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Archbold to lead Crystal Cruises APAC

FORMER long-time Holland America and Seabourn sales chief Tony Archbold has taken a new role as Vice President of Sales, Australia, NZ and Asia for the newly relaunched Crystal Cruises (**TD** breaking news Fri).

Archbold (**pictured**) left his previous role last year after more than a decade heading up the HAL and Seabourn brands locally (**CW** 18 Jul 2022), with his departure from Carnival Corp part of a wider restructure which saw the positions of several HAL/Seabourn colleagues also made redundant (**CW** 07 Oct 2022).

No formal announcement of his new role has been made yet, but it's understood he started with Crystal at the beginning of Jan.

In a LinkedIn post on Fri Archbold confirmed the new role which gives him the "envious task of leading the relaunch and success of this much-loved and



highly awarded brand to our trade partners and guests in the APAC region".

Crystal Cruises is also believed to have appointed UK cruise industry veteran Andrew McGowan to lead its sales in the EMEA region.

Crystal appears to be preparing for its imminent return to the market, with former guests emailed over the weekend with an offer of "exclusive early access" to the line's shortly-to-

be-announced 2023 and 2024 voyages aboard *Crystal Symphony* and *Crystal Serenity*, which were acquired by A&K Travel Group along with the Crystal brand name and database (**CW** 23 Jun 2022) after the bankruptcy of former owner, Genting Hong Kong early last year.

An early booking window will open on 13 Feb, ahead of a wider public launch later in the month, Crystal said, flagging partnerships with sister brand Abercrombie & Kent which will "take you closer to the unseen side of each destination".

Archbold also looks set to collaborate with A&K locally, with his update noting he will "work closely with the brilliant team at our totally complementary sister brand, Abercrombie & Kent Australia including Debra Fox, Graham Wood, Susan Haberle and Michelle Mickan".

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features four pages of all the latest cruise industry news with a photo page from **Windstar Cruises**, plus a cover page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

Norwegian deals

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering 50% deposits, a free beverage package and US\$200 on board credit - for details see the **cover page**.

Azamara loyalty

AZAMARA Cruises has reminded members of its Azamara Circle loyalty program that from 01 Feb they will no longer have reciprocity with former sister brands Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean.

However, status and account numbers will be retained.

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

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Travel Daily

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Brothers ascend to the top



IT WILL be a family affair aboard Celebrity Cruises' fourth Edge-class ship *Celebrity Ascent*, with brothers Tasos and Dimitrios Kafetzis (**pictured**) named co-captains of the vessel.

The industry first will see the Greek brothers jointly take the helm of *Ascent*, when she debuts in Dec.

The brothers will alternate their time on *Ascent* in a three-months on-and-off rotation.

The older Captain Dimitrios started his career as an Apprentice Officer on board Celebrity's first vessel *Horizon* in 1990.

Since then, he has sailed aboard every different class of ship in Celebrity's fleet, including joining the inaugural teams of *Celebrity Millennium*, *Celebrity Infinity*, *Celebrity Silhouette*, and *Celebrity Apex*, the latter of which he was also the "take out" Captain.

The younger brother, Captain Tasos, has been involved in the opening of *Celebrity Summit*, *Celebrity Solstice*, *Celebrity Equinox*, and *Celebrity Reflection*.

Captain Tasos is highly familiar with Celebrity's Edge-class, having most recently served as skipper of the series' namesake

ship *Celebrity Edge*.

President & Chief Executive Officer Lisa Lutoff-Perlo described the pair as Celebrity's "star-powered siblings" and "a maritime dream team".

"They have given so much to the Celebrity family over the years that we are like a second family," she said.

"Seeing their emotional reaction to this appointment and understanding what it means to share this pinnacle of their career together was something I didn't expect and will never forget."

Celebrity recently celebrated *Ascent's* float out milestone, as the ship officially touched water at her shipyard Chantiers de l'Atlantique in Saint-Nazaire (**CW** 25 Jan).

Ascent will include an outward-facing Resort Deck with cabanas, infinity-edge plunge pools, two-storey Martini-shaped hot tubs, an elevated running track, Infinite Veranda staterooms that transform into open-air verandas, two-storey Edge Villa staterooms with direct access to The Retreat Sun Deck, a Sunset Bar, and more than 30 food and beverage options, including the fully-immersive Le Petit Chef.

The Circa is in town!



AUSTRALIAN contemporary circus company Circa (**pictured** inset) will take up residency aboard Cunard Line's *Queen Elizabeth* in Feb 2024.

The launch of the partnership was celebrated on board the ship on Sat, in Cunard's first onboard event in Australia in three years.

Guests were treated to an exclusive performance by Circa, as well as a Q&A, and a lunch in



Queen Elizabeth's Steakhouse at The Verandah specialty restaurant.

Pictured above is Circa Chair Michael Lynch, with the Cunard team, including Carnival Corporation special advisor and former Chief Executive Officer Ann Sherry.

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Cruise like the wind!

WINDSTAR Cruises on Fri invited a number of its travel partners on a ship tour and cocktail party aboard *Star Breeze*, which was docked in Sydney for the night, ahead of her departure the next day.

The all-suite *Breeze* recently completed renovations as part of the USD\$250 Million Star Plus Initiative, which provided the ship with new public areas, including two new dining venues, a new spa, an infinity pool, and a fitness area.

After wandering *Breeze*, guests then headed to her top deck for a cocktail party in the afternoon Sydney sun.



A WHITE-OUT from the Windstar team.



THE group throws up a "W" for Windstar!



VIRTUOSO local General Manager Fiona Dalton and Cruise Express' Meg Hill.



GUESTS at the cocktail party were served champagne and canapes - an offer taken with aplomb by the Creative Cruising team!






PORThOLE

A BOY from Bangladesh has undergone a somewhat unique sojourn at sea, after accidentally falling asleep inside a shipping container which then made its way 1,600 nautical miles to Malaysia.

Officials said they don't believe the circumstance to be suspicious, after finding the youngster in a "weak state" after the container was offloaded at Port Klang.

"He just fell asleep in the wrong place at the wrong time," an officer said, after initial suggestions it may have been an incident of people smuggling.

The boy said he was playing with friends among the containers in Chittagong, and fell asleep while hiding - only to find he was locked inside when he woke up.

In the meantime the empty container had been loaded aboard the *Integra*, a container ship registered in the Marshall Islands, which then sailed five days to Malaysia.

Social media images showed the boy eating food from dockworkers while being interviewed by authorities, who gave him a change of clothes before taking him to hospital for a check-up.

Officials said they plan to send the boy home on the same ship on which he arrived - hopefully in a bed this time.

P&O serves up some tennis



P&O Cruises recently held an Australian Open trade event in Melbourne, to celebrate the 2,900 passengers on the line's first Tennis Cruise in three years.

Pacific Adventure set sail for a five-night itinerary, with guests enjoying two days of live tennis action at Melbourne Park.

Carnival Chief Commercial Officer Kathryn Robertson and VP of Sales & Marketing Ryan Taibel hosted several travel advisors at Rod Laver Arena for one of the nights (pictured), with US-based Seabourn Cruise Line VP Sales & Trade Relations Steve Smotrys also on the guest list.

Smotrys was in Sydney earlier this month (CW 18 Jan), before travelling down to Melbourne for two days of trade partner events.

In addition to catching two days of tennis at Melbourne Park, P&O passengers were able to watch matches on the ship's big screen, and in the Black Circus theatre.

Meanwhile, special guest, Fox Sports' Steve Hart, hosted sports trivia, as well as a number of Up Close & Personal shows with sports broadcasters Nicole and Mark Bradtke, John Marks, and Jim Wilson.

Guests were also offered a "meet and greet" experience on board the ship, where they were

treated to a photo opportunity with two VIP visitors - the 2023 Australian Open winner's trophies.

Adventure Entertainment Director Kirsty Fraser said the Australian Open cruise was one of the highlights in her calendar.

"I'm so thrilled we were able to take our guests back after a three-year absence," she said.

"The weather was fabulous and the tennis was even better, and it was incredible being able to bring the trophies on board."

P&O's exclusive Australian Open Cruise for 2024 is already on sale, with the five-night itinerary departing Sydney on 19 Jan next year priced from \$999 per person.

Enriching A-ROSA

A-ROSA River Cruises has announced an upgraded "premium all-inclusive fare" on its 13 ships this season on the Rhine, Danube, Rhone, Seine and Douro rivers.

Enriched shore experiences will be complemented by upgraded entertainment on board, more Kids Club options, an expanded spa and fitness offering, new active excursions and rentable bicycles - see arosa-cruises.com/au.

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	30 Jan
MELBOURNE	<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Viking Orion</i>	30 Jan
BRISBANE	<i>Quantum of the Seas</i>	30 Jan
BURNIE	<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>	31 Jan
DARWIN	<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	30 Jan
AUCKLAND	<i>Oceania Regatta</i>	30 Jan
CHRISTCHURCH	<i>Europaz</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	31 Jan
WELLINGTON	<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Norwegian Eclipse</i>	30 Jan
	<i>ms Noordam</i>	31 Jan
AKAROA	<i>Norwegian Spirit</i>	31 Jan
BAY OF ISLANDS	<i>Le Laperouse</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Majestic Princess</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Silver Muse</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Regatta</i>	31 Jan
	<i>Viking Neptune</i>	31 Jan
DUNEDIN	<i>Nat Geo Endurance</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Grand Princess</i>	31 Jan
	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	31 Jan
FIORDLAND	<i>Grand Princess</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Seabourn Odyssey</i>	30 Jan
	<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	31 Feb
NAPIER	<i>ms Noordam</i>	30 Jan
	<i>National Geo Orion</i>	31 Jan
	<i>Ovation of the Seas</i>	31 Jan