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CRUISE

WEEKLY

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Tuesday 19th Dec 2023

Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features three pages of the latest cruise news, including a cover wrap from **Princess Cruises**, a photo page from **Viking**, plus a full page from **Abercrombie & Kent**.

Princess' magic

DISCOVER more magic and win with Princess Cruises.

Those who make a Princess Plus or Premier booking from 15 Dec to 14 Mar will receive an entry to the cruise line's latest comp - see **cover page**.

Sail free with A&K

TRAVEL advisors can sell three and sail free thanks to Abercrombie & Kent (A&K).

For more on your chance to experience a luxury cruise, head to **page 4**.

Oceania to continue to waive NCFs

OCEANIA Cruises will reportedly continue to waive non-commissionable fares for top sellers, as its sister brand Norwegian Cruise Line prepares to reinstate them.

An Oceania spokesperson confirmed to media the cruise line is not planning to make any changes to its current NCF waivers, as Norwegian readies to wrap up its program by the end of the first quarter.

Oceania launched its six-month pilot program eliminating NCFs from Apr to Sep, following the lead of sister brand Norwegian, which had announced around 12 months ago it would remove them from the start of this year (**CW** 03 Nov 2022).

The Oceania program was made available to 50 of the cruise line's top-selling travel agencies, according to reports.

Norwegian's program saw it



pay travel advisors commission on NCFs for reservations booked outside of the 120-day window prior to sailing for cruises departing 01 May.

Agencies needed to submit a marketing plan to their Norwegian Sales Support Team to qualify for the program.

"As we have returned to some semblance of normalcy... it was time to take those funds

that have been used for this program and put them in other places, whether it's marketing or the business relationships that we have with each agency,"

Senior Vice President Sales John Chernesky reportedly told media.

Neither Oceania nor Norwegian were able to officially confirm the news to **Cruise Weekly** by time of publication. **MS**

Pictured: Oceania's *Marina*.

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Tuesday 19th Dec 2023

VIKING would like to take a moment to pay tribute to the incredible support and the shared adventures that have brightened the year.

From the electric energy of Vor nights to the behind-the-scenes fun of ship inspections and the thrilling NTIA Afterparty, these snapshots are more than memories - they're the milestones and strong ties that have charted the course to the shared success of 2023.



THE Travel Associates team see Sydney at sunset in Viking style.



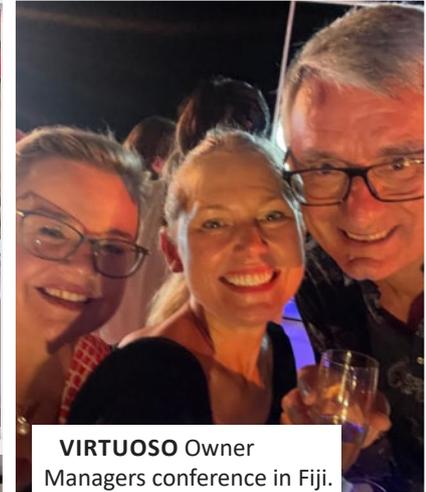
TRAVEL Associates Rouse Hill visit by Nat Fagan, Viking.



TAMARA Galloway, Wauchope Travel; Kate Walsh, Wauchope Travel; Sharyn Hinton, Helloworld Taree; Shaun Kavanagh, Viking.



CELEBRATING at the NTIAs.



VIRTUOSO Owner Managers conference in Fiji.



SYDNEY ship inspection.



FLIGHT Centre Product & Marketing team famil on Viking Ocean.



ENTRECOTE Dinner with FBI Travel.



MONET in Paris paint and sip fun.



THE Vor night in Melbourne.



COULD this be Santa's first workshop to reside permanently at sea? Some clever elves have been hard at work on board Regent Seven Seas Cruises' *Seven Seas Grandeur*, preparing for their youngest guests over the holiday season.

During a tour of the galley aboard *Seven Seas Grandeur* last week, **CW** spotted some very special gingerbread houses (pictured).

Complete with a cheery wreath on the red door and a Christmas tree in the front yard, this advent architecture is sure to be a festive feast!



Portland record

THE UK's Isle of Portland has seen a record number of cruise ship visitors this season, with more than 130,000 passengers paying a call to the tied island.

Almost 60 cruise ships docked in the eight months Apr to Nov, the first season of Portland's new £26 million deepwater berth.

Commercial General Manager Ian McQuade said the season injected more than £10m into the local economy.

New Explora experiences



EXPLORA Journeys has unveiled its latest Destination Experiences in the Americas.

Cruisers are invited to join a captivating journey in Cabo San Lucas with a traditional Temazcal ceremony, an ancient healing ritual practiced for millennia by the Mayans, Aztecs, and Toltecs.

Participants enter the candlelit Temazcal led by a shaman, where water is poured onto hot stones, providing both physical detoxification as well as a spiritual restoration.

Guests can savour local delicacies post-ceremony before unwinding at the luxury spa with hot tubs and cold plunges.

There is also a Hollywood Hills Hike in Los Angeles, which will see guests embark on an invigorating hike through Griffith Park, summiting Mount Lee for an up-close encounter with the iconic Hollywood Sign.

Guests will learn about Hollywood's rich history, discover landmarks and famous studios,

and indulge in a picnic lunch in Griffith Park with breathtaking views of the Los Angeles skyline.

The Volcanic Marvels and a Celestial Odyssey in Hawaii takes travellers to discover the Rainbow Falls on the Wailuku River, explore Boiling Pots and the Kaumana Caves, and venture into the captivating world of two of the Island of Hawai'i's five volcanoes with a National Park Service expert.

A highlight will be witnessing celestial observations during the day and night with state-of-the-art telescopes and highly experienced astronomers.

There is also a Behind the Scenes: Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum and USS Missouri Memorial in Honolulu, offering a guided tour of the historic hangars, outdoor exhibits, and the Raytheon Pavilion.

An exclusive experience of the Lower Control Tower, not available to the public, is also part of the journey. *MS*

Viva Puerto Rico!

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has announced the arrival of its second Prima-class ship, the all-new *Norwegian Viva*, to the shores of San Juan for a season of Caribbean sailings through Apr.

Viva, which was recently christened in Miami with an all-star lineup of Latin entertainers (**CW** 29 Nov), last week embarked on her first seven-day Caribbean voyage.

The ship will offer seven- and nine-day round trip sailings, her first of two scheduled seasons in the Caribbean.

Itineraries will include calls to Tortola, St. John's, Bridgetown, Castries, and more.

Viva will then set sail on Mediterranean and Greek Islands voyages.

Avalon godmother

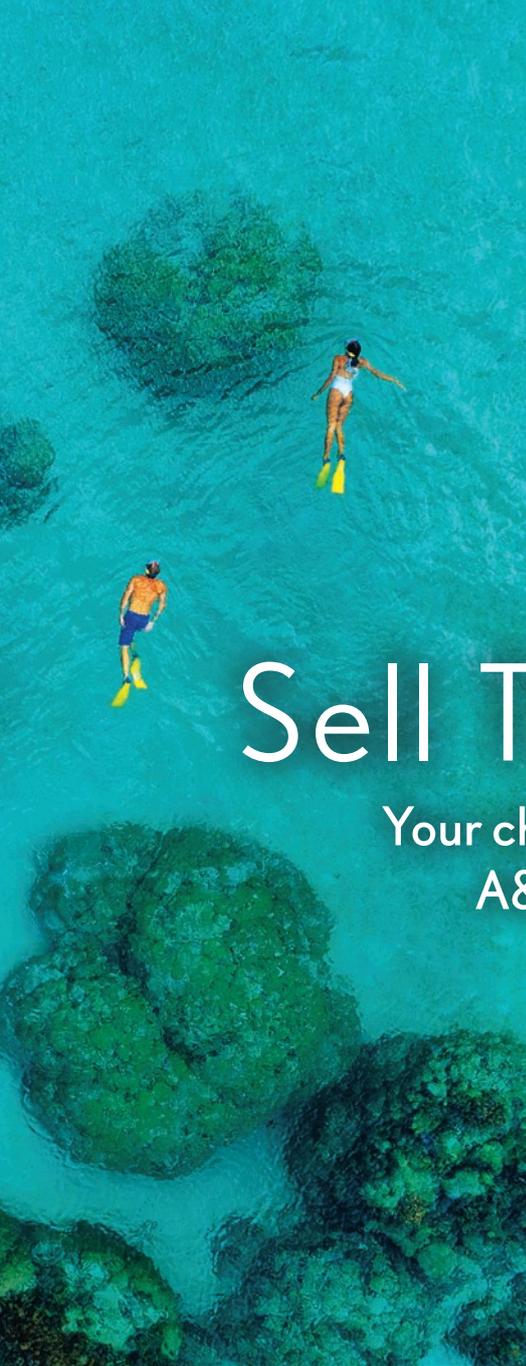
AVALON Waterways has announced American actress and comedian Cheri Oteri as the godmother of newest ship *Avalon Alegria*.

The new vessel will launch on the Douro in Mar.

"I am beyond excited to have the honour of godmother to the beautiful *Avalon Alegria*," Oteri said.

"Taking a river cruise with a constant scenic view of rich landscapes and picturesque villages is the best way to holiday I could ever imagine."

The 102-passenger *Alegria* features 14 Deluxe staterooms and 37 Panorama suites, and has been built exclusively to sail the Douro.



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