



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

CRUISE CONSULTANT
OF THE YEAR

AGENCY/AGENT CRUISE
PROMOTION OF THE YEAR

MOBILE CRUISE CONSULTANT
OF THE YEAR

NETWORK CRUISE
PROMOTION OF THE YEAR

RISING STAR

CRUISE MONTH
PROMOTION OF THE YEAR

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR A COLLEAGUE TODAY

For more information on Award Criteria and how to nominate, please visit cruising.org.au.
Nominations are open to all CLIA Travel Agent members and close Friday, 20 November 2026.

Cruise Weekly today

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

Nominate for CLIAs

NOMINATIONS for the 24th Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Cruise Industry Awards are open now.

Nominate yourself or a colleague today in a number of categories, including Cruise Consultant of the Year, Agency/Agent Promotion of the Year and Mobile Cruise Consultant of the Year.

Submissions close on a rolling basis from 30 Oct-20 Nov, depending on the category, with finalists to be notified in early Dec.

The gala celebration and winners announcement will take place on Sat 13 Feb at the ICC Sydney - head to the **cover page** for more information.

Royal Caribbean goes year-round in Europe

ROYAL Caribbean has unveiled its first year-round European season in 2028-29, with new winter adventures to the Canary Islands, Madeira and Morocco.

Cruisers will be able to explore Europe any time of the year with Royal Caribbean for the first time, aboard *Rhapsody of the Seas* (pictured), including summer adventures with overnight stays in Egypt and winter getaways to the Canary Islands.

Rhapsody will kick off her year-round Europe season with seven- to 12-night holidays from Athens, Barcelona and Lisbon.

From May to Oct 2028, cruisers can explore the history and culture of Turkey and Egypt on seven-night getaways with overnight stays in Alexandria, Egypt, and Istanbul; or take in Greece through the new Royal Beach Club Santorini.

Then, from Nov 2028, *Rhapsody*



will deliver nine- to 12-night getaways visiting destinations across the Canary Islands, Portugal, Morocco, Cyprus, Malta and Greece.

Cruisers can discover Tenerife's natural saltwater pools and Gran Canaria's Maspalomas Dunes, explore Casablanca and Tangier,

or stay overnight in Alexandria.

The season also marks Royal Caribbean's return to Heraklion and Cagliari for the first time in more than a decade.

Royal Caribbean will return to Copenhagen and Stockholm aboard *Freedom of the Seas* and *Jewel of the Seas*. MS



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OR CALL 138 747 TO SPEAK TO OUR LOCAL CRUISE RESERVATIONS TEAM

*Terms and conditions apply.



On location in
Amsterdam

Cruise Weekly is today coming to you from Amsterdam where Viking is soon set to formally name seven new river ships.

EACH of Viking's newbuilds are named after characters from the rich pantheon of Norse mythology, and our home for the next few days, *Viking Rota*, is no exception.

According to the line, Rota was a rebellious Valkyrie, one of the fierce warrior women known as the "choosers of the slain", who selected which fighters would die and have their souls escorted to Valhalla.

Rota is associated with chaos - a stark contrast to the Scandinavian serenity on board.

Viking ready to celebrate



ANTICIPATION aboard the new *Viking Rota* in Amsterdam was at fever pitch overnight in the lead-up to this week's seven-ship naming ceremony (**CW** 25 Aug).

Senior executives aboard include Richard Marnell, Viking executive VP of marketing, who as well as heading up strategy, advertising, consumer insights and PR, also oversees Viking's

international sales offices in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Marnell is pictured **left** aboard the ship with Flight Centre Travel Group's Danielle Galloway, who will tomorrow inaugurate the new *Viking Sjofn*, and Michael Londregan, who will be godfather of *Viking Ptah*, along with Michelle Black, Viking MD for Australia and New Zealand. **BP**

More fun with CCL

CARNIVAL Cruise Line (CCL) has introduced FunPacks, an offering of packages tailored to different holiday styles, which aim to deliver more value on popular extras.

Available for a limited time, CCL's FunPacks combine a mix of guest-favourite add-ons, such as wi-fi, beverages, shore excursions, specialty dining, savings on spa and photos, and family-friendly perks.

Guests can save 30-50% compared with buying each extra individually.

The FunPacks are an evolution of CCL's previous Value packages and have been shaped by guest feedback.

Four FunPack options are available: Kidstarter, Zero Proof, Social and Epic, each including different perks.

CLICK HERE for more information on the FunPacks.



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*US\$1,000 (Paul Gauguin) and EUR1,000 (PONANT) shipboard credit offers are based on double occupancy and valid for new bookings only, made between 1 September and 31 October 2026 (US\$500 / EUR500 for single use of cabin); offers are combinable with Bonus/Early Booking Savings, PONANT Yacht Club Savings, Consortia Amenity Programs, Onboard Savings, Referral offer and roadshow special offer, but not combinable with free or reduced solo supplement or any other offer. Paul Gauguin offer valid on all 2026 & 2027 departures; PONANT offer valid on Le Jacques Cartier French Polynesia 2026 & 2027 select cruises only. Full terms and conditions available at au.ponant.com/tempting-tahiti-2026. Travel agents earn a \$200 gift card for every guest booked and deposited on the Tempting Tahiti offer between 1 September and 31 October 2026, dispatched by 30 November 2026 after validation.



THERE'S no doubt cruise ship cuisine is a matter of pride, with every cruise line offering fresh, tasty produce.

Viking has taken the concept to an even higher level aboard its new river ships, with the *Viking Rota* featuring its very own herb garden.

Located on the ship's top deck, lush beds of rosemary, thyme and sage are ripe for the plucking (pictured below), a true botanical array making the most of the sun and providing a ready source of delightful culinary flavour.



CRUISE WEEKLY

On Board: *Viking Rota*

The library

One of several comfortable public spaces on the ship, the library on the upper deck near the main lounge features a curated selection of books covering local culture, history and topics related to the area in which the ship is operating. There is also a book exchange where guests can share their latest reads, and a selection of board games. Two computers are also available for passenger use in the internet corner.

Imagination in Tokyo



DISNEY *Imagination* will be the first Disney Cruise Line ship to sail from Japan when she debuts in spring 2029 (CW 26 Mar).

Scheduled to set sail from Tokyo, *Imagination* (pictured) will be the first ship in Disney's Wish-class based in the country.

Ariel and Sebastian from *The Little Mermaid* will adorn *Imagination's* stern, announced the licensee Oriental Land Company (OLC), which operates the Japan-based Disney Cruise Line business.

A special ceremony was held in

Tokyo to announce *Imagination's* name, attended by OLC chair & chief executive officer Yumiko Takano and the company's president Ryotaro Shiiba, as well as Disney president signature experiences Natacha Rafalski, and Disney Cruise Line senior vice president & general manager operations Tracy Wilson.

"Today's announcement of the *Disney Imagination* marks a significant milestone in the continued expansion of Disney Cruise Line and in our long-standing relationship with Oriental Land Company," Natacha Rafalski said.

"We are honoured to extend the magic of Disney cruising to fans in new markets and create opportunities for Japanese guests to experience a Disney vacation at sea."

Imagination will offer guests "dazzling entertainment, exceptional dining, and renowned guest service", with additional details, including onboard experiences and future itineraries, to be announced at a later date. *MS*

Save with Ponant

PONANT Explorations has unveiled last-minute opportunities across French Polynesia and Northern Europe, with shipboard credit, solo traveller offers, and savings on selected voyages.

The 14-night 'Polynesian Bliss: Marquesas and Tuamotu' expedition and the 11-night 'From the North Sea to the Baltic' are both included.

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