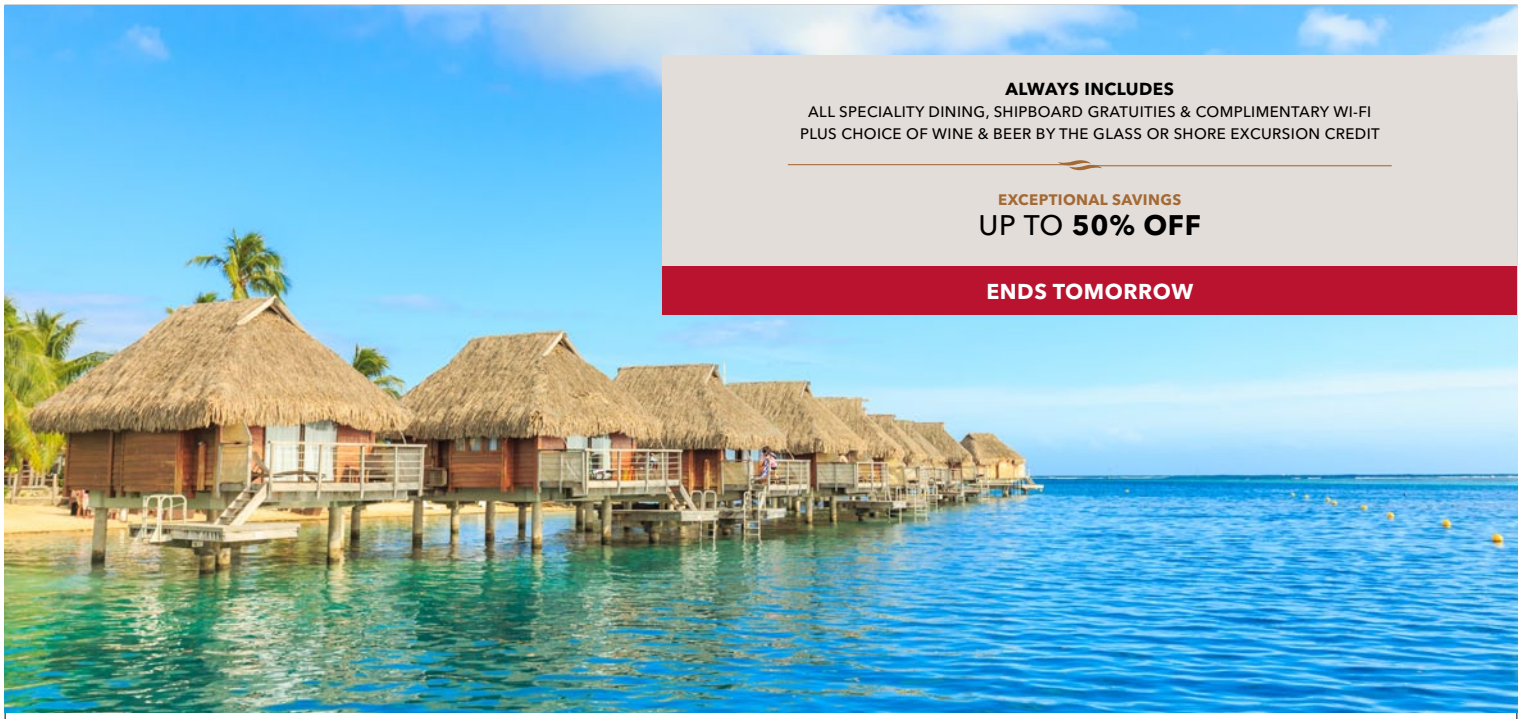
"The better the experience, the more visitors want to explore - it's good for business and for the communities who welcome them.

"It's part of our plan to grow Tasmania's visitor economy, support local jobs and help businesses make the most of the opportunities tourism brings."

Vincent was joined by Tourism Tasmania chief executive officer Sarah Kingston Clark, Australian Cruise Association chief executive officer Jill Abel and Celebrity managing director Tim Jones to welcome *Solstice*.

Tourism Tasmania also designed a special shore excursion for media guests travelling aboard *Solstice*, which included a bush tucker tour on Mount Wellington, lunch at Cascade Brewery and a whisky tasting at LARK Cellar Door in Hobart. *MS*

Pictured: Abel and Jones prepare to enjoy a tipple of Tasmanian whisky.



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Tauck boosts Rhone

TAUCK has doubled its Rhone capacity for 2028 in response to strong early demand, with the new *ms Harmonie* to join *ms Lumiere* on the river.

The operator has added three new Rhone itineraries ranging from six to 14 days, including 'A Week On...the Rhone', an eight-day journey featuring a five-night cruise aboard *ms Lumiere*, sailing between Lyon and Arles.

Highlights include guided sightseeing in Avignon and a chocolate truffle-making experience with Valrhona.

The lineup also includes 'Barcelona, Burgundy & the Rhone', a new 14-day journey combining a three-night hotel stay in Barcelona with a nine-night river cruise.

Bookings are now open for Tauck's 2028 season.

Flexibility is key for Ponant

EXCLUSIVE



PONANT Explorations captain Mathieu Tsingrilaras says flexibility is fundamental to expedition cruising, with captains required to constantly adapt itineraries to changing conditions while ensuring guests get the best possible experience.

Speaking to ***Cruise Weekly,*** Tsingrilaras (**pictured**) said expedition itineraries were "drawn in pencil", with weather, safety, specialist knowledge and guest expectations all influencing decisions once a ship was at sea.

"We have a plan A, always have a plan B and a plan C," he said.

"First thing is safety, second is weather, then it's which team do we have, which specialists do we have on board, [and] how do I match this from a guest perspective to have the best overall experience?"

For Tsingrilaras, who has completed more than 600 cruises with Ponant, the ability to change course and discover somewhere unexpected remains one of the most rewarding aspects of the job.

"When you have to rebuild an itinerary for some reason, I know that I have to amaze myself first...if I feel it in my stomach, my guests are going to feel it 100 times more because it's their first time," he said.

Having joined Ponant as a cadet in 2009, when the company operated just three ships, Tsingrilaras has witnessed the evolution of expedition cruising, with advances in vessel design and technology enabling the line to reach the farthest corners of the planet. *ZH*

CRUISE WEEKLY

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 the 'Australia Wine & Tasmania Cruise'.**

CELEBRITY *Solstice* today spends her second full day at sea, as she makes the crossing from Hobart to Kangaroo Island - our next port of call.

Yesterday's visit to the capital of Tasmania yielded a special, bespoke shore excursion designed by the Tourism Tasmania team to celebrate the first ship of the season, including a bush tucker hike on Mt Wellington, lunch at Cascade Brewery and a whisky tasting at LARK Cellar Door in Hobart.



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PORTHOLE

FORGET sharing a private island with hundreds of fellow cruise passengers - for less than the price of a Sydney property, you could have an entire island to yourself.

Hildasay, a remote Scottish island complete with its own pier and freshwater lochs, has hit the market for £350,000 (A$670,000).

The 267-acre parcel of land can be accessed via boat from the surrounding mainland, and offers basic shelter in the form of a traditional bothy.

According to Kelvin Anderson estate agents, the listing was "an extraordinary opportunity to acquire...a beautiful and historic private island lying off the west coast of Shetland".

"Its scale and unspoilt character create a genuine sense of escape, with open landscapes and uninterrupted views across the surrounding waters," they added.

Aranui hails *Aranoa* arrival



ARANUI Cruises has officially taken delivery of *Aranoa*, its new 116-metre passenger-freighter, which is now sailing to French Polynesia ahead of her maiden season in the Austral Islands.

The 198-guest vessel features 93 cabins, including 62 with private balconies, two restaurants, two bars, two spa pools, a boutique, health spa, gym and tattoo salon.

Aranoa will sail the five inhabited Austral Islands - Rimatara, Rurutu, Tubuai, Raivavae and Rapa Iti - while sister ship *Aranui 5* will continue to focus on the Marquesas Islands.

Aranui Cruises Australia and New Zealand representative Laurent Wong said the delivery of *Aranoa* marked a major milestone for the company.

"It is an exciting time for Aranui Cruises as we take delivery of our new ship *Aranoa*, a beautiful, modern passenger-freighter that will have the important job of supplying Austral Islands residents with provisions, while also opening up this untouched part of the world to tourism in a slow and sustainable way.

"By introducing a regular, small-scale flow of visitors, we aim to create jobs and economic opportunities while protecting the character and culture of these remote communities," Wong said.

Limited cabins are available for Aranoa's inaugural 2027 sailings.

Villa Vie is hopeful

VILLA Vie Residences' ship *Villa Vie Odyssey* has been reclaimed by its lendor, *CBS News* has reported, after the line suspended operations last week due to financing troubles (***CW*** 28 Oct).

The vessel will soon head to Singapore, where it could eventually be auctioned off if the line is unable to find an operational partner.

"We believe there is time to bring forward a viable plan and are working to do that," the company said in a message sent to passengers.



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On Board: *Celebrity Solstice*

Trattoria Rossa

The new Italian specialty restaurant on *Celebrity Solstice*, Trattoria Rossa, is already proving to be a guest favourite, thanks to its fresh handmade pastas, seafood and classic meat dishes. Menu highlights include short rib tortellini, chicken parmesan, and tiramasu, which is created table-side. Diners are able to find the venue on deck 5. Trattoria Rossa is currently exclusive to *Solstice*, making its grand debut following the ship's revitalisation earlier thus year.

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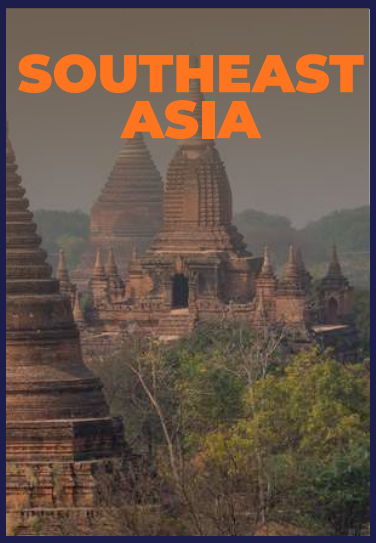
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2027 MEMBERSHIP NOW OPEN

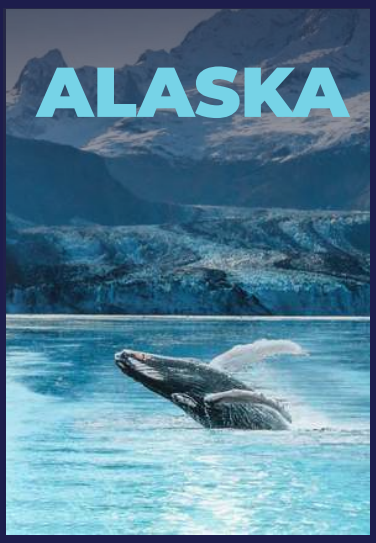
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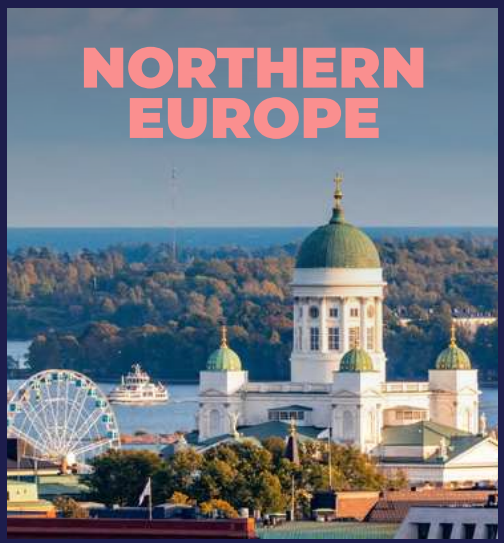














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