



Cruise Weekly today

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

Star ships scrap?

THREE Star Cruises ships look to be heading for the scrapyard, with *SuperStar Aquarius*, *SuperStar Gemini* and *Star Pisces* reportedly appearing on a list of vessels heading for the breaking yard in Alang for recycling.

The vessels are currently laid up in Penang, with the Joint Provisional Liquidators of Genting Hong Kong understood to have accepted advice they have "limited future market potential," according to shipping industry website *Maritime Executive*.

Superstar Libra has also been sold but it's unclear whether she will be scrapped or reused.

Azamara names *Onward* in Monaco

AZAMARA now officially has four ships in its fleet, after a christening ceremony for its new *Azamara Onward* in Monaco overnight.

The ship was formally named by godmother Beth Santos (pictured catching up on all the latest cruise news), the founder of global travel community and lifestyle brand Wanderful.

Santos gave an inspirational speech before cutting a ribbon with giant novelty scissors to release a celebratory bottle of champagne which smashed spectacularly against *Onward*.

"Christenings are not just about introducing a new ship into the world, but giving it a purpose and a path forward," she said.

"We stand together after two years of pause, we take the lessons that we've learned...that have all played a part in carving us into the people we are today.



"We pack them into our suitcases and we propel ourselves onward into a world that's better for all of us," Santos said.

"*Onward* - it couldn't be more fitting, could it!"

Chief Executive Officer Carol Cabezas also helped officiate at the dockside ceremony, which featured the line's Executive

Chairman Orlando Ashford, some of Azamara's most loyal guests and representatives of the cruise line's backers, investment firm Sycamore Partners.

"This is an exciting new chapter for our company, and we are so thankful for our hardworking team both onboard and offshore, for making this possible," she said.

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PORTHOLE

IT'S time to take the war on drugs to the ocean.

A study in Florida has found evidence of a cocktail of medications contaminating the ocean's food chain.

Almost 60 different drugs, including heart medication, opioids, antidepressants, and antifungals are being found in rare bonefish - a species whose population has declined steeply in recent years.

More concerning, they are also being found in their prey, meaning there is a chain of transmission from elsewhere in the ocean.

Of the almost 100 bonefish tested as part of the study, all returned a positive result for at least one pharmaceutical.

The researchers also studied 125 animals that bonefish prey on, including shrimp, crabs and small fish, with each also containing contaminants.

Heritage deal

TRAVELLERS can receive complimentary flights and a one-night hotel stay on a New Zealand expedition cruise in 2022/2023 with Heritage Expeditions when booking through Cruise Traveller.

The exclusive package is available for those who book by the end of the month, with cruises departing from Nov through to next Mar.

CLICK HERE for more.

Discovery christened



PRINCESS Cruises' *Discovery Princess* was officially named by her television star godparents late last week (**CW** 26 Apr).

Fashion designer Randy Fenoli, chef Alex Guarnaschelli, special effects designer Adam Savage, and real estate agent Page Turner christened Princess' newest ship in Los Angeles, from the Retreat Pool on the ship's open deck.

"We name this ship *Discovery Princess*...may God bless her and all who sail on her," the foursome announced, alongside Captain Gennaro Arma.

They then crashed a giant Nebuchadnezzar-size bottle of champagne against the ship for the celebratory smash, officially welcoming *Discovery* into the Princess fleet.

"Today is a celebration to remember as our newest ship, *Discovery Princess*, is officially named by this talented group of experts and personalities –

Randy, Alex, Adam, and Page," said President John Padgett.

"We can think of no more fitting godparents to mark this significant milestone."

The 3,660-guest *Discovery* was built at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Monfalcone, and is the sixth and final Royal-Class newbuild, joining sister ships – *Enchanted Princess*, *Sky Princess*, *Majestic Princess*, *Regal Princess*, and *Royal Princess*.

Discovery debuted in Los Angeles on 27 Mar, sailing a series of Mexican Riviera & California Coast voyages.

Following last week's naming ceremony, *Discovery* will now head up the West Coast to begin a season of seven-day Alaska cruises from Seattle, making her the newest ship sailing in the Alaska region.

Pictured: Guarnaschelli, Padgett, Turner, Savage, and Fenoli.

RCG + WWF tie-up

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has deepened its partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) for guidance and counsel in establishing bold environmental goals and sustainable business practices.

The new five-year partnership will establish ambitious and measurable sustainability goals for ground-breaking progress across RCG's operations.

On board the company's ships, the partnership will work together on continuous improvement of operational sustainability, including emissions, marine mammal protection, seafood sourcing, plastics reduction, and food waste.

At sea, RCG will invest in ocean health through targeted philanthropy; engaging with a global science-driven agenda, and consumer-facing education campaigns.

On shore, RCG will embed principles of sustainable development in projects, and increase sustainability and certification of tour operators.

Royal Caribbean will also continue to provide financial support to WWF's global ocean conservation work through a \$5 million philanthropic contribution, and will collaborate with the organisation to build global awareness about ocean conservation issues among the company's guests.

RCG first partnered with WWF in 2016 (**CW** 28 Jan 2016).