

### Cruise Weekly today

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

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## Villa Vie suspends sailing, disembarks pax

**VILLA** Vie Residences has suspended operations in Cambodia, as it pursues restructuring and recapitalisation due to "extraordinary" fuel costs (**CW** breaking news).

The cruise line said its expenses have made its current operating model extremely challenging, with residents disembarking its vessel, *Villa Vie Odyssey* (pictured), and the company helping them to identify temporary living arrangements.

Villa Vie said it continues to evaluate potential paths forward, but that no financing or transaction has been finalised.

"Since the [Iran war] began in late Feb, we have taken significant steps to reduce fuel consumption, including slowing the itinerary and spending more time in port," Villa Vie said.

"Those measures have not been enough to offset the



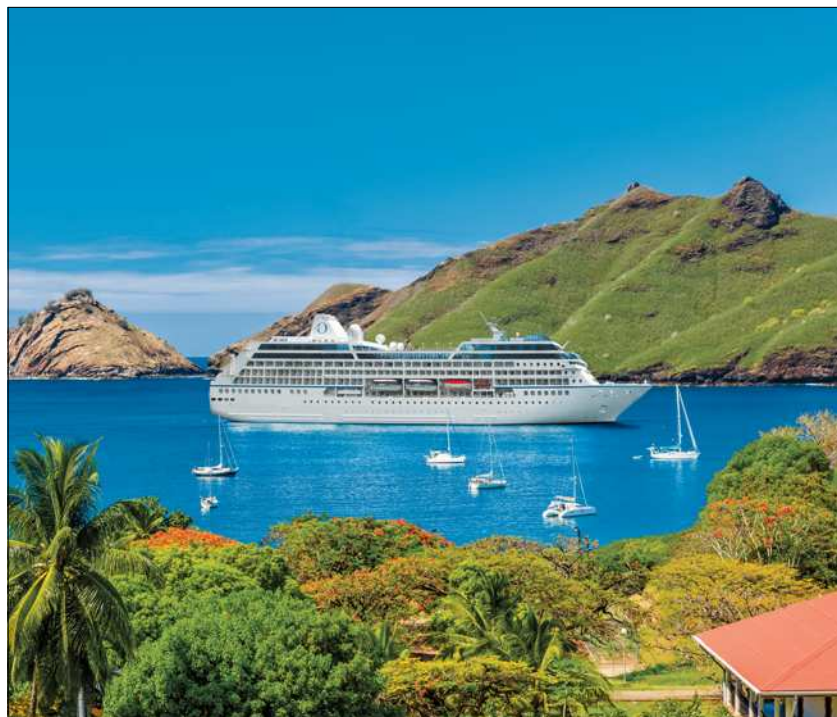
extraordinary increase in fuel costs, and we have been unable to continue carrying the resulting operating losses.

"Passing the full increase on to residents is not a realistic solution...our focus now is on supporting residents, crew and employees while we work toward restructuring and recapitalisation over the next 60 days."

Villa Vie said that, on an equivalent per-stateroom basis,

monthly fuel expenses have recently reached an estimated US\$6,000 to US\$8,000 in parts of Asia, up from historic averages of approximately US\$1,800.

The news also throws into doubt the status of Villa Vie's proposed second ship, *Legacy*, which was expected to enter service in early 2029 (**CW** 28 Jul), as well as its premium product, Avora Residences, scheduled to debut in 2028 (**CW** 04 Mar). **MS**



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## Carnival 28/29 out

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has revealed its 2028/29 program for Australia, with *Carnival Splendor* sailing from Sydney and *Carnival Encounter* sailing from Brisbane.

On sale now are more than 100 voyages, taking guests to the South Pacific, Far North Queensland, New Zealand and Tasmania, with a solar eclipse cruise from Brisbane on *Encounter* in Jul 2028 to be a highlight.

There will also be a brand-new 13-day cruise from Brisbane to New Zealand on *Encounter*, and a Melbourne Cup cruise from Sydney on *Splendor* in Nov 2028 - call 13 31 94 for more.

## Princess' big Aussie season



**PRINCESS** Cruises has unveiled its expansive 2028/29 Australian season, headlined by its longest-ever world cruise from Australia, spanning 129 nights.

The season features almost 100 departures across more than 70 itineraries aboard three ships, with another highlight being three round-Australia voyages.

All cruises go on sale on 11 Nov, with *Grand Princess*, *Emerald Princess* and *Royal Princess* (pictured) to depart from Sydney, Brisbane, Fremantle, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Guests can choose from a diverse collection of itineraries exploring destinations such as the Kimberley, Western Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and Southern Australia.

The 129-night 'Grand World Odyssey' travels approximately 37,300 nautical miles and visits 61 destinations across 31 countries and five continents.

Guests will have access to more than 50 UNESCO World Heritage sites and enjoy nine 'More Ashore' extended calls.

These include an overnight stay in Lima and late-night calls in Lisbon and New York City.

The journey crosses the Equator twice, visiting destinations

throughout the South Pacific, the Americas and Europe.

Highlights include full transits of the Panama Canal's new locks, scenic cruising near Easter Island and Pitcairn Island, and visits to destinations including Reykjavik, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Miami and Tahiti.

Departures are available from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Fremantle and Adelaide, with an additional departure opportunity from Dover in the UK.

Meanwhile, Princess' three round-Australia voyages will sail around the entire continent from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane with itineraries ranging from 29 to 32 nights.

Another highlight of the season will be *Emerald's* return to Sydney, marking the first time since 2017 the ship has sailed from the NSW capital.

"From the return of *Emerald Princess* to Sydney and more opportunities to explore Australia and New Zealand, to the most ambitious World Cruise we have ever offered from this region, our 2028/29 program showcases the extraordinary breadth of experiences available with Princess," vice president APAC Matthew Rutherford said. *MS*

## Royal gets results

**ROYAL** Caribbean Group has raised its full-year guidance, with an expectation that revenue will grow 9% year-over-year.

The upgraded expectation comes on the heels of strong third-quarter results, with the company's total revenue hitting US\$5.6 billion - a 9% YOY increase - while load factor reached 112% and adjusted EBITDA was US\$2.5b.

Capacity for the third quarter was up 8% YOY and the cruise company delivered sailings to 2.7 million guests, representing a 9% increase.

Net cruise costs per available passenger cruise days decreased slightly (excluding fuel) when compared to the third quarter of 2025, which Royal Caribbean Group attributed to the timing of some expenses shifting into the fourth quarter.

Since the last earnings call, the group's booking volumes have increased in the mid-teens across all major channels, with bookings for 2027 sailings up in the high teens.

"Our third quarter results reflect continued strong consumer demand for our vacation experiences and the accelerated momentum across our industry leading brands," said Jason Liberty, chair and chief executive officer of Royal Caribbean Group.

"Demand for our leading vacation experiences remains strong, and while it is still early, 2027 bookings are pacing ahead of historical levels at higher rates."

Liberty also pointed out that 2027 marks the final year of the company's Perfecta financial initiative, and that it is on track to achieve its goal of delivering a 20% adjusted earnings per share compound annual growth rate from 2024 through 2027.

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**IF IT** weren't for Google standing up to the US president, you might have found yourself taking a voyage on the American Ocean instead of the Atlantic Ocean.

Donald Trump, charging ahead with his mission to rename more bodies of water, said he floated the name change idea with Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

"We have a lake and we have a gulf - now we need a river and an ocean," he said at a rally in Mississippi on Mon, referring to having already 'changed' the names of Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, and Lake Ontario to Lake America.

"So I'm thinking about the Atlantic Ocean - we call it the American Ocean.

"I think Europe will be thrilled," he added.

Thankfully, Trump conceded that the name change would likely not happen.

He told the crowd last week at a rally in South Carolina that Pichai disapproved of the idea, and joked that the tech giant was "still rattled" from his renaming of the Gulf, which meant that Google Maps had to change its labels for the body of water.

"Oceans are different, sir, they cover really a lot of countries; please don't ask us to do that," Pichai apparently told Trump - phew.

## Aman adds in Caribbean



**AMAN** at Sea has extended its inaugural ship *Amangati's* (pictured) first Caribbean season into 2028, with reservations now open for voyages sailing from Nov 2027 through Mar 2028.

The season features a collection of five- to eight-night journeys across the Antilles, exploring the Caribbean's harbours, archipelagos and secluded coves.

New itineraries extend into the Dominican Republic, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and the Grenadines, alongside voyages through the Leeward, Windward and Dutch Caribbean islands.

Opening the season are three consecutive itineraries in the Leeward Islands, covering the northern arc of the Antilles, St Barthelemy and St Kitts & Nevis.

Departing from St John's and Bridgetown respectively, the two Windward Islands voyages are highlighted by calls in Ites des Saintes in Guadeloupe, Portsmouth in Dominica, Les Anses-d'Arlet in Martinique, and Soufriere in Saint Lucia.

Additionally, guests can opt for onward calls to Canouan in the

Grenadines as well as St George's, the capital city of Grenada.

For guests embarking on voyages through the Dutch Caribbean, sailings will depart from either Bridgetown or Oranjestad, tracing Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

During these voyages, guests can enjoy the beaches and coral gardens of Bonaire, visit the pastel-coloured town of Willemstad, and explore the Tobago Cays in the Grenadines.

For those travelling in autumn, a two-night New Year's celebration in Nevis is also on offer.

Then, during the winter, *Amangati* will begin sailing to the Dominican Republic as well as Portsmouth in Dominica.

Launching in May 2027, *Amangati* will welcome just 94 guests across 47 balcony suites, each featuring a private terrace and sea views.

Guests can enjoy four signature restaurants, direct access to the sea via The Marina, and the Aman Spa, which the cruise line claims is the largest of its category in luxury yachting. *MS/JB*



### A Season of Opportunity

**THERE** is always excitement as Australia's summer cruise season gets underway, with destinations across the country preparing to welcome visitors from around the world.

*Crown Princess* has marked the season in Melbourne, Adelaide and Fremantle, while Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas* has returned to Brisbane, with *Anthem of the Seas* arriving in Sydney this Friday.

*Celebrity Edge* has also returned to Sydney, with *Celebrity Solstice* joining her on the weekend.

It is encouraging to see Princess Cruises reaffirm its commitment to Australia, announcing seasonal homeporting in Melbourne, increased South Australian calls and the introduction of *Sapphire Princess* to Fremantle.

Beyond ship deployments, improved air connectivity is creating further opportunities. ACA's newest member, Hobart Airport, has welcomed the extension of direct Auckland-Hobart flights, strengthening international access and opening up opportunities for cruise lines to incorporate partial turnarounds in Tasmania.

These developments represent opportunities extending well beyond the port. From shore excursions and local attractions to transport providers, hospitality businesses and regional producers, cruise visitation delivers benefits throughout the visitor economy.

ACA continues to advocate for a competitive operating environment that encourages investment, supports future employment and enables Australian destinations to capitalise on emerging opportunities.

As the 2026-2027 cruise season unfolds, we look forward to seeing our members deliver the experiences that make Australia such a compelling cruise destination.



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