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### Cruise Weekly today

**CRUISE Weekly** today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news, plus a front cover wrap from **Regent Seven Seas Cruises**, and a full page from **CLIA**.

### Regent excitement

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises is offering a free two-category suite upgrade and up to 50% off select 2024 sailings - for details of this special offer see the **cover page** of today's **CW**.

### It's luxury week!

**THE** final seven days of Cruise Month 2023 will showcase all things in luxury cruising, with CLIA member agencies once again invited to make the most of the offers and promotions in market. Details of how to get involved are on the **last page**.

# Nominations open for CLIA Awards

## EXCLUSIVE

**ANTICIPATION** of the cruise sector's annual night of nights is off and running this morning, with Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) opening nominations for Australasia's 21st Cruise Industry Awards.

"The CLIAs" will be announced in a glittering ceremony on Sat 09 Mar 2024 at Sydney's Star Event Centre, seeing the cruise community celebrate its "best and brightest stars at a time of renewed prosperity in cruising," according to CLIA MD Joel Katz.

"Cruising has made a spectacular comeback in Australasia, and our travel agent community has been integral to that success," he said.

There are 18 award categories this year, including 11 open to self- or peer-nomination, with Katz saying the awards "will honour those who have made an extraordinary contribution to cruising's revival and who have

helped make Australia and New Zealand one of the world's most prosperous cruise regions".

Entries to the CLIAs are open to all current CLIA members in Australia and New Zealand, and will be accepted until 30 Nov.

The categories are:

- Cruise Agency of the Year (small - single location) - Australia
- Cruise Agency of the Year (small - single location) - NZ
- Cruise Agency of the Year (large - multi location) Australasia
- Online Agency of the Year Australasia
- Cruise Consultant of the Year - New Zealand
- Cruise Consultant of the Year - Australia
- Home-Based Mobile Agent of the Year - Australia
- Broker of the Year - NZ
- Rising Star - Australia
- Rising Star - New Zealand
- Agency cruise promotion of the year - Australia

- Agency cruise promotion of the year - New Zealand
- Network cruise promotion of the year - Australasia
- Cruise Month promotion of the year - Australasia
- Cruise Champion - Australasia
- Cruise Line Champion - Australasia
- Media Award - Australasia
- Hall of Fame

Nominations for the Agency of the Year award categories will only be accepted from CLIA cruise lines, while Cruise Line Champion nominations will come from CLIA Travel Agent members, and finalists will be announced in Dec.

Finalists for all award categories except for the Cruise Promotion, Media and Hall of Fame, will be contacted and asked to provide a written or video submission for an independent panel to review, with submissions due by 19 Jan.

Tickets for the CLIAs also went on sale today - [cruising.org.au](http://cruising.org.au). *BP*

MONEMVASIA, GREECE

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## Christchurch embraces sustainable cruising

**PAINSTAKING** development of new transport plans for cruise ship passengers visiting Christchurch over the upcoming season aims to establish a sustainable future for the sector.

A trial model will see arrivals catch a free shuttle from the Lyttelton cruise berth directly into the city centre, to reduce the number of passengers who visit Lyttelton and eliminate strains on the public bus system.

Loren Aberhart, ChristchurchNZ GM of Destination and Attraction, said the initiative meant the city was “primed and ready for cruise ship visitors”.

A total of 77 vessels are set to arrive in Lyttelton and a further 12 in Akaroa, with visitors to be greeted once they arrive on the shuttles by 55 volunteers, who will act as navigators and sources of information for passengers.

As well, a brand new “isite”



information centre will open on 06 Nov in Cathedral Square to service the cruise visitors.

“By creating a traffic management plan which ensures cruise ship passengers can access Christchurch directly rather than via Lyttelton, a small township which is not set up for large numbers of visitors, we know that both visitors and residents will have a more positive experience in our destination,” Aberhart said.

The shuttles are an interim

solution which will be in place while the city works with cruise lines to create a transport plan which will allow managed numbers of cruise passengers to access Lyttelton directly.

Aberhart acknowledged that at this late stage the changes will have cost and logistical impacts for the current season, but also noted significant economic benefits from cruise which forms a key part of the Christchurch visitor economy. *JM*

## Costa picks SITA

**COSTA** Cruises has implemented SITA technology to optimise its fly and cruise connections and mitigate costly trip disruptions.

The SITA Flight Monitoring Solution offers a continuously refreshed data set to help handle the embarkation and disembarkation process for guests, as well as improve planning for crew movements.

Cloud-based real-time flight updates, allow the Costa operations team to link each flight to the associated vessel and relevant booking codes.

Cancelled or delayed flights can be highlighted to help promptly arrange arriving guest transfers to the next port of call, while those disembarking can keep enjoying time on board while allowing Costa to optimise airport transfers.

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**CANBERRA** residents will have to start booking more cruises if they want to enjoy some time afloat, after confirmation of the city's iconic Lake Burley Griffin paddle boats are set to be retired.

The ACT aquatic adventure was first introduced back in the 1980s, and was relaunched by Capital Paddle in 2019.

However late on Fri the company announced that the vessels (pictured) had "now reached the end of their useful life", with Capital Paddle and the National Capital Authority having regrettably "come to the decision to retire them".



## Carnival unfurls Flag of Fun



**CARNIVAL** Cruise line yesterday unveiled its new Flag of Fun aboard *Carnival Luminosa*, in an official flag-raising ceremony at Brisbane International Cruise Terminal, as a symbol of the line's commitment to Queensland.

VP Kara Glamore joined with Captain Adriano Binacchi and Hotel Director Cem Erdogan (pictured) to showcase the new flag, which is comprised of photos submitted by Queenslanders showing how they "Choose Fun" in their home state.

Local travel agents and other key industry stakeholders were among attendees at the event,

which included a special Carnival Favourites lunch in *Luminosa's* Fahrenheit 555 steakhouse.

Glamore said "throughout *Luminosa's* season, cruisers can look to the flag that they helped us create and see themselves reflected in it".

"Queenslanders show us a lot of love and we wanted to return the favour by sailing with a beautiful symbol of the state and its people aboard our Brisbane-based ship."

The maroon triangle reflects Queensland's official colour while the Carnival blue waves evoke the state's shoreline and the yellow circle represents the sun. *BP*

## NCL Asia return

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has kicked off a six-month season of voyages in Asia, with *Norwegian Jewel* setting sail from Tokyo as the first NCL vessel to operate in the region in over three years.

The program includes 16 immersive itineraries visiting 11 countries, sailing from nine homeports including Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Taipei, Bali, Tokyo, Yokohama and Seoul.

Cruises range from 10 to 14 days and offer long day stays in key destinations such as Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore.

NCL President David Herrera said this year's return was a milestone moment, and paved the way for a record four-ship Asia deployment in 2024/25 which will see *Norwegian Spirit*, *Norwegian Sun* and *Norwegian Sky* join *Norwegian Jewel* sailing within the region.

The coming 2023/24 season will see *Norwegian Spirit* return to Australian and NZ waters between Dec and Mar, while *Norwegian Sun* will cruise locally from Oct 24 to Apr 25.

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# CLIA Cruise MONTH!

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